

## WSU's visit to homeless shelter lifts spirits

By Marc Katz, Staff Writer

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Figure 1 STAFF PHOTO  
TEESHA MCCLAM Centerville High School grad Scott Grote (right) guards Jamal Snowden as they scrimmage at Gettysburg Gateway homeless shelter on Monday, Jan. 18. Wright State's men's basketball team volunteered its time to execute drills and show off some skills. WSU also donated equipment to the shelter.

DAYTON — At night, when the dorm rooms and the small, single (old cell block) rooms are filled, thin mattresses are spread on the gym floor so the overflow of homeless men can sleep.

Tina Patterson, executive director of The Other Place — which runs case management for both the men's and women's homeless facilities operated by St. Vincent's — fought to keep that gym intact, with its tiled floor and six baskets, because the men that stay at the Gettysburg Gateway homeless shelter “need to be able to exercise, and feel good about themselves.”

Toward that end, Monday, Jan. 18, was a special day, as the Wright State men's basketball team used a day off from school on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to run drills and hold a scrimmage integrated with men from the facility.

“Some of these guys are living out a dream, hanging with college athletes,” Patterson said. “These men have been talking about this all day.”

When the Raiders arrived at 3 p.m., it was to the applause of about 100 men, some waiting to show off their playing ability, others sitting on chairs or in the balcony watching.

The Raiders made the trip from their Fairborn campus in a couple of vans loaned by Enterprise, dropped off a couple of boxes of equipment and workout clothing at Gateway's front desk and headed for the gym.

“It's fun to share the game of basketball with everybody else,” WSU senior Cory Cooperwood said. “These are people less fortunate than us. I'd love to do this again. This is fun.”

It was especially fun for those playing for the shelter.

“Meeting the players and getting some exercise” was the best part, said Brian Foster, 31, who completed two years of high school at the old Colonel White. “I don't do this every day like those guys do. I feel pretty good.”