

## ContainIt Uses Coffee to Foster Sustainability

A 20-foot shipping container that was transformed to include three beds and a small student workspace was delivered to Pine Ridge Reservation less than three years ago to serve as a refuge for youth in need. Since then, Covenant Day students have continued to create spaces of rest and refuge for those in need on the reservation. So much intentionality and prayer goes into each container. Three transformed containers are now located on the reservation and include a 20' single container, a 40' singles unit with bath and kitchen, and a 40' family unit with bath and kitchen. But our students wanted to do more. They wanted to go beyond just building functional living spaces.

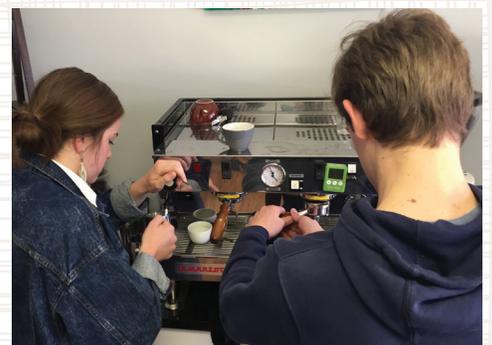
Students Jordan Daugherty and Aislinn McGrory organized a two-day Blitz Build in December to tackle ContainIt's latest project – a coffee house container. The nearest city to Pine Ridge Reservation is two hours away, so finding jobs is challenging. The desire is that the container will provide jobs for individuals on the reservation so they have an opportunity to provide for their families. The coffee house container will be outfitted with a kitchen area, commercial coffee shop equipment, supplies, an order counter, and customer seating. Once they arrive at Pine Ridge, the team hopes to build a porch area off the back of the container for additional seating on nice days. In addition to their continued partnership with Edifice, Inc. and Little Diversified

Architectural Consulting, students have learned from Brakeman's Coffee and Supply and Summit Coffee what goes into running a coffee house.

Sophomores Katherine Neil and Hill Wilson are leading a team of students on mastering the basics of being a coffee barista so they can bring this training to the reservation. The team of students pored over dozens of articles before kicking off their training at Summit Coffee. They also gained experience by shadowing baristas at Brakeman's. Additionally, students hosted a coffee tasting for parents on campus in April to add to their experience. The training will be rolled out in three phases on the reservation.

The container will be delivered to the reservation in May. In June, Katherine and Hill will accompany the second team to the reservation to begin the barista training process. A third team will travel to Pine Ridge at the end of the summer.

The students want to go beyond simply training the Lakota people on how to make coffee. "We hope to spread the gospel by building authentic relationships with the people we meet," Katherine said. "Our desire is to connect with those we meet through different activities that interest them, such as quilt making or auto mechanics. This will allow our stories to be woven together as we connect with one another."



*The ContainIt team visits Summit Coffee in Davidson for barista training.*

