



Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

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Keith Wasserman, Founder/Executive Director

*"I made the WIDOW'S heart sing, I took up the case of
the STRANGER, I was a father to the FATHERLESS."
(Job 29:12-13)*

Celebrating 29 Years!

April 2009

Spring greetings from all of us who form the COMMUNITY OF HOPE!

Perspective is everything. The brutality of winter turns into the colored song of spring. It seems though, that we at Good Works are often somewhere in the "in between time"—waiting in patient hope, expectation and yearning for the blossoms of life to come. These are metaphors you know. And they talk of real people, with real lives, faces, trials and tears.

Often at Good Works, we are not able to see the fruit of our labor, but then we are blessed with perspective of how we can have impact on someone's life. What a gift! Recently, we received a letter from a former resident who is a very dear friend. She wanted to share with us some of her reflections on her time at Good Works. Here is what Janet wrote:

I came to Athens on a mission to help my daughter end her drug problems and heal while she was in rehab. I had no money, no car, and no job. I'd been evicted from my last apartment because I had to keep calling off work for court, or the car would break down; it was a terrible time. I was not in the best of shape physically, with heart issues. My son had to buy my bus ticket. The only thing I had was faith and hope.

...After a few hours in town, I arrived at the Timothy House...I hurt all over, that was a very hard night for me. "Susan" was my roommate and helped me to settle in. There were a lot of rules, but they actually comforted me. My life had been spiraling out of control for so long, the discipline felt good, like a warm blanket when you are tired. We all had chores which changed weekly, and we all cooked at one time or another. About mid-November, I received the offer to go to Hannah House to live...There, I began my real transition into independence.

It was so totally different from the Timothy house!! There were rules but very relaxed, and you paid rent, very low rent, but rent just the same. You still did chores, but life is full of chores. Kevin, my caregiver still did visits with me. But the intensity was gone, the serenity in that house, the peaceful atmosphere, felt so good. I would sit on the back porch, and just ponder so very many things. The Hannah House was a place of healing and rest. I dealt with so many old painful issues, laid some to rest, and just dealt with the rest. The Hannah House kids will always hold a very special place in my heart. We played games together, shared meals and laughed, watched movies.

After about nine months, we moved into our own place in The Plains. I would love to say, "And we lived happily ever after," but real life has its struggles.

I can't explain all the blessings, healings, and riches of understanding I received from the Timothy and Hannah House experiences, or the deep respect and admiration for all the staff and volunteers of Good Works that I feel. These two and three quarters years, have been more restful than stressful. I feel so blessed to have gone through all these times, met so many people, and heard their life stories. ~ Janet

A more detailed story about Janet can be seen on our webpage under [Timothy House Stories](#).

As Janet says, it is not always "happily ever after," but we labor in love, in an act of worship to God, continuing to hope and yearn on behalf of our friends who are struggling. Knowing all along that perspective is everything—that in the big scheme of things, this is not ours, and we are all heading somewhere, marching with and toward a Kingdom...

- Cory Blackwell

In the news...

- We are planning our annual Kids Discovery Club and Summer Lunch to provide nutritious food to our friends who are struggling with having enough. This 8-week kids program and lunch (for adults and kids) will take place every weekday this summer at The Plains UMC in The Plains. **Can you help us?** We are asking friends to (1) donate nutritional food and (2) purchase and send us gift cards to help us get fresh nutritional foods from local stores like Kroger, Aldi's, Save-a-lot, Wal-mart, C&E and Foodland.
- We are continuing to plan several outdoor concerts at the amphitheater and stage this spring and summer with the vision to welcome our friends with such limited finances into music and the arts. We have several groups who are interested. Do you know anyone who may want share a benefit concert sometime?
- PLEASE visit our new Good Works Blog. The link is located at the top of our webpage.
- We continue to be available and meet every day face-to-face with our friends here in Appalachia struggling with utility bills, rent, moving costs, gas, and transportation. The program is called HOPE AND POSSIBILITIES, and Chip Guyton is focused on this.
- Friday Night Life moved back to our Luhrig Road property April 3. We look forward to a spring full of warm weather and picnic-style dinners with our friends. Please join us!
- Appalachian Immersion is a 9-12 month internship designed to help followers of Christ put their faith into action through living at the Good Works Hannah House and serving their neighbors in need. Do you know anyone who might be interested in looking into Appalachian Immersion? You can read more about it on our website under "Internships."
- Week of Service is a short-term internship opportunity that can be made to fit your schedule. Perhaps you, your family, or someone you know might be interested in serving with Good Works and living in the Hannah House for a week this summer?

Of course, all of these news items are an offering of love. We continue to labor and work for what we cannot always see. We are grateful for the times when friends like Janet bless us with her words.

And we are grateful for friends like you who continue to make this work possible. Truly, the story of Janet is also a story of the faithfulness and generosity of those who provide for the needs of Good Works. This, too, is a story of perspective. This, too, is a blessing bigger than words. Thank you.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman