

Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope

Celebrating 32 Years!



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Keith Wasserman, Founder/Executive

“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)

Hello friends!

Thanksgiving 2013

What are you thankful for?

In our community, this is a question we ask and answer with much regularity, while sitting around the dinner table at the Timothy House or sharing together in the Hannah House kitchen. Judging by their enthusiastic responses of gratitude, the children of Friday Night Life seem to understand our mantra the best: “Thanksgiving is therapeutic!”

We are sincerely convinced that gratitude is an essential practice for any community seeking health and vitality. And for us, it is gratitude springing from our awareness of *being loved* that propels us to love our neighbors in need. Today we want to express our gratitude for YOU—the inspiring “Community of HOPE” whose countless acts of quiet generosity make it possible for us to love people who are suffering in a situation of poverty.

Staff member Chris Linscott has said it well: “I am so incredibly thankful that we can create a place for hundreds and hundreds of *those who have* to come together and share with *those who need*. Truly, this is one of the things that makes life beautiful.” We are celebrating so many good and beautiful things this year; indeed, one might call them “mini-miracles.” Celebrate with us year number 33 of loving God and our neighbors here in rural Appalachia!

“I am thankful for the four wheelchair ramps we have been able to provide to people in our community this year, with the help of many volunteers. I am also very thankful for the 17 vehicles that have been donated to Good Works and the 14 (and counting) vehicles people have received through the Transformation Station in 2013.” – Paul Richard (serving as Director of Operations)

“I am especially thankful for the Teen Agricultural Internship: for the grant funding we received which allowed us to offer it, for our friends who allowed us to help them grow food, and for the teens themselves. I think everyone involved, myself included, experienced a great deal of transformation this year. God’s providence was extravagantly displayed, and I am grateful.” – Doug Schmaltz (oversees our Agricultural Initiatives)

This fall, we are thankful for the new residential community in the Hannah House, made up of Aaron Smith, serving as House Manager, and three Appalachian Immersion Interns: Andrew Bissell from Meigs County, Ohio; Danielle Sauer from Syracuse, New York and Mark Donlin all the way from Boston, Massachusetts.

“This year, I am especially thankful for the ownership I see coming out of the Friday Night Life community. Those who are benefiting from the meal also benefit others in so many ways: from setting up tables and packaging groceries, to sharing gifts of music and prayer!” – Dawn Tobin (provides leadership to the Friday Night Life community)

What Are We Thankful For?

- Approximately 50 groups (made up of hundreds of volunteers) who sponsored Friday Night Life.
- How our Country Bed and Breakfast provides a revenue source for us!
- Close to 40 different groups who participated in Work Retreats with us this year.
- The many gifts of food and resources for our 2013 Summer Lunch.
- All the student organizations that raise money for Good Works!
- The completion of our new hiking trails on the Luhrig Road property, with thanks to John Knouse who volunteered much time and expertise.
- The privilege of being invited into the lives of friends we know through Friday Night Life and Neighbors Helping Neighbors during their times of both loss and celebration.
- The fruitful partnerships with have with so many different congregations across Ohio and beyond.

“This year I am thankful for the Lord’s patience and grace with us, in particular the grace He has shown me, as we engage in the challenge of developing relationships with people from all walks of life. I am learning that only He can provide the strength and energy to do this.” – Frances Garrett (co-leads our Service Living initiative on campus)

“This year I am especially grateful for our new volunteer, Jane, who cooks lunches at the Good Works Luhrig Road Property on Wednesdays. It is a wonderful blessing to be able to share a delicious, nutritious meal with our Transformation Station volunteers and fellow staff members. These meals meet nutritional needs as well as the need for belonging, fellowship, and community. What an immense blessing.” – Meg Bruno (leads opportunities for health and wellness in our community)

“I am thankful that I was able to participate in and witness a teen girl, who I have invested my life into these past few years, graduate from high school. This was a beautiful example of God’s goodness and I am so thankful that I could celebrate with her and her family.” – Emily Axe (leads our Summer Kids’ Discovery Club and Friday Night Life Kids’ Club)

“This makes me thankful: To see people who originally come to participate in the Transformation Station to get something tangible, actually not want to leave when their volunteer time is finished.” – Terri Woodson (offers her administrative gifts to several initiatives operating out of the Hannah House)

“I am thankful for all the volunteers I get to interact with at Good Works. They are eager to help out and do what they are trained to do. I am speaking about the former Timothy House residents who come back to volunteer later. They seem to have a great deal of gratitude and get great satisfaction from giving back and doing what they can. We love them and let them know it often!” – Sharon Hudson (serves as a Timothy House Supervisor)

“This is what I am thankful for: For me, this past year has been a season of experiencing the love of God in a physical way. Knowing the presence of God has been a wonderful experience I have felt from how those in the community of Good Works have shown their love for me.” – Jim Todd (serves as the Transformation Station Manager)

In closing... I want to express how very grateful I am for the way in which so many loving people surround us all year long, encourage us, “hold up our arms,” and sustain us. Indeed, I smile when I consider that this sustaining grace is truly the faithfulness God!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

PS: If you are able to financially support Good Works, we need your support now.

