

Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope

Celebrating 32 Years!



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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)*

Dear friends,

Christmas 2013

There really is a difference between a house and a home. A house is just a structure, right? It is walls and a roof, and serves a good purpose. But a *home*... I think “home” happens when there is care and concern and compassion between people. It is relationships and sharing, safety and nurture and community.

Now, I’ve never lived at the Timothy House, so I can’t speak as one who has personally gone through those unique situations. But over my time serving on the Care-giving team, I’ve gotten to see what some people experience when they are embraced by this community. It seems like the best way to share my thoughts would be to show you: to introduce you to some of the folks who are here and to the life of this home. So, are you up for a little impromptu tour?

It’s a Monday night, and back in our eating-and-meeting room the computer lab is up and humming. Derek, one of our long-time volunteers, is running our computer class, *Training for Life*. Two residents are working on their own tasks: one finishing up some college homework and the other checking for housing availabilities. Just an hour ago, about 20 people including residents, staff, and volunteers were enjoying a delicious meal together in this room. A resident named Anna prepared the food with a few others pitching in. For the last week she has been talking about her family’s chili recipe that she made tonight. Judging by the lack of leftovers, I’m guessing it was a hit.

If we round the corner we’ll come into the kitchen, and oh my, does something smell good! A volunteer and a resident are in the middle of whipping up a chocolate cake for Brandon’s twenty second birthday tomorrow (shh! It’s a surprise!). It just so happened that one of our neighbors brought a donation of eggs earlier this evening, making the cake possible. Talk about good timing!

In the living room, it looks like there’s a serious chess match underway between one of our interns and a teen staying in the house with his mother. They even have a crowd of onlookers. Oh, and here’s a tub of clean laundry to be put away. Thanks to Ben, the resident who has the laundry chore this week, we have clean linens and towels for everyone after our house meeting tomorrow night.

Now, if we make our way through the front hallway, we’ll pass the front office where my co-worker (a Care-giver) and a current resident are having their weekly meeting. Listening, building trust, and sharing guidance are all significant aspects of this time. Next we find ourselves out on the front porch. Brrr – it’s chilly! Brandon is telling a few people about the most recent apartment he looked at and the disappointment of learning that it already got rented. Others are offering some leads to check out and just encouraging him to keep going despite setbacks. After all, he has a steady job and a great work ethic.

This little tour is just a glimpse of the life of the Timothy House on one particular evening among many, but I hope it gives you an idea of what I mean when I describe this house as *home*. People come to us because of something that happened to them and not because they wanted or planned to be here. But we hope that while someone stays with us they experience the love of a warm community, the grace of God, and HOPE for their future. – Anne Wilson

Anne first connected with the Good Works community through a Summer Internship in 2003, after which she served in China for two years as a teacher. Anne has served as a Care-giver at the Timothy House for the last 6 years.

About the Timothy House...

The Good Works Timothy House (TH) was purchased by Good Works, Inc. in 1984 about four years after Keith and Darlene Wasserman started the ministry. The TH has 4 bedrooms, a legal limit of 15 people and remains the only shelter for people without homes in 9 Southeast Ohio counties. In 2007, the city of Athens denied Good Works' request to expand to serve more homeless families. Last year, the TH provided 4,600 days of shelter to 207 people but turned away 248 men, women and children due to lack of space.

- Each month, 50 to 60 **volunteers** serve inside the Timothy House on weekdays and weekends. Their focus is on building supportive relationships with the residents and assisting the staff.
- **Training for Life** is a computer class we provide to residents at the TH twice a week. With personal one-on-one attention, we teach basic computer skills, helping participants do things like writing resumes, enroll in college, and apply for employment.
- **Life's Healing Choices** is a weekly opportunity made available to residents at the TH through a partnership we have with a local church and Celebrate Recovery ministry. This biblically-based group offers hope and healing to people struggling with life's "hurts, habits and hang ups".
- Our campus initiative called **Service Living** provided a weekly meal called "Dinner at Timothy's" every Sunday evening this past fall. Our vision to guide students in service and relationship-building with people living at the TH is going very well.

In the News...

- **Current Needs:** We have just updated our Needs List and also our 2014 "Wish List". We would be delighted to send it to you. Contact us by phone or email if you'd like to see it.
- Keith and Darlene Wasserman's new initiative, **Sign of Hope** is coming to the end of its first year. They have set aside two bedrooms in their new home to provide hospitality for people who cannot stay at the Timothy House due to lack of space. The Good Works staff screen and arrange for single adults and families to stay with them. To learn more about this, contact at keith@good-works.net.
- The 12th annual **Good Works WALK** is scheduled for Saturday, February 22, 2014 in Athens. This year, the WALK will create experiences for participants to learn more about the difficulties and complexities vulnerable people face in obtaining *food* and *shelter*. Please come!! The financial goal of the WALK is to have 600 participants who will contribute \$100 each to raise \$60,000 for the Timothy House. For more information, visit: www.goodworkswalk.net

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

PS: THANK YOU for loving and encouraging us as we continue to care for so many people who are without homes and those who are suffering and struggling with poverty here in rural Appalachia. A receipt of your 2013 giving to Good Works will be mailed to you before January 31st, 2014.