

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)

To the Good Works Community of HOPE,

May 2013

Yes, that's you! Whether you live right here in the Athens area or several states away, please be sure to know that you are an essential part of this community which is building hopefulness!

Before we get much farther, I want to tell you how grateful we are for your gifts. They are energizing countless opportunities for people who are suffering to wake up in the morning with a sense of hope—the ability to see beyond their circumstances, crises and emotions with the moral strength to persevere into the future of possibilities.

This sounds nice, what does it actually look like? Here is one glimpse:

At fifteen, Tasha doesn't have much chance of finding a summer job. Money has always been tight for her family, and she usually doesn't sign up for clubs or sports at school because she knows her Mom can't afford it. With a little nervousness, Tasha decides to do something different this summer, and applies for our Teen Agricultural Internship.

Piecing together rides to get here three days a week for seven weeks is the biggest challenge, other than the summer heat. But Tasha keeps at it, and ends up learning a lot: about herself, helping others, and growing food. On the last day of the internship, the staff throws a party! Tasha's Mom and the other parents are invited, and the teens make fresh pizza from vegetables they grew themselves. Tasha feels really proud and grown up to get a check for \$300, which is the stipend she earned for having almost perfect attendance.

The money was great, but Tasha's favorite part was actually getting to know Kathryn—a college student who listened, laughed and even had some serious talks with her this summer. For the first time, Tasha is starting to daydream about life after high school. She doesn't know what she wants to do yet, but has this feeling inside that it will be good!

Right now, we are preparing for our fifth year of the Teen Agricultural Internship, along with six other significant initiatives that will make up Summer Service 2013. In each, we desire to offer our neighbors opportunities and relationships that quell despair and give people a reason to hope:

Summer Kids' Discovery Club: Believing and investing in the futures of children in need

Summer Lunch: Offering the security of physical and social nourishment

Work Retreats: Mobilizing ordinary people to a lifestyle of love and service

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Surrounding our friends who are seniors with practical help and companionship

Kingdom Internship: Mentoring youth in God's concern for people in poverty

Summer Internship: Releasing a new generation of leaders who will influence others toward life-giving relationships with God and their neighbors in need

Our launch date for Summer Service is June 9th! We know that our commitment to these contexts to grow hope involves a spiritual, relational and financial investment. Our costs do increase during the summer months. Would you help us unearth the great potential for hope in our neighbors' lives by making a special contribution for Summer Service 2013?

IN THE NEWS...

- Good Works has a monthly **Needs List**. If you'd like us to send you a copy by mail or email, let us know. MOST of our food and supplies come through generous gifts.
- Our **seminar** about growing into deeper relationship with those we are serving called Going Deeper has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 5th.
- **Transformation Station Volunteers** is the name we use to describe those who come here to offer their time in exchange for resources they need. We have GREAT JOY to see these volunteers join Work Retreat members, as together they serve our friends, mostly widows, at their homes. Then, we get to celebrate with the volunteer afterwards as they receive furniture, an appliance, a food box or a car. We provided car number 108 last week! Please encourage people you know to donate cars to us.
- **Live locally?** Come give of your time and self inside our Summer Kids' Discovery Club or Summer Lunch! For more information, visit our website or give us a call.
- We are seeking applicants for **Appalachian Immersion**, our paid residential internship focused on service and discipleship. The internship runs from September to June.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **The Timothy House**, located on the west side of Athens, is still the only home for people experiencing homelessness in 9 counties in Southeast Ohio.
- Each Tuesday morning, our **community and guests** meet together for a special time of song, sharing, scripture reading and prayer. We have been doing this for more than 25 years. On Friday afternoons, we have a gathering focused on staff development. In this last season, we have spent time intentionally affirming each other and studying a book called *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition* by Christine Pohl. If you are interested in participating sometime, let us know!
- The **Carter Cabin** welcomes anyone interested in having a time of solitude. To arrange a stay at the cabin, contact us. There is no cost.
- Our **Country Bed and Breakfast** is a revenue source that helps cover our utility costs on the Luhrig Road property.

In closing I want to say this: *we walk by faith and not by sight* (II Corinthians 5:7). So much of what we do at Good Works is an act of FAITH, which we spell R-I-S-K. Each year at this time, we plan by faith so many monumental things and each year we experience God's faithfulness. The Lord has increased our capacity, and so we continue to extend ourselves, along with you and many other volunteers, into the lives of our dear friends who struggle with poverty and often feel unloved and excluded. We rely on you and the grace of God for continued strength and wisdom. Please pray with us and for us as we seek to BE good news for the poor (Luke 4:18).

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

PS: By faith we are trusting God for the resources we will need for the significant increase in expenses as we launch Summer Service. If you are able to participate in any way, thank you!