

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,

July 2013

Greetings with gratitude! Thank you, each of you, for your continued commitment to love... love expressed through concrete actions for your neighbors in need. Today I’m excited to share some of the many ways your love is being infused into the lives of people who daily face the challenge of limited resources.

We are currently in the middle of Summer Service 2013, with all hands on deck! How about you - can you hear the laughter of children as their world expands through our Summer Kids’ Discovery Club? Can you sense the anticipation for lunchtime, when everyone gets a place around the table and trays of hot food arrive? (Friday is pizza day, and somehow, creatively-cooked vegetables keep disappearing into hungry mouths.)

Can you feel the warm earth, turned over by the shovels of our Teen Agricultural Interns? Can you ‘set’ awhile on the porch with Mrs. Bailey, and watch the tomatoes ripen? She can’t get out much, but because of the garden we help maintain for her, she has good food and good company this summer! Can you see resilience rise in the heart of our friend who has a disability as coats of clean, white paint go up in his home? Can your thoughts mingle with those of our Kingdom Interns as they consider this scripture passage after a day of practical service with people in need?

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions” (1 John 3:16-18, New Living Translation).

Here in the Good Works community, we are simply learning how to love, with actions. Thank you so much for your part in making this possible!

IN THE NEWS...

- We are continuing to trust God for the resources we need for our **Summer Lunch**, which offers an everyday meal to people struggling with poverty and food insecurity.* Would you consider helping us with the food and dollars we need? The lunch, with Darlene Wasserman as the head cook, runs through August 2nd.
- This summer Good Works has **19 interns!** Seven are college-age Summer Interns, two are participating in our yearlong Appalachian Immersion Internship, four are teens in our Kingdom Internship, and six are in the Teen Agricultural Internship.

- Also this summer, the staff of the **Timothy House** is thriving amidst some significant changes. Andrea Horsch, the Director of Care-giving, is currently on maternity leave from Good Works and Anne Wilson has assumed this role in her stead. In addition to his night-shift staff responsibilities at the house, Timothy Wasserman joined the Care-giving team for the summer to fulfill some needed leadership roles.
- On May 10th, the **Friday Night Life** community celebrated 20 years of being together with special evening of food, memories, and games! Also at Friday Night Life, Meg Bruno and Darlene Wasserman just finished teaching a 6-week class called *Live Well Now*. The class was designed to give people tools to better manage chronic diseases such as diabetes.
- As many of you know, this past January Keith and Darlene began a personal initiative to take people into their home who could not receive shelter at the Timothy House due to of lack of space. This unique effort of biblical hospitality is called **Sign of Hope**. To request a quarterly update on how this is going, you can email them at keith@good-works.net.
- The **Transformation Station** provided car number 112 to a family several weeks ago! If you know anyone who might consider donating their car to Good Works, please pass the word. To see photos of the Transformation Station in action and many other weekly updates, visit us on Facebook at: www.Facebook.com/Good.Works.Athens
- **Senior Friends** is designed to provide volunteers an opportunity to visit with seniors, primarily widows, in Athens County twice a month. We are seeking volunteers who are interested in exploring this with us.
- **Service Living** is getting ready to launch year number five of creating opportunities for Ohio University students to get off campus and experience the history, values, needs, beauty and people of rural Athens County. This fall, we plan to facilitate 8 weekly "Transformation Groups" (three hour service experiences with students).

On Saturday, August 3rd we are hosting a dear friend, Dr. Christine Pohl for a special seminar on Christian hospitality based on her book *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*. Dr. Pohl has been very influential in shaping the foundations of our ministry through her work. Thus, we are delighted for this opportunity to learn more about opening our lives, homes, churches and communities to people in need of gracious welcome. Would you consider joining us? The event will take place on the Good Works property in Athens from 10 am to 3 pm. To register, please contact Dawn Tobin at 740.594.3339 or goodworks@good-works.net by July 27th. The cost is \$10, which includes lunch.

Thank you for partnering with us in all these expressions of care for our neighbors. Love is indeed a verb!



Keith Wasserman

* Food insecure households do not have consistent, adequate food for all members of the household due to a lack of resources. This means that at times of the year, one or more household members are not able to eat a balanced diet, reduce their portions or skip meals because they do not have access to enough food. In 2011, almost 15 percent of U.S. households (over 50 million people) were food insecure. It is not surprising that food insecurity is more likely among households experiencing poverty. Here in Athens County, where, according the U.S. Census Bureau, the poverty rate has averaged over 30 percent since 2006 (the highest in the state of Ohio and more than twice the state and national average), providing nutritious food to our friends in poverty meets a very real need.

Source: Coleman-Jensen, Alisha, Mark Nord, Margaret Andrews, and Steven Carlson. *Household Food Security in the United States in 2011*. ERR-141, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, September 2012.