

Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 32 Years!



PO Box 4, Athens, OH 45701
Phone: 740-594-3339
Email: goodworks@good-works.net
Web: www.good-works.net

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 of Good Works,

August 2013

Hello! *We thank God for you and for your generosity.*

From the office where I'm writing, the lush beauty of the woods surrounds me. A strong, dignified and resilient people have lived in these Appalachian foothills for generations, finding much pride in their land—and sustenance from it. Even now, bushes laden with blackberries line the roads.

Yet, injustice is also part of Appalachia's history, leaving the residue of poverty. Thus, it is with deep respect that we seek to offer friendship, help and hope to the people whose home, and homes, we visit. While a significant portion of our energy is focused on serving people experiencing homelessness, another dominant aspect involves helping our friends, primarily widows, live well in their own homes. We consider it a privilege to be "invited in," during what is a vulnerable season for many due to social isolation, economic limitations and struggles related to aging and physical disabilities.

Over the last 15 years of leading teams of volunteers in labor-intensive service at people's homes, we have served about 200 different families. And in any given year, we are in close involvement with 30 to 40 different households through *Neighbors Helping Neighbors*. Roof repairs, wheelchair ramp construction, mowing, cleaning, painting and gardening are just a few of the nearly 80 different projects we have completed so far this year. We do our best to finish each project with excellence, in addition to investing relationally in the person we are serving. Our efforts accelerate during the summer and this year has been no exception: our staff and interns, in addition to many volunteers, have been working hard and persevering through challenges to live out our vision.

In short, it is a vision to *love*. Staff member Seth Lundeen, who provides leadership to this initiative, shares that many of our friends are "getting by," and we help them do so by bringing safety and order to their properties. But, we want to go further than this—we want to know our neighbors well enough to discover what will bring them LIFE. One friend we know through *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* is an outdoorsman and greatly enjoys hunting. He also has a physical disability. We've been able to help David build wheelchair accessible trails on his property, so he can continue to live to the fullest, despite his physical and economic challenges.

We believe that this is what love looks like: lavish. *"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1)*. We experience God's love as abundant, and believe this love is to be shared, especially with people in need.

Periodically, we invite our friends through *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* to give us feedback. "What could we do to make this experience better for you?" we asked sometime last year. David wrote back in jest, "Bring ice cream with you!" We all had a good laugh... and someone took the personal initiative to pick up a half-gallon the next time we came out.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is first of all about relationships that provide life, joy and strength. Our many volunteers and you, our supporters, make this possible! Thank you.

— Dawn Tobin

IN THE NEWS....

- We are grateful to share that this is our 18th year of welcoming groups to serve with us— what has now evolved into a summer full of loving our neighbors! As you receive this letter, we are on the home stretch of **Summer Service 2013**. Our 9 college-age interns have led 6 weeklong Work Retreat groups in service. We've been delighted to have several individuals participate in our Week of Service learning opportunity as well. The Summer Kids' Discovery Club and our Kingdom Internship are going strong. The Teen Agricultural Interns just harvested about 140 pounds of potatoes, which we are serving at the Summer Lunch! Thank you for your loving encouragement propelling us forward.
- **Service Living**, our campus initiative with Ohio University launches year number five when the academic year begins later this month. With a core of student leaders facilitating weekly "Transformation Groups," our goal is to help first-year students learn about the history, values, needs, beauty and people of rural Appalachia. Our "learn by doing" model offers students opportunities to get off campus and build intentional relationships with the people who call Athens County home.
- Our third annual **Being the Body** worship event is scheduled for Saturday, September 7th, 4:30 to 7:30 pm on the Good Works property. The vision for this experience is to bring together people from different Christian communities for an evening of fellowship and song. We will have a potluck dinner together beginning at 5 pm, with a time of corporate worship to follow at the amphitheater from 6:15 to 7:30 pm. We hope you will consider coming! For more information, contact us at 740.594.3339.
- On Saturday, October 5th from 9:30 am to 3 pm, the staff of Good Works will present our second **Going Deeper** seminar. The seminar will be taught by Keith Wasserman, Paul Richard and Andrea Horsch and will include lessons learned and perspective gained from our years of investing into the people Good Works is committed to loving and serving. To register, contact us by email or phone at 740.594.3339 before September 27th. The \$10.00 registration includes lunch.
- We are currently seeking **volunteers** to provide leadership in our Friday Night Life Kids' Club, work with our agricultural projects, and serve inside the Timothy House. We are also seeking someone to prepare lunch for our Transformation Station volunteers once a week. Could you pass the word for us? For more information about our thirty plus different volunteer opportunities, visit our website at www.good-works.net

In closing this month, I want to ask if you might encourage a group of people you know to do a **food drive** for Good Works. This year, we will provide more than 21,000 meals primarily through food donated to us. We share food with people in need every day at the Timothy House, every week in the Friday Night Life community, every summer through our Summer Lunch, and routinely to Transformation Station volunteers who volunteer in non-emergency situations. Do you know of a group who might be willing to collect food to replenish our pantries? Contact us at 740.594.3339 for our needs list and a few guidelines.

LOVE is still a verb,



Keith Wasserman