

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 our dear friends,

September 2013

On Saturday, August 10th our community crossed the “finish line” of Summer Service 2013 with exhilaration, gratitude, and admittedly, some exhaustion. You were part of the team; thank you for cheering us on with your gifts and encouragement!

We make up a unique team, us together: not bound by age or ability or credentials, but by the commitment to grow in love for our neighbors who face poverty daily. Over the years, people ages 16 to 80 have chosen to give a week out of their life to this very pursuit here in the Good Works community. We call it a *Week of Service*. Come along to experience one such week through their eyes:

“When I arrived at Good Works, I wasn’t sure where to go, so I headed to (what I now know is) the administration building. Chris was exceedingly friendly. He could’ve easily just pointed to the big house, but instead he walked me across the parking lot and insisted on carrying my heavy suitcase into the house and up to my room. I suspect Chris saw this as a very small thing, but it was meaningful to me. As I get a bit older, it’s not always easy to carry my suitcase all over the place (especially on the rocky parking lot), and I was genuinely grateful for his help and for his dropping what he was doing and helping to welcome me.” (J Robert Parks spent a week with us this March. He teaches at Columbia College Chicago in addition to tutoring children.)

“On Monday I went with two interns to Carol and Jim’s home. It was such a beautiful property and almost a surreal experience being there on top of the hill. Carol loved to talk and I loved to hear her stories. At the end of the day we cut all the low hanging branches so that Jim wouldn’t hit his head when he tried to mow. The joy on Carol’s face almost made me cry. It was such a simple task, but she was so overjoyed.

I really saw God in that moment. In the hugs we exchanged and in the unspoken thankfulness she communicated.” (William Summers participated in a Work Retreat with his church this summer and then came back to do a Week of Service. Will is 16 years old and is from Westerville, Ohio.)

“My experience at the Kids’ Discovery Club was the team spirit among the staff and interns who worked as a team to instruct the children entrusted to them... Something that was profound to me was the fact that the staff and the interns knew and understood each kid at an individual level and would try to meet their needs individually.” (Dindam Wuyep is from Nigeria, where he served as a pastor before coming to the United States to attend Asbury Theological Seminary. He did two Weeks of Service this July.)

“During the time I served for a Week of Service I was blessed with new experiences, friendships, and a greater understanding of God’s vast and amazing kingdom. I was provided with opportunities to meet wonderful people and serve in ways that were meaningful and fulfilling.” (Julie King has served on many Work Retreats with her family beginning when she was 8. This year, she travelled all the way from Chicago to do her first Week of Service at age 16.)

So, what is a *Week of Service*? It is a week of growth, friendship, and giving of yourself; of receiving from and being with people in need. After a thoughtful application process, we offer these volunteers a range of opportunities for service and reflection alongside our community. It's yet another way we are living out our vision to connect people from all walks of life with people in poverty so that the kingdom of God can be experienced!

Do you know someone 16 or older who would enjoy doing a Week of Service with us in 2014? Encourage them to contact us and apply! We are grateful to offer this experience at no cost.

IN THE NEWS

- For many years, we have been loving kids through our **Summer Kids' Discovery Club** for children ages 5 to 12. Under the leadership of staff member Emily Axe and three full-time interns, Discovery Club had 42 children registered with an average of 17 participating each day. Every day of the club was themed, and we invited community members to lead one-time educational presentations with the kids. This year, 53 different community members came to Discovery Club and led 31 total presentations including learning sign language, a horse-drawn wagon-ride, playing with bubbles, and exploring our world's water cycle. Each day also included "Faith Time," our way of encouraging the children in their experience of God's love and truth.
- Because of the blessing of support from our friends and partners, we received more than 1,300 pounds of fresh produce for our everyday **Summer Lunch** this year, and served over 1,900 meals! Through Darlene Wasserman's leadership, we provided a hot, nutritious meal to an average of 58 children and adults each day. Many thanks to those who supported us through gifts of food, money and your time.
- The **Timothy House** is coming through a season in which we are again feeling rather stretched. The number of people experiencing homelessness continues to far exceed what we are able to provide. The wear and tear on the house is high and we really need to renovate the upstairs bathroom. We invite you to consider helping us with some of these practical needs, as you are able.
- Twelve different churches are scheduled to visit us for weekend and weeklong **Work Retreats** this fall. These friends, both old and new, will primarily serve in our Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative alongside of people receiving resources through the Transformation Station. If you'd like information on bringing a group to Good Works, contact Paul Richard at goodworks@good-works.net or 740.594.3336.
- **Going Deeper**, the seminar taught by Keith Wasserman, Paul Richard and Andrea Horsch is scheduled for Saturday, October 5th from 9:30 am to 3 pm. This is an opportunity to learn together about following Jesus into deeper relationships with people experiencing poverty. To register, contact us by email or phone at 740.594.3339 before September 27th. The cost is \$10.00, which includes lunch.
- On Sunday, October 20th at 2 pm we are holding a special **Trail Dedication and Hike**. For the past several years, we have been developing hiking trails on the Good Works Luhrig Road property and are excited to invite you dedicate the trails with us and hike together afterwards. This event is family-friendly. Please come!
- If you are on **Facebook**, would you "like us"? You will receive weekly updates and see photos on many different aspects of Good Works.

In closing this month I want to again encourage you to pray for us as we continue to extend ourselves as a community into relationship with so many different people... *connecting people from all walks of life with people in poverty so that the kingdom of God can be experienced.* Thanks for loving us as we extend ourselves in love!

Keith Wasserman

