



# 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)

Hello to you, dear friend,

February 2013

Can you believe it? We are beginning our 33<sup>rd</sup> year together as the community of Good Works! And YOU are very much a part of it...from the days when Darlene and I began inviting people without homes to live in our remodeled basement, to what Good Works has now become: a long-term community of HOPE with and for people facing poverty in rural Appalachia. We really are *very grateful*— for your generosity and the grace of God sustaining us all these years!

The consistent investment we've been able to make in the lives of people who are struggling is bearing fruit: Ten years ago, we mentored a boy named James in our weekly Kids' Club at Friday Night Life. Last week we celebrated, because James just completed a time of service as a Transformation Station volunteer, and received a 1999 Jeep Wrangler in exchange! Thank you for enabling us to be an *influence for good* in the lives of so many people like James.

In this new year of 2013, our goal is to sustain what is now 20 different initiatives, all focused on fulfilling our mission: *to connect people from all walks of life with people in poverty, so that the kingdom of God can be experienced.* That is, we are intentionally forming genuine, compassionate relationships across the boundaries of class, and in doing so, inviting all to experience the goodness and love we believe God desires for the world.

As you receive this letter, we will be hosting our first Work Retreat groups of the year, mobilizing these volunteers to offer practical help at the homes of our neighbors who are widowed or facing physical disability. We facilitated relational experiences for about 40 groups last year.

When the earth wakes up with the coming of spring, we will till, plant, water and weed in our many gardens, engaging volunteers and recipients of Good Works along the way. In addition to our three community gardens, we maintained 17 gardens at the homes of seniors and people with disabilities last year. We are very excited about the relationships AND vegetables that are growing as a result of our agricultural initiatives! It is a special privilege to give our friends in poverty access to the fresh, nutritious food that is so essential to long-term physical health.

Looking towards the month of June, we are in faith, planning for Summer Service 2013! With the leadership of 6 to 8 college-age interns, we hope to accelerate many of our efforts including our everyday Summer Lunch and Kids' Discovery Club, Teen Agricultural Internship and Kingdom Internship, also for local teens. Neighbors Helping Neighbors also goes into high gear in the summer as we host almost 300 volunteers who come to serve.

Our work at the Timothy House doesn't change with the seasons, however: we are continuing to provide a safe, clean, stable, temporary home to men, women and families with children every day of the year. In 2012, we served 207 people and turned away 261 due to lack of space.

Over the last few months, a lively household has formed in the Hannah House, including our House Managers, Steve and Megan Rogers, and two participants in our Appalachian Immersion Internship. Given this excellent foundation of community, we look forward to inviting Timothy House residents into Life in Transition, our long-term transitional living opportunity at the Hannah House.

Each of these initiatives is simply an avenue for ordinary people like you and me to express love for our neighbors who are suffering. I invite you to participate with us in 2013!

#### In the News...

- The **Good Works WALK** is scheduled for Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please come, and pass the word encouraging others to come! Learn more at: [www.goodworkswalk.net](http://www.goodworkswalk.net)
- **Service Living**, Good Works' initiative in partnership with Ohio University, has launched another eight outreach groups taking students off campus into Athens County to build relationships with the people of rural Appalachia. Explore what are doing at: [www.serviceliving.wordpress.com](http://www.serviceliving.wordpress.com).
- Because of the kindness of many people, the **Transformation Station** continues to provide cars, appliances, furniture and food to our neighbors who are struggling with poverty. Would you pass the word about our need for cars? For many we meet through the Transformation Station, poverty is more than economic, and we are able to encourage these friends in social, occupational and spiritual aspects of their life as well.
- The **Friday Night Life** community will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> year with a special event on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>! If you've ever been involved in Friday Night Life, you are encouraged to come and bring a dish to share. I started Friday Night Life in 1993 by inviting residents of the Timothy House to come back for a spaghetti dinner to stay connected with us. Today, we are a community of over 150 people, receiving life and building trust in this context.
- On Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, Good Works is sponsoring our second all day seminar, **Going Deeper**, at the Hope Center. Our staff and volunteers will be sharing and learning together about what it means to go deeper in our love for God and in our relationships with people in need.
- **Carter Cabin**, our Solitude Retreat Cabin, is available to anyone wanting a day or more of quiet rest. Contact us at 740.594.3336 to schedule some time away. There is no cost.

In closing, I'd like to ask for your prayers and encouragement. Darlene and I are taking a new step of faith this year. We believe God has spoken to us about what *we can do* to help the people being turned away from the Timothy House due to lack of space (a total of 261 children, women and men in 2012). I have been very influenced by the story in Mark 14:1-9, in which a woman "wasted" perfume on Jesus. The phrase, "*She did what she could,*" moved me to consider what I can do to care for people in these desperate situations. In response, we have recently moved to a new home in the neighborhood of the Timothy House where we can provide hospitality to those who have no place to sleep. This is a personal, rather than organizational, response to the need we see around us, and no Good Works funding is going toward this initiative. I'm happy to tell you more if you are interested. You can contact me at [keith@good-works.net](mailto:keith@good-works.net) or 740.594.9000.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman