

Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope

Celebrating 33 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)*

Dear friend,

July 2014

It’s summer time! Would you like to join the Good Works community for a day?

The early morning mist rests quietly in this green valley-- a beautiful view from the Hannah House porch swing. You breathe, taking everything in, especially the joyful birdsong.

It’s Monday. The Work Retreat group serving this week arrived last night after a 6-hour drive from a neighboring state. Following the bustle of breakfast and coffee, the staff, interns and volunteers gather under the picnic shelter. Today, one of the Summer Interns is leading everyone in reflection prior to their day of service. She shares from James 1:27: *“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”*

Next, the volunteers divide into teams to do just this: to visit with people who are widowed and spend time with children in need. Dorothy lost her husband seven years ago, and today you will go to her home to repair her roof. Having never done this before, you’re a little apprehensive, but the staff assured you that another volunteer knows what he is doing and your role is to visit with Dorothy. What you don’t know is that she has kindness, stories, and lemonade ready for you!

Another group of volunteers heads out to assist with Kids’ Discovery Club, where it’s “Mystery Monday.” A community member makes an interactive presentation involving aerobic exercise to music, and then the kids have “Faith Time.” In the nearby kitchen, Darlene Wasserman is working with several volunteers to cook a colorful lunch. Everyone is grateful for a gift of fresh fruits and veggies that made this meal possible!

Meanwhile, Doug, a Good Works staff member, and Dani, an Appalachian Immersion Intern, greet the eight young people who are part of our Teen Agricultural Internship this year. After spending a few minutes on the porch getting re-connected, they launch into a conversation about character. Today the topic is gratitude. Later, they’ll visit Mrs. Bailey at her home in the county, and weed her tomato patch!

If you were able to slip over to the Timothy House about two, you’d find Andrea, the Director of Care-giving, and four staff members together for their daily meeting. They pray, discern, grieve, celebrate... all in an effort to learn how to love our neighbors who are without homes.

The residents return at dinnertime. This season has been hard on them, because to date, only half the house is operational due to the fire. So, we have a picnic in the front yard, and despite the weariness

of the day, gratitude bubbles over for the delicious gift of food that a supporter just brought over. Later in the evening, the nightshift staff arrives, and he is able to spend time encouraging a particular resident. Others finish their chores and head upstairs for some rest.

A few miles away at the Luhrig Road property, the crickets have the upper hand. After an evening of basketball, games and more serious conversations here and there, the Work Retreat group and Summer Interns come together for their evening gathering. More than a few share about how they experienced God and his kingdom that day. You listen, and your heart is full. – Dawn Tobin

IN THE NEWS...

- This is the 6th year of our **Teen Agricultural Internship**. Doug Schmaltz and Dani Sauer are overseeing 8 local teens three days a week for seven weeks, teaching them about agriculture, service and character! The teens will receive a \$300 stipend at the end of the summer, which was provided through a gift from a former Good Works volunteer. We have established 18 gardens in the county including the Good Works Garden on the Luhrig Road property.
- Please consider joining us on Saturday, October 4th for **Going Deeper**, a one-day seminar taught by Good Works staff for those who desire to follow Jesus into deeper relationships with people who are struggling with poverty. For more information, contact us at 740.594.3339.
- At the time of writing this, we are still only operating out of the top floor of the **Timothy House** while construction continues on the first floor. We have encountered some significant obstacles along the way and we are doing our best to love our neighbors who are without a home. Thank you so much to each of you who have made financial gifts and to those who have brought meals for our residents! For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website and click on “What’s Happening Now.”
- Our everyday **Summer Lunch and Kids’ Discovery Club** started on June 16th and will continue through August 1st. Emily Axe leads Discovery Club along with the support of two Summer Interns. This year, 30 different community members are making one-time presentations with the kids. If you’d like to help out by volunteering, offering food for the lunch or by sending grocery store gift cards, we welcome your participation!
- **Biblical hospitality**, particularly to people our society considers strangers, continues to be an important practice for our community. While the Timothy House welcomes people without a home, we also receive guests in our Bed and Breakfast, Carter Cabin for Solitude and Retreats, and in the Hannah House. These include Work Retreat groups, families coming to serve, and individuals in our Week of Service opportunity.
- Right now, **a few of our needs** are used Mac laptop computers, and a new grill. We are also seeking cars and appliances in working condition for the Transformation Station. Know someone who might consider donating their car for a family in need? We are also looking for groups who are willing to do a food drive on behalf of the people we serve.

As most of you already know, Good Works is almost entirely supported by individuals and churches, in addition to some businesses and organizations. Assisting us with a financial gift this month would really encourage us. Exercising faith and wisdom, the summer has historically been a season when we have more expenditures and less financial support. Thank you so much for caring and doing what you can!

Love is still a verb,



Keith Wasserman