

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)*

To the Good Works Community of HOPE:

June 2014

Thank you, dear friends for your friendship, visits, prayers and financial support during these difficult months. We consider you to be a significant part of this community, knowing that you too receive life from giving of yourselves and participating in our shared vision.

Just a few days after you receive this letter, Summer Service 2014 will begin as our college-age interns arrive and we launch into a full season of serving our neighbors in need together! At this time eight years ago, I was on my way from Harrisonburg, Virginia to participate in Good Works’ Summer Internship. As my Mom and I drove the final 20 miles to Athens, I remember her commenting that I was on the edge of “something big.” I felt the same way, though neither of us knew what it was at the time.

What was it? What did I experience that summer that drew me back two years later to join the Good Works community?

From the “Welcome Barbeque” to walks with my mentor, from learning how to use a chain saw to learning how to give and receive affirmation... I experienced something here that changed me. I think that “something” was love. I believe it was God’s love expressed through a group of ordinary, flawed human beings.

But it didn’t stop there. I also had the opportunity to express this same love to others. I remember spreading clean sheets on a bed for a new resident at the Timothy House. Somehow this simple act made my heart strangely tender. When shared with people going through times of real vulnerability, I found that everyday life became holy: a can of pop, a lawn well mowed, a crock-pot of chili. Becoming friends with people in need connected me to my Creator and to the purpose of my life like an electric circuit.

During the summer of 2006, I tasted what it is like to be part of a community who is seeking to live in the interrelatedness of loving God and loving their neighbors. In Jeremiah 22:16, God says something remarkable about a certain ruler, and himself: “He gave justice and help to the poor and needy... isn’t that what it means to know me?”

Because of my personal experience, I’m invested in our vision to connect people from all walks of life with people in poverty so that the kingdom of God can be experienced! And despite the setbacks of the last few months, we are looking forward to living out our mission all summer long, in many diverse ways:

Inside the Hannah House, we will welcome Summer Interns, mentor individuals doing a Week of Service with us, and host seven weeklong Work Retreat groups. This summer, groups are coming from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Kansas, Illinois and North Carolina. In partnership with our friends at The Plains United Methodist Church, we will be offering our everyday Kids’ Discovery Club and Summer Lunch.

Out in the community, our Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative will go into full swing as we send volunteers to do labor-intensive service at the homes of widows and people with disabilities. Not to mention our Teen Agricultural Internship and Kingdom Internship!

Please stand with us and pray for us as we undertake these acts of faith. Preparing for Summer Service while reconstructing the Timothy House after the fire has been trying. In addition, we will be working with a smaller number of Summer Interns than we typically do this year because fewer applicants accepted the positions. Nonetheless, we are trusting God and persevering. — Dawn Tobin



More recently, Dawn's desire to receive and give love between God and her neighbors has led her to live in a village outside of Athens called Chauncey. She and a few others are seeking to share their lives— and God's good life in them— with their neighbors who are experiencing poverty, and receive from them in the process. It's been a wonderful adventure so far!

IN THE NEWS...

- **We are so grateful** to everyone who contributed financially towards the Timothy House fire recovery. As a community, we are doing well, pulling together with the motto, “*we can get through this.*” The cleaning and reconstruction work was much more challenging than any of us had expected. Caring for people experiencing homelessness at the Hannah House on the Good Works property has been good, but quite a learning experience for all of us. We continue to *learn* more about what it means to love our neighbors. For weekly updates on the recovery of the Timothy House, visit our website and click on “What’s Happening Now.” We will also be giving a progress report in the next newsletter.
- **Service Living**, our campus organization in partnership with Ohio University, completed year number five in May! We worked with about 50 students, had 10 student leaders, and were able to provide 7 weekly “Transformation Groups” each semester in which students built service-based friendships with the people of rural Appalachia.
- We are experiencing some **staff transitions** this summer. Staff member Chris Linscott, who has served with Good Works for the last 6 years, will be leaving to enroll in a graduate program at Ohio University. In addition, three participants in our Appalachian Immersion Internship are wrapping up their time as interns. Do you know anyone you might encourage to explore our yearlong internship?
- In May, we provided our 124th vehicle to a family through the **Transformation Station**. Transportation continues to be the number one issue that makes rural poverty so difficult for people trying to get on their feet. Know someone who might donate a car to Good Works?
- Darlene Wasserman will be overseeing our **Summer Lunch** again this year. For seven weeks, we are expecting 50 to 80 people for lunch Monday through Friday. If you’d like to volunteer or help us with some of the food or supplies, let us know!

In closing this month, I want to tell you that I have returned from my time away at Asbury Theological Seminary and feel rested, grateful and ready for a full summer. I even have room in my heart for a visit from you. Let us know if you’d like to visit. It would give me great JOY!

Love is a verb,

Keith Wasserman

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.” – Proverbs 19:17