

Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope

Celebrating 34 Years!



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*“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,

March 2015

Greetings with gratitude! Winter has been very harsh and cold here in rural Ohio, and especially difficult for those we love and serve who are so vulnerable. We are mindful of those who need a warm place to sleep. We are also mindful of each of you— how you sustain us through your gifts and prayers. Thank you!

Since 1981, we’ve been motivated by a biblical vision to *“take up the case of the stranger”* and provide tangible hope and help to our neighbors without homes in rural Appalachia (Job 29:16). Thirty-four years later, we are seeking to be faithful to God in this work of love. Thank you for joining with us to make the Good Works Timothy House a place where people find HOPE!

Last year we had two major events that caused us to re-think how to care for people without homes in a sustainable way. First, after the loss of funding in early 2014, we chose not to re-hire a full-time Timothy House position when a Caregiver completed his time on staff. Second, we had to create a different system for accepting new residents in the months following the fire.

Previously, someone seeking shelter could do a phone interview with a staff member and move in within 30 minutes. After the fire we began to meet with people face-to-face in a team setting before offering shelter. As a result, we found that the whole atmosphere of the house became much more safe and predictable for those already living there, which often includes families with children. It was also much more sustainable for our staff and volunteers, so after a lot of prayer and conversation, we decided to continue these protocols into the fall.

Although we are only about 6 months into these changes, we’ve already noticed that a greater number of residents are moving out into stable housing. While we are no longer able to help people on an “emergency basis,” we are still providing shelter and are not serving any fewer people.

Our objective at the Timothy House is to provide a safe, clean, stable, temporary yet home-like place for people to be while they work on the issues in their lives which led to their situation of

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Since 1981

In the News at the Timothy House...

- After 14 years of service, our friend and fellow staff member Sharon Hudson is retiring. She filled an irreplaceable role as a Timothy House supervisor, and we will miss her dearly!
- The Timothy House has operated out of its current location for 30 years, and we've provided more than 100,000 nights of shelter. (That includes a 100,000 showers and a LOT of laundry loads!) The facility is now in great shape after the post-fire cleaning and painting. However, it sustains more-than-average wear and tear, and this year we will need to replace the roof on the house.
- At any given time, the Timothy House is sustained by a volunteer community of about 40 different people who commit to serving once a week or once a month. We are so grateful for these faithful friends, and encouraged to hear how life giving this experience is for them personally.
- Here's a short list of regular needs at the Timothy House: *Perishables*: Milk, creamer, fresh veggies, fresh fruit. *Non-perishables*: Canned meat, frozen hamburger or chicken breast, canned fruit, butter, sugar, onions, Clorox wipes, Athens Transit bus tickets, masking tape, umbrellas.

The Scope of the Timothy House in 2014...

- When someone calls us seeking shelter, we take time to talk with them on the phone to ask them about their situation and tell them about the Timothy House. We call this a "phone interview." Last year, we did phone interviews with about 500 different people.
- Almost half of those we served last year were experiencing homelessness for the first time, and the Timothy House was the first shelter they had ever stayed in.
- We provided about 3,900 nights of shelter in 2014. Included were about 140 nights provided at *Sign of Hope*—our "host" family in the neighborhood who provides shelter to adults and children that the Timothy House cannot accommodate due to lack of space. We are looking for other host families to step in and offer their homes when the Timothy House is full.

What's happening in the Good Works community...

- We provided car #132 last month through the Transformation Station. There are about 200 people on the waiting list to volunteer their time in exchange for a car.
- Our new season of Work Retreats has begun, and we are expecting 13 groups to visit Good Works this spring. This year, we hope to serve 40+ families at their homes through our Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative.
- We are seeking college-age interns for our 2015 Summer Service initiative. Interns live in the Good Works Hannah House and lead service experiences for visiting groups.
- We are now receiving applicants for our two Summer Internships for local teens: (1) The Teen Agricultural Internship; and (2) The Kingdom Internship. See our website for more information.
- We are thankful for everyone who contributed and participated in the 13th annual Good Works WALK on February 21st. Indeed, this day will be marked as the most miserable "weather day" for any of our WALKS. Our goal was to have 500 participants and raise \$60,000 for the Timothy House. We had about 215 BRAVE participants and (so far) raised about \$25,000. There is still time to contribute to the WALK if you'd like to. Be looking for an update on the Good Works WALK in the next newsletter!

In closing, I want to thank you for your kindness and love and trust for us as we carry out our mission in our 35th year. Pray for us as we seek to live our lives in a way that truly loves God and loves people. Amen.

Love is a verb,



