

Sam
By Paul Richard

We recently had a man volunteer for the Transformation Station. This program gives people the opportunity to help people get things they need while also helping others in need. Sam volunteered to get a vehicle. On the way to transferring the title for his new car and getting the insurance, he told me a few more details about his story. About a year ago his mother died who, for many years, had only known her son as an alcoholic. Her death was a wake-up call for him and he took the first step onto the path of sobriety. His drinking had left him without work or transportation. He got involved in AA to address his addiction and has a growing faith in God as the basis for his recovery. He came to us to help him address the transportation issue. Each day he walked 7-8 miles to get here to do his volunteer service. He worked on several significant projects. One of these was collaboration with Three Rivers Housing, an organization that helps people finance and build low-cost homes by having the owner provide volunteer work on their home. One of the homeowners contacted Good Works to see if she could get volunteers to help her. Sam spent a day working on this new home with one of our interns. He also went with one of our staff to the home of a widow who desperately needed some renovation work done on her bathroom. Sam also helped Good Works with a recent mailing we had, as well as with various ongoing maintenance needs that we have. As he was helping himself with his current situation, he also helped people in the community. He received a 1995 Geo Prism that was donated to Good Works from someone in the Athens community. This donation not only was a great help to Sam, but also helped people in Athens get help they needed through the volunteer service that Sam provided.

And here is the rest of the story. This came from a friend of Good Works who knew Sam.

Hi Keith, I just thought I would drop you a line to tell of one of the success stories from the Transformation Station project part of Good Works. I have been acquainted with Sam for about one year. He recently received a car through the program and is doing very well. He now has a full-time job in Lancaster. Before he earned the car, he was floundering in a state of helplessness. He used the fact that he didn't have a car as an excuse for not working. Indeed, even when he received the car it took a while for him to start a job. However I believe the gratitude he has for all the help he received (part of which involved working through Transformation Station) has changed his attitude toward work in general. I think he is now well on his way to a better life. He tells a great story about his life and how he has arrived where he is if you ever want someone to tell a story about how Good Works has helped.

Transformation Station is about helping people who help themselves while helping others. It is a vision of transformation in the lives of people!