



## Who Are These People?

By Paul Richard

All the people in this picture need something. Can you tell who they are and what they need? Probably not. But each person represents a segment of our society. By God's amazing grace, they have come together briefly to serve one another.

One person has come to Good Works to serve in the Athens community. Our Work Camp program provides groups, or Worship Teams, the opportunity to serve others while meeting a basic need we all have within us. God made us to help others, and it is only as we are giving to others that we are finding purpose in our own lives.

Another person here is the leader of a Worship Team. Those who lead these groups are seeking to expose each person to a ministry experience that will transform their walk with Jesus. They are trying to provide a context for them to intersect with the lives of the widow, the fatherless and the stranger.

One is a neighbor that we serve through Samaritan Projects. We provide volunteers to individuals in Athens County who are elderly and/or disabled. These volunteers will help with a variety of projects while also visiting with the person they are serving.

One of these people is a Transformation Station Volunteer. This is one of many volunteer opportunities at Good Works, but those who participate in this program will receive a gift of something they need while also helping others in the community. They can volunteer for vehicles, appliances, bicycles or non-emergency food. The individual pictured here is volunteering for a car, but while doing so he has the privilege

of serving with other people, while also meeting someone who will benefit from the service he provides.

There are other people who are making this picture possible, though they are not present in the picture. These are the people who make donations to the Transformation Station. In this case, the donor has been a long-time friend of Good Works who decided to make his vehicle available to someone in this community who is struggling with poverty. He knew that his donation was not only going to help someone with their transportation needs but also help another in the community who needed volunteers.

Someone else in the picture is doing an internship with Good Works. Our internships help people fulfill a need in themselves—to take their walk with Jesus to another level. They want to develop some leadership skills in themselves to follow God’s call into ministry or simply to learn how to view leadership through the lens of servanthood. They are investing in the lives of others while also making a significant investment in themselves.

Though the people in this picture will probably never be seen together again, the types of people represented here come together almost every week at Good Works. Fulfilling the command to love our neighbors as ourselves is much more than just giving “the needy” something to alleviate our guilt over their difficult situation. At Good Works, loving our neighbors is an opportunity to discover in ourselves the working of God as he also works in our neighbors. While trying to respond to a few needs we are finding in our neighbors, we are also meeting some needs in ourselves. Isn’t that how the Kingdom of God is supposed to work? Isn’t this a reflection of doing for others as we would have them do for us? Learning from and through our neighbors is one of those kingdom reversals Jesus taught us, just like “He who loses his life will save it.”