

A LETTER FROM THE GOOD WORKS TIMOTHY HOUSE



Dear neighbors,

The staff of Good Works wanted to write you today to express our desire to be good neighbors here on the west end of Athens.

We thought it would be helpful for you to understand a few things about the Good Works TIMOTHY HOUSE so that we can have a good relationship. It is our desire to have good, clear communication with our neighbors. Our shelter for people without homes, the Timothy House, can hold up to 15 people at a time. We have good working relationships with Athens' social services agencies, religious communities and police. In addition to providing shelter on Central Avenue, we also operate several other outreach and service programs out of our Good Works Property on Luhrig Road, which is about two miles from here.

As you share this neighborhood with the people to whom we are extending hospitality, we feel it's important to make you aware of a few things:

- What we do to help people who become homeless flows out of our lives. We do this *because* we are Christians.
- Our mission is to provide a safe, clean, stable, home-like place for people to stay temporarily while they work on the issues in their lives that led to them becoming homeless. We do not allow anyone to stay at the Timothy House if they are under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs or if symptoms of a mental illness cause them to act in a way that creates a danger or risk to others.
- We have never published our address, and we only accept people for shelter who we have called us first and then completed a face to face interview. If someone does come to the door for shelter, we will usually give them 50 cents and send them to a payphone. Many people who come to the door have cell phones; we ask them to take a walk out of the neighborhood and call us. We are *not* asking you to let them use your phone. We may deny them shelter if they are inconsiderate or rude to any of our neighbors.
- We take the fact that you live here all year very seriously. Since we are allowing almost 200 people to stay in the Timothy House each year, we feel a strong commitment to respect our neighbors and our neighborhood. Therefore, we instruct our residents not to loiter in the neighborhood; as a condition of their stay with us and in sensitivity to you, we require our residents to either be on our property or out of the neighborhood. In other words, they may not "hang out" on other properties in the neighborhood during their stay. Violating this rule can affect someone's stay with us. In addition, we request that our residents do not visit you at your house. If you would like to visit with anyone staying at the Timothy House, please visit them there.

SOME OF OUR STRUCTURE

- Single adults who do not have children staying with them must leave each morning by 10:00 a.m. and not return until 5:15 p.m. (unless they are cooking dinner that evening). We will also remain open during extremely bad weather, and people who are feeling sick are not asked to leave during the day. Parents with children may stay all day. Children under 12 must be in bed by 9:00 p.m. and the house bedtime is 11:30 p.m. We hope you will be sensitive to the fact that we often have children going to sleep, and that loud music after 11:00 p.m. makes it difficult for anyone to sleep, especially in the spring and fall months when the windows are often kept open all night.
- Most of the people who stay with us are working on helping themselves. Many are employed and are required to work at late hours. Our house curfew is 10:00 p.m. each night, but when people work late we allow them to return to the Timothy House after work.

- We try to keep a “low profile.” We ask all of our residents who listen to music to wear headphones and to keep their voices down while on our porch so as to not to disturb our immediate neighbors. We ask them to be sensitive to you and the fact that while they live here temporarily, you live here all the time. If our residents are loud, insensitive or rude, please call us and let us know.
- Guests are permitted at the Timothy House and we welcome you to visit. Just let us know if you are on the property visiting. If you are interested, we would enjoy the opportunity to meet you, have you join us for dinner (M-Th) and provide you with a tour.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- We welcome volunteers to assist us as we provide a COMMUNITY OF HOPE for our friends without homes. If you would like to learn about our volunteer opportunities, please visit our web page and click on “Volunteer Opportunities” under “Get Involved” (www.good-works.net), and then contact us to arrange a time for a visit. We will provide you with an application and more information.
- Some of the people who stay with us are in recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. If you can be sensitive to this, it will have a positive impact. If you drink alcohol we hope that you will be sensitive to those who are currently struggling. We hope you will work together with us to help them succeed in their recovery.
- We want our neighborhood to look good and be safe. We are concerned with your safety and with ours as well. If you see something that concerns you, investigate it and/or contact us. Let’s work together to “watch” our neighborhood for one another. We are making an effort to keep our property clean and well cared for. Together, we can make this neighborhood a beautiful place for all of us to live.
- If you have an observation, concern or problem, do not hesitate to call us and share it with us. All we ask is that you tell us who you are when you call.

Finally, while Good Works has been around since my wife and I started the program in our home on Elliott Street during my senior year at O.U. in 1981; I am aware that we have a long way to go before we handle every situation perfectly. If you have any concerns about our residents, policies, or Good Works in general, or would just like to know more about how we do things, feel free to call me at 740-541-0816. I am very interested in meeting with you personally and I am glad to learn from you as well. If you’d like, you can also e-mail me at goodworks@good-works.net

Sincerely,



Keith Wasserman, Founder & Executive Director
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