



## Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

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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)*

Greetings from all of us at Good Works, A COMMUNITY OF HOPE!

The summer has been intense, very intense, but we are encouraged. We are seeing many lives changed, and many of our friends who are homeless have a new HOPE through their contact with Good Works. Thank you for contributing to the ministry of Good Works and empowering us to touch *so many people* whose lives are very difficult right now.

Judy came to see me this week, and together we cried as she poured out her heart. I have known her for many years, and she and her children have been involved with Friday Night Life, Kids Club, The Transformation Station and our Health Care program. She was recovering from some serious health problems and came to ask me for help. I never had a second thought about her need. I know her, and I know and love her children. My heart is just grieved as so many things have combined to assault her at once. She wants to work, has applied for jobs but can't seem to get hired.

Jennifer called me this week. I had met her when I spoke at her church some time ago. She called to ask for help, then apologized for asking. I know the feeling. I tried to reassure her that friends help friends. The situation here in rural Appalachia is much more desperate than I've ever seen before. The rising cost of food and gas are only a small part of the massive changes which have come and are coming. The Timothy House has been over full, very busy, and at times the need is overwhelming. We have many people coming to Friday Night Life for food, community and hope; The Transformation Station can't provide opportunities fast enough for people who want to volunteer to help others and help themselves. Thanks again for giving to Good Works and helping us with the financial support we need to keep helping others.

### **SUMMERTIME**

As most of you know, we launched our SUMMER LUNCH and KIDS DISCOVERY CLUB and without a doubt, this has been a powerful new extension of Good Works. Our summer interns are helped each day by adult and youth volunteers who came this year from all over Ohio, Pennsylvania, Missouri and Florida. We have been so encouraged by the hundreds of volunteers who have already come this year, and we are so very amazed at how everyone's life is being impacted. Here is letter we received this week:

*Another great week at Good Works! Thank you for allowing me this privilege where every year my faith and hopes for our future is renewed. I feel especially blessed by the time spent with the young interns. The joy and peace that comes with believing and following Jesus and the sure knowledge of God's grace and unconditional love for each and every one of His children is so obvious in the lives and service of these young people. My day with the Kids Discovery Club was certainly a highlight. Watching the interns and staff assures me that these children's lives have been changed, and they will never forget these days. I enjoyed my evening at Timothy House where Billy and Kevin's Good Luck Casserole made for a delicious dinner. I always enjoy Keith's talks to the new groups, because he is always so happy and enthusiastic about Good Works and keeps their attention so well. Both groups welcomed me (and fed me) and gave me emails to keep in touch. My visits to the Samaritan Project families that I already knew from years past went well, and I made a visit on my own to my special friend Bobbie Jo after she told me she still had my picture up in a frame! Friday Night Life is always great, and I am hoping I can come again before winter. I'm not forgetting Jim up at the Transformation Station. He seems like a great guy for the job—really knowledgeable. – Kay Carter (Kay first came to Good Works with her church years ago and has been coming back as a Week of Service volunteer for more than 4 years. Kay is in her 70s.)*

## TRANSFORMATION STATION

Sherry came to volunteer through the Transformation Station program in order to obtain needed home furnishings like a couch, love seat, washer and dryer. She always works hard when she comes but also talks non-stop about her daughter, Anna, who is a 15-year old that has several disabilities both mentally and physically. Because Sherry talks about Anna non-stop it can get quite annoying. I tried to have compassion and listen to Sherry's struggles and problems with Anna. And I did feel pity for her situation. But I would often brush it off during work. Then, I met Anna. I just couldn't believe the desperate needs Anna had. She cannot talk, can barely interact, and she cannot move on her own; she is in a wheelchair and must be taken care of constantly. Sherry has sacrificed 15 years of her life to care for Anna. All her dreams and aspirations no longer hold, for a stronger desire compels Sherry. It is the desire to love and care for her daughter. Love requires sacrifice. Love requires dedication. Love requires our whole lives. It is not so easily annoyed; it understands and is compassionate. I began working with Sherry as the leader, the one who would serve and embody love. As it typically turns out in God's economy, it is Sherry that has served, taught and led me in the way of love. Thanks be to God for the privilege of working with and for the poor! -- Dan Kauffman (*Dan first got connected with Good Works as an OU student. After graduating, he returned to serve as Appalachian Immersion Intern.*)

We recently received this unsolicited letter from one of our new friends who recently received a car through the Transformation Station:

*"To all the wonderful employees of Good Works, it is with extreme gratitude that I am writing this letter. After volunteering and receiving my car, the world changed for my son and I. We no longer had to depend on other people for transportation. The joy of having my independence back has made me a happier person. The day I brought the car home, my son was like a kid with a new toy. He used every reason he could think of to go out and get in and check it out. He was ecstatic., I think more so than I. Thank you very much for bringing such joy to people in need, it's nice to know that there are people in this world who still care. --Teresa*

## IN THE NEWS

- We are seeking cars for the Transformation Station. If you can help us by directing people to donate their car to Good Works, we will get these vehicles into the hands of needy families.
- Our summer Kids Discovery Club and Summer Lunch was an amazing success. We had over 70 kids register and most days we provided food for nearly 60 people. So many friends helped us provide nutritious food, care and love and meet a big need in the community!
- August is always a financial challenge for us. We have a massive insurance bill (around \$14,000.00) and giving is usually lower near the end of the summer. [Can you help us with a gift this month?](#)
- Because of so many volunteers this summer, we've been able to comfort, encourage, provide hope and a lot of joy to our friends who are widows and disabled in Athens County. Many volunteer teams have gone out all summer. Thanks for helping to make this piece of Good Works happen!
- Our long-term housing opportunity for recovering homeless adults called LIFE IN TRANSITION program is scheduled to be re-launched this fall under the leadership of our Appalachian Immersion Interns. Our vision is to invite specific homeless people to live in the Hannah House and work on the deeper issues of their lives surrounded by a loving community.
- We are planning our 7<sup>th</sup> annual WALK FOR THE HOMELESS for Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. PLEASE consider participating this year, will you?
- We recently obtained plans and permits to construct a much-needed multipurpose facility on the Luhrig Road property. As we serve more and more visiting groups, this facility is greatly needed. We plan to call this new building THE HOPE CENTER. We do not intend to build it until we have the funds to do so.

In closing, I want you to know that I am filled with gratitude! I really believe the ministry of Good Works is changing lives and really helping people. Thanks for touching the lives of the poor and homeless!

Love is a verb,

