



# 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)*

## Celebrating 29 Years!

September 2009

Greetings from all of us in the community of HOPE called Good Works!

Already, I can see leaves beginning to drop from the trees. One by one. It's starting to cool off a bit. Little by little. Our summer at Good Works has likewise wound down. I'm not sure where it went. I am sure that it was *good*.

Summers at Good Works leave us in a place of grateful privilege. We are privileged to be a part of this work with which God has entrusted us. We are grateful that we get to meet, know, and love so many more of our neighbors and that our efforts to love them reveals their beauty. We consider it a privilege and are grateful for the opportunity to host so many unique and gifted friends who visit us. We pray that, at the end of it all, we will be found faithful.



As I write this, our summer interns have moved from the Hannah House. We are grateful for these servants who provided the leadership so many people needed to guide their loving actions towards our neighbors who are struggling economically, emotionally, physically and spiritually. They hosted visiting groups from Kansas to Rhode Island, put on the Summer Lunch and Kids Discovery Club, expanded our gardens, worked with Samaritan Projects, and helped expand the opportunities for more people to participate in the Transformation Station. We are *so* thankful for all of the people who gave of their time and money to make this happen.

This month, through the leadership of Amanda Carlyle\*, we are accelerating our outreach to our friends who are widowed and disabled at their homes. Our vision is to increase both the number of people we are able to care for and the number of people willing to extend them selves in this wonderful expression of love – a love which results in mutuality. Many people don't realize that care for the elderly was the first project Good Works launched in September 1980. The term at the time was "shut-ins" and we worked with three local churches and organized volunteers to visit widows and widowers. We taught a class called "Counseling the Older Adult" in two of these churches and thus we began what we now call Good Works.

Our new Campus initiative called SERVICE LIVING also launches this month under the leadership of Heidi Bender.\* We have been given a unique opportunity on the OU campus to work with first-year students. Our vision is to encourage these students to get off campus once a week engaging in what we hope to be eight different 3 hour service experiences inviting students to learn to love people with mental and physical disabilities, people struggling 'end of life' issues, people needing help building their homes, homeless people, and other projects including agriculture and earth care. We will keep you informed of how this goes...

\* You can read all of our staff bio's on our web page under WHO WE ARE.

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Since 1981

## IN THE NEWS

- Several new Appalachian Immersion interns have arrived and will be with us until next June. They live in the Hannah House and participate in all that goes on at Good Works including inviting homeless people to live with them in the Life in Transition program.
- Emily Axe wrote a beautiful essay on her recent experience at The Timothy House. You can find it on the GW blog (located at the top of our web page) called Perspective is Everything.
- The Hope Center continues to move along. To see photos, visit our web page. Know someone who might consider coming to volunteer and share construction skills? Contact Paul Richard.
- Our 8<sup>th</sup> annual WALK FOR THE HOMELESS is scheduled for Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup> 2010. If you would like to bring a group and stay overnight on the Friday before, contact us.

## Numbers are more than numbers...

- **2000** – the number of meals provided in the 8 weeks of the Summer Kids Club and Lunch thanks to support from many of YOU!
- **60** – the number of kids we impacted through the Kids Discovery Club.
- **185** – the number of people who came to Good Works during the summer to help build ramps, paint houses, fix plumbing, fix roofs, mow lawns and love kids and adults in need.
- **53** – the number of cars provided through the Transformation Station to families who volunteered to serve others in our community since the program began. **120** – the number of people on the waiting list for a car. **457,000** – one estimate on the number of good working cars destroyed in the cash for clunkers program. Most people were not aware that these working (insurable) cars had to be destroyed. These *were* the kind of cars people donated to help families.
- **1000** – the number of volunteers who came to serve with us in the past year.
- **30** – the number of volunteer opportunities at Good Works for people to get involved once a week, once a month or once. Please visit our web page and explore Volunteer Opportunities!
- **4984** – the number of volunteer hours provided by people who came to serve this summer.

Numbers don't tell the story. They are simply one part of the outline. There are countless experiences that people from all walks of life have had that "color in" the amazing grace we all received which carried us into something far beyond what any of us could have done on our own. Please accept our heart-felt thanks to those of you who worked 'behind the scenes' (some very sacrificially) to make it all happen.

In closing this month, I want to express how amazed I am at how Good Works has grown in part because of the support from friends like you. Some of you reading this newsletter remember the beginnings of Good Works and knew Darlene and I when we started. Thank you for walking with us these many years. Thank you for your gifts, your time, your love, and your prayers. We need your support now more than ever.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

**PS- CURRENT NEEDS:** We are seeking a digital TV or a converter box, a riding mower, a chain saw, a Macintosh laptop computer, dressers for our bedrooms, and used vehicles for the Transformation Station. We also need paper towels, toilet paper, toilet cleaner, 30 & 13-gallon trash bags, AA, D & 9 volt batteries, liquid laundry detergent, large mop heads and handles, diapers & pull-ups (all sizes), postage stamps, screwdrivers, & wrenches (all sizes).