



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 29:12-17).*



June greetings from the community of HOPE called Good Works!

Even in the midst of our on-going care for the rural homeless, we are about to embark upon our 11th summer service outreach this summer. We have hired our 6 summer interns, and they will all be arriving the weekend of June 10 to live in the Hannah House. These interns, under the leadership of the Good Works staff (Paul Richard will be gone this summer) will oversee our visiting work groups and Week of Service volunteers. We have a very full summer of visiting groups and summer service volunteers planned. We still have one week open (August 5-11th). Please

contact us if you know a group that is interested. We intend to focus on the following areas:

I MADE THE WIDOWS HEART SING

Once again, we will extend ourselves to serve a growing number of seniors here in rural Appalachia, many of whom are widows. Most of those we are serving (we helped 38 families last year) are not able to care for their property both because of their economic situation and because many lack family support. Athens County has the highest rate of poverty in the state with 27% of the population living under the poverty line. We will be sending adult and youth volunteers to mow grass, garden, build ramps, repair roofs, fix plumbing, and extend our friendship. These volunteers *will learn* the value of service, will be able to gain a better understanding of poverty and discover how faith plays a role in and through the Good Works community.

I TOOK UP THE CASE OF THE STRANGER

As a part of our on-going effort to care for the poor and homeless, this summer our interns will lead young people into The Timothy House each day allowing our volunteers to get to know some of the homeless who we are loving and serving. I am told that these experiences for adults and youth are some of the most profound times in their visits with us. They are welcomed into the Timothy House by our residents, allowed to hear some of their stories, invited to participate in some of the household duties and learn about and meet men, women and children who are struggling with the life issues associated with poverty and homelessness.

I WAS A FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS

As many of you may already know, for the past 10 years Good Works has sponsored a summer kids club for at-risk children K-6. This summer, we are intending to launch a new initiative called BECOMING directed at middle-school girls. This outreach is intended to help these young women with a constructive, fun yet educational summer experience. We also intend to provide lunch for them each day. Because many of these girls live on the edge of Athens County, it is our plan to provide transportation this summer through the vans donated to us. With the cost of gas so high, we really need your help to supply some of our financial support. Our vision is to create a summer experience that is transformational - where life skills, employment readiness training, conflict resolution skills are taught, and where role models inspire and encourage these young people. This is a pilot program and it is our hope to add a program for teen boys next summer. Most of these teens are economically deprived, stuck at home, and have very little to do. Will you help us reach out?

IN OTHER NEWS...

- We are making slow progress in our plan to purchase the house located next door to the Timothy House (93-95 Central) and turn it into a shelter for homeless families. Because of the increase in homeless families needing our help, our numbers are way up this year (providing 1961 nights of shelter in the first 5 months of 2007 compared with 1325 in the first 5 months of 2006 - representing a 32% increase). The next step is to apply to the Athens Zoning Board of appeals for permission to use this facility to shelter homeless families. If they give us permission, we will begin raising the \$122,000.00 we need to purchase it.

- Like last summer, we intend to expand and accelerate the Transformation Station to accommodate more people struggling with poverty who want to obtain cars, furniture, and appliances. We continue to believe this outreach is meeting needs, clothing people with dignity and providing people struggling with poverty with an opportunity for service to their neighbors along side of other volunteers. We hope to hire a full time summer staff to assist the growing number of men and women seeking cars and appliances. We have a long waiting list for the TS program and we discovered last summer that having someone focused on this full time really makes a difference in how many people we can serve. **We still need more people to donate cars to us. Can you help us pass the word?**

- As most of you know, Good Works remains debt free and for this we are thankful. We are currently exploring the possibility of starting another small business in the next year or so that could create an income stream and provide employment for a segment of those we are serving. Our board is examining several different options and looking at different ideas. We are also cautiously exploring the question of taking on debt to start a business.

- Our 2007 Christmas party is scheduled for this December and we are now trying to collect gas cards to give away. We are also really hoping that you will come and support our 6th annual WALK FOR THE HOMELESS scheduled for Saturday January 19th, 2008. This is the only public fund-raiser Good Works sponsors. It is a family and educational event for adults and kids of all ages. This year, we are planning a special "Kids Walk" to help educate children about poverty and homelessness.

IN CLOSING

This month, I want to especially appeal for your help. The summer months have traditionally been very challenging for us financially as giving drops at a time when we actually need more funds because we have (by faith) hired 6 summer interns. In addition, our utility costs often go up because the increased number of people we are serving. On August 15th, we will again be faced with an insurance bill in excess of \$10,000.00. Can you help us with a generous gift right now?

Love is a verb,

Keith Wasserman



PS- Here is an interesting situation: When we agree to hire a staff worker or intern and we agree to offer them a particular salary or stipend, they believe that the money will be there to pay them. Don't get me wrong - it has always been there. But in reality, what they don't often realize is that we are simply trusting God and people for the funds we need to provide their compensation, along with the utility costs, gas costs, the insurance costs, etc. of this ministry. We do not have a guaranteed source of revenue except for faithful friends who believe in our integrity, love us, and support our vision. Indeed, we have relied upon God's faithfulness and ordinary people like you for 26 years!

CURRENT NEEDS:

We provide about 17,000 meals now to the hungry and homeless. Right now, we need fresh vegetables, sugar, beef, chicken, pork, canned tuna/chicken/salmon, coffee creamer (we always run out of this), aluminum foil, quart size zip lock bags, paper towels, shortening and cooking (olive) oil, cooking spray, and large garbage bags for outside trash cans. We also need used but working cars, vans, trucks, washer & dryers, Round Up week killer (concentrate), compact florescent light bulbs (the kind for a lamp), bike locks, phone calling cards, Macintosh laptop or desktop computers (OS 10+), forty 10 X 12 matching picture frames, and a digital camera.

Celebrating 27 years!

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