



# 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).*

*Celebrating 27 years!*



Timothy, Darlene and Keith Wasserman

Greetings!

Thanksgiving, 2007

As we enter into this season of THANKSGIVING, I want to express *my* appreciation and gratitude to you for your loving support of the work God has trusted us with here at Good Works. As I write today, I want to honestly share that I am grateful but very weary. The work we are now doing - the work of sacrificial love - has grown to a 24/7 operation through many different outreach projects. At times, I feel overwhelmed, because I feel responsible for so much. Thank you for your notes of encouragement, loving and sacrificial gifts, and your heartfelt prayers. Thank you for supporting Good Works!

Today, I write to remind you of the scope of Good Works as well as our vulnerability:

- ◆ Since 1981, we have operated the only shelter for the rural homeless in 9 southeast Ohio counties. Each year, The Timothy House serves between 150-225 men, women and children, provides between 4000-5000 nights of shelter, and provides the homeless not only with a safe place to work toward recovery, but also injects them with HOPE through a community of staff and nearly 45 regular volunteers who serve as mentors and agents of transformation.
- ◆ The Hannah House has served as a "long-term" living community for almost 10 years as volunteers (interns) mentor recovering homeless people who are working on the deeper issues of their lives. We employ these residents in our two small businesses (Good Gifts and Country Bed and Breakfast) in an effort to provide job training, job experiences, and character development. We suspended the Life in Transition program this year while we seek more interns to serve in this unique aspect of Good Works, but we intend to resume it in 2008.
- ◆ The Transformation Station was invented to provide the increasing number of people struggling with long-term poverty (in Athens County, 27% of the population live under the poverty line - the largest in the State) with a way to obtain cars, furniture, and appliances through a "sweat-equity" program based on the economy of time. The Good Works staff works with our neighbors, who serve in labor-intensive projects each week both on our properties and in rural Athens County, serving widows or people with disabilities. In exchange for their time, our neighbors receive points and can trade in their points for cars, furniture, or appliances.
- ◆ Samaritan Projects describes our ongoing efforts to serve widows at their homes each week. Last year, nearly 560 individuals participated, and together we served almost 40 families with labor and love. Work Camps in groups of 15-30 stay in our dorm at the Hannah House and reach out into the community of rural Appalachia with love, compassion, and care.

- ◆ Since 1993, Friday Night Life has been our weekly outreach to provide people struggling with poverty with a nutritious meal, health education, and Kids Club. With the help of many volunteers, we are serving about 150 people; and, with the help of Ohio University, we are providing take-home food to an estimated 40-50 families each week. For almost 3 years, we have provided a very successful health education program every Friday after the meal. Right now, our "Passport to Health" program has arranged for doctors and OU medical students to lead talks on various "hot" topics in healthcare.
- ◆ Training for Life is the computer training class we provide to the homeless and others who want to learn the skills to make them more employable. With the help of volunteers, each week we help homeless people with basic and advanced computer skills.
- ◆ Hope and Possibilities is our new initiative to meet every day, face-to-face, with anyone with emergency needs. Our goal is to listen and provide loving care, support and information as well as advocate for each person in need to utility companies, landlords and with local Pastors.
- ◆ During the past year, Good Works has provided nearly 1,100 different individuals with volunteer experiences. It continues to be our vision to see each of these volunteers experience personal transformation as they serve others.

I could go on and speak about the 17,000 meals that we provide to the hungry, the hours of face-to-face compassionate yet accountable conversations we are having with hundreds of homeless people, and the sacrificial "lifestyles" our staff have adopted as we love and serve the poor of rural Appalachia. I could say more about all of the people who are served through the new amphitheater, our retreat cabin, County Bed and Breakfast, Good Gifts, and our work with people from many local congregations through our weekly Neighboring 101 class. Thank you for empowering us to reach out, serve and love.

In closing, I want you to know that nearly 80% of the funds we need come from individuals who share with our passion and love for the poor of rural Appalachia and who believe in our integrity. As Good Works has grown to 15 full time and 5 part time staff, I feel the weight of making sure my coworkers are well cared for and supported in the work they are doing. Our average staff salary last year was \$23,000.00, and we pledge to you to be good stewards of the gifts you provide. This year, we are trusting God to help us reach our goal of \$360,000.00. Thank you for considering Good Works as you consider your giving to the poor. Thank you for helping us to make life better for so many needy people.

Love is *still* a verb,  
Keith Wasserman



PS- you can also give to Good Works through NETWORK FOR GOOD on our web page. Go to [www.good-works.net](http://www.good-works.net) and click on Make a Donation.

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▼ Return this portion ▼

Dear Keith,

- \_\_\_ Enclosed is my gift of: \$250.00 \_\_\_ \$500.00 \_\_\_ \$1000.00 \_\_\_ \$50.00 \_\_\_ \$100.00 \_\_\_  
Other \$\_\_\_\_\_. I will expect a receipt for my 2007 giving before January 20, 2008.
- \_\_\_ I would like to give regularly to Good Works through electronic transfer. Send me the information.
- \_\_\_ I would like more information about the January 19th annual WALK FOR THE HOMELESS.
- \_\_\_ Please send me a needs list and wish list.
- \_\_\_ I would like to learn more about donating a car to the Transformation Station.
- \_\_\_ Please remove my name from any further mailings.