

This is a copy of our latest newsletter. You can request to be on our regular mailing list by clicking [here](#). To read one of our past newsletters, click [here](#).

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 28 Years!

September 2008

Greetings from your friends at Good Works, A COMMUNITY OF HOPE!

Since 1981, we have been providing the only shelter for the homeless in nine rural, southeast Ohio Counties. The staff at the Timothy House have had to make many heart-wrenching decisions during the past few weeks, because we were not able to provide shelter for several single adults and at least three families (including married couples and single parents with preschool children). The need is simply beyond our capacity to provide shelter. The wear and tear on the facility is significant. We are feeding a lot of people and doing the best we can to care for the people who seek our help in the crisis of their life. As homelessness is growing, we are grieved that we can’t do more. A year has passed since the city of Athens turned down our request to use the house next door to care for homeless families. Neither our city nor our county provides any funds to assist us as we struggle to care for an increasing number of homeless people. We have little hope that our city plans to do anything to relieve the suffering of those we are forced to turn away. We seek your support, your prayers and your encouragement.

LIVING ON THE STREETS

On August 10-11, I spent two days living on the streets of Cincinnati in the Over-the-Rhine area with one of our interns, Dan Kauffman. We stayed in the Drop Inn Center, visited Our Daily Bread and spent time in the City Mission with many other homeless people. It was a very harsh and hard experience for us. The fact is homelessness is a very harsh and hard experience. The fear of violent attack, the food insecurity, and the challenge of the “system” all felt like a violation of my sense of humanity. This was my ninth trip to the streets and my first journey back since Jacksonville, Florida in 2000. I would welcome an invitation to come and speak about this experience. I am currently writing the story. If you would like to read any of my previous stories of being homeless by choice, please visit our website and click on “Keith’s Homeless Stories.”

HOPE AND POSSIBILITIES

Over the past several years, we have become aware of the need for someone at Good Works to meet face-to-face, every day with our friends struggling with hopelessness because of their poverty. Last year, we launched Hope and Possibilities. Chip Guyton has been available to meet with anyone in Athens County and has been guiding people through the complex process finding assistance. Chip assists individuals and families to find help with rental payments, electric bills, water bills, food, housing and fuel. He works with local congregations and is very knowledgeable about what resources are offered through community agencies. Most of all, Chip listens with the goal to understand in an effort to help people find the faith they need to navigate the situation they are in. He recently provided me with several true stories, which illustrate the challenging situations he working with. Here is one example. For more stories like this, visit our webpage, and click on “Hope and Possibilities.”

Ellen is an elderly widow that needs help paying her propane provider for a full tank. She receives \$10 in food stamps, and the amount of her social security check disqualifies her for survivor benefits from the Veteran’s Administration. Her health has been an increasing concern financially. She owed \$1023 to the propane company, which does not deliver propane without payment. Her only source of income is social security, and it does not cover the cost of a full propane tank. Between assistance from the local Veteran’s Services Office and a few local churches, she was able to pay off the bill.



Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope
Since 1981

SAMARITAN PROJECTS

More than ten years ago, we developed an intentional outreach to widows at their homes. Each year, we are able to serve almost 40 different families in Athens County. Our goal is to send volunteers to provide labor-intensive service from repairing plumbing to mowing grass, building ramps, installing new flooring, etc. In recent years, we have expanded to include citizens with disabilities, the elderly and widowers. Last year, Good Works welcomed almost 500 different volunteers who participated in this "hands-on" service with the vision to "make the widows heart sing" (Job 29:12). Under the leadership of Paul Richard, this aspect of Good Works shines like a light on a hill for the glory of God! Last week, we received this letter from one of the friends that was provided with a ramp to help her get into and out of her home. The ramp was donated, dismantled, and then rebuilt at Carolyn's house this summer.

Mr. Wasserman, Thank you and every young person who built the ramp for me. It has helped me so much, because I cannot walk, and my walker does just fine. Especially thanks to Ken, who supervised it all. There was plenty of wood to finish my long ramp. There are no words to thank everyone responsible for my ramp. – Carolyn

IN THE NEWS....

- This month, we will welcome several new Appalachian Immersion Interns who will serve in various aspects of Good Works and live at the Hannah House. We plan to re-launch the "Life in Transition" program and invite a few residents to move from the Timothy House to the Hannah House this fall. This is a nine-month internship experience and provides a way for our interns to "test out" their interests, desires and possible career goals.
- NEIGHBORING 101 is a weekly class we started offering to the community last year. We had a great response! This fall, we will read and discuss the book "Churches That Make a Difference." The class meets weekly at The Timothy House. For more information, visit our webpage or call us.
- We have just completed our 16th FAST FROM SHELTER. This time our staff, volunteers and community members spent three days "camping" inside Athens, learning more about poverty and homelessness and speaking out on behalf of the voiceless. There are several news articles on our webpage under "What is Happening Now."
- Our GOOD GIFTS store is open M-F from 10-5 (and by appointment) at the Good Works Luhrig Road property. We sell hand-made items from developing nations. We are a Ten Thousand Villages store. Please consider inviting Good Gifts to your church or organization this fall.
- We are seeking groups who can sponsor FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER this fall and winter. A sponsoring group provides food for 125-150 people. Would you consider this?
- Please plan to join us for our WALK FOR THE HOMELESS, which is scheduled for Saturday, January 17th. This is a great opportunity for youth and adult groups to participate in an inspirational and educational experience and help the homeless. If you would like to come in the night before and stay at the Hannah House, contact us. Visit www.walkforthehomeless.net for more information.
- We are seeking volunteers with electrical skills, mechanical skills, plumbing skills and who know how to lay ceramic tile. We also need a pick up truck in good condition.
- As I have mentioned in several previous newsletters, we are making plans to construct a new building for meetings, educational seminars and especially for our work groups to gather in. We are calling this The Hope Center and, if funds are provided, we would like to launch construction early in 2009. If you would like to help with the cost of this project, please contact me. Our goal is to raise \$60,000.00.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to each of you who believe in our integrity and commitment and who support us with your gifts. These are vulnerable economic times for all us but especially for ministries like ours who are extending themselves to care for so many needy people. Your support is so important to us. Thank you!

Love is a verb,
Keith Wasserman

