



Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

PO Box 4, Athens, OH 45701
Phone: 740-594-3339
e-mail: goodworks@good-works.net
web: www.good-works.net

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).*

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

Dear friends of Good Works,

May 2008

I am writing to you with a heavy heart this month. I am very concerned. Giving to Good Works has dropped significantly over the past two months, while the needs of those we are serving has increased dramatically. Add to this the fact that at the Timothy House, we are turning away people more often, and this situation becomes very troubling:

"We're out of room. I'm sorry."

"But you're a *homeless* shelter."

"Yes, all of our beds are full. I'm so sorry. Can you call back tomorrow?"

"Where else can I go tonight?"

My inability to answer this question tells why we have been so full. *Nine* counties. *One* shelter for the homeless. At The Good Works' Timothy House, we are trying to speak HOPE into this desperate circumstance of poverty in Appalachian Ohio.

Daily, we welcome in our friends and neighbors who are really *struggling* with the basic necessities of life. When their poverty is combined with a struggle with mental illness, our friends face even more difficulty. And vulnerability. Add to that the dramatic increase in the cost of food and transportation, and we are helping desperate, vulnerable people who are losing hope. As I write, we are stretched as we try to help more people. At the Timothy House, we try to provide people with space to work on the issues that they are struggling with. We come alongside of these new friends in an effort to provide stability, wisdom, guidance, compassion, and love—not to mention food, shelter, and other necessities of life.

From the beginning, this ministry has always been about *people*:

Working at the Timothy House, I get the chance to meet a wide variety of different people, all in different stages of their life. "Reggie" was one of the most interesting people that I have had the joy of getting to know over my past two years here. He came to us after his alcoholism and major depression collided to make him homeless. Reggie had a rough time dealing with his depression and on various occasions throughout his life would get drunk and try to commit suicide. He was also one of the nicest, most entertaining people that I have gotten to know in my life. Reggie stayed with us for around four months; in that time, we had many ups and downs. There was the time that he disappeared and turned up a day later in a hospital in Columbus. His depression had gotten to him, and he had tried to jump in front of traffic on the interstate. I also remember every time he would come in to cook and have wonderful things to say. Reggie's mental illness and addiction came together in a way that not only left him without a place to stay but also endangered his life. I am happy to say that over the time I met with Reggie, and due to his stay here at

the Timothy House, I was able to see him struggle with and overcome many issues dealing with both his addiction and depression. He wasn't always satisfied or happy with the way things were going, but he persevered and maintained patience—which was finally rewarded. Earlier this week, Reggie moved out of the Timothy House and into his own apartment. During his time here, he gained stability and was able to form meaningful relationships with people who care about him and are committed to helping him through the rough patches of life. – Kevin Jacobson, Timothy House caregiver

IN THE NEWS... While the city of Athens remains unresponsive to the increasing plight of our community's homeless, several local church leaders are meeting together to discuss this situation... Through our program called Hope and Possibilities, we are helping many people with difficult financial situations by meeting face-to-face each day, and we are doing so in partnership with several local churches... Friday Night Life has moved back to the Good Works Luhrig Road property. WE are feeding A LOT of people! We are seeking groups to sponsor the supper this fall... BY FAITH we are planning to launch our 12th summer service program from June through August. We hope to hire five interns who will serve the elderly of our community, assist us at The Timothy House, and launch our summer Discovery Club for kids. This year, we are also sponsoring a public lunch every day for the hungry. Right now, we are trying to locate nutritional food. If you know where we can get food, contact us... Our Transformation Station program is providing many local citizens with cars, furniture and food through our "sweat-equity" volunteer program. We now have a waiting list for cars of 160 families. If you know where we can get cars or trucks in good working condition, please let us know... We are seeking interns to serve with us this fall in our Appalachian Immersion Internship. For more information, visit our webpage... Our plans to build a chapel/multi-purpose facility on the Luhrig Road property this year are moving along slowly. We will keep you informed... June begins our summer work camp season. We still some weeks and partial weeks open. If you'd like to bring a group this summer or next fall, contact us.

In closing this month, I am appealing for your support. This is my 28th year of serving the poor in rural Appalachia, and I don't believe I've ever seen a year like this. The dramatic increase in wholesale prices and fuel is putting enormous pressure on those of us trying to help the poor. Your gift to Good Works is needed. Thank you for supporting the work God has entrusted us with.

Love is still a verb,



Keith Wasserman

Celebrating 28 years