



Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope

Celebrating our 30th year

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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)

September 2010

I saw leaves falling yesterday. A bunch of them in that twirly, cascading way they do. The summer has gone so fast, and the whole scene surprised me. Before we know it, the leaves will be changing, fall will be here.

In the flurry of activity that has been this summer, it is essential that we pause and remark with thanksgiving on the goodness of it all. As these seasons approach change, it offers us a natural point to stop and reflect in gratefulness for the people and the work that these months have seen.

And so, as we think back on the past couple months, we consider and are grateful...

... for our Summer Kids Discovery Club that took place every weekday this summer and offered a place of hope and friendships to kids this summer. “Over-joyous” is not strong enough of a word to describe the feeling in our hearts as we got to see kids from last summer, meet new neighbors, and hear their squeals of zeal as we played and learned together. We are grateful for the numerous friends and community partners that helped make this happen.

... for the Summer Lunch that was held in conjunction with the Kids Discovery Club. For the nutritious food around common tables with common friends. For laughter. For the goodness of shared meals.

... to have volunteers and interns from all over the country join with our staff in building ramps, roofs, and relationships with our neighbors who could otherwise not build these things. I am grateful for the beautiful offerings of labor in these “Samaritan Projects.”

... for the Good Works gardening initiatives. This summer, we continued the work begun last year by putting gardens at the homes of senior citizens in our area. We also cultivated several community gardens in Athens and our larger garden on Luhrig Rd. We know that with fall comes the harvest, with harvest comes food for our neighbors.

... for the three teen girls that we employed in partnership with Community Action in order to provide a mentoring environment and a job opportunity. These girls primarily worked with one of our female interns in the gardens. It was *good*, and we were grateful to be a part of these lives.

...for the work groups that we call worship teams. Each week this summer, we have had groups visiting from Ohio, Virginia, Illinois, New York, and North Carolina. These groups participated in a lot of what is going on here, and we hope that they are transformed through their time.

... for our eight summer interns who participated in and lead all of these things—and more—this summer. I continue to be amazed and grateful, so grateful, for the *people*.

It is really about *people*, not programs, you know.

... and for all of you who helped to make all of this possible. For the gifts and support that came in so many forms. We are truly thankful for the ways in which this work is a community effort. Thanks for believing in this work! Thanks for investing in these lives!

So, as we reflect back, we count these things as precious. It is amazing what people can do when we come together in love for our neighbor. It is startling what we can accomplish together. If even for just one summer, it is remarkable the lives that can be touched when we are intentional about how we live, what we do, and how we love.

In the news...

- Life continues at the **Timothy House**, and it has been a wonderful season. There has been such a sense of contagious hospitality among the residents—such an attitude of ownership, appreciation and help for others. There have been ups and downs in this, and it has been difficult at times. But overall, this has been a very encouraging season, and it is largely due to the gracious attitudes of those who are living in the shelter.
- **Friday Night Life** is now in year #17. We continue to depend upon the generosity of our friends who are willing to sponsor the meal each week. Last year, 50 different volunteer groups “stepped up to the plate.”
- We have come to a season of **transition** for some of our staff. Please remember us in your prayers as we say goodbye to some good friends and welcome new friends who will be joining us this year to carry responsibility at Good Works. *“The Lord gives. The Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”*
- This summer at the **Summer Lunch**, we were able to provide nearly 1600 meals to people in our community! All of the food (or the funds that bought it) that went into these meals was donated by generous people like you! Thank you so much for making this happen!
- Construction of the **Hope Center** continues. This summer, we were able to make serious progress inside and out. We are grateful for all of the volunteers who helped make this possible. There is still work to do, and we are still looking for bricklayers, drywall finishers, and interior painters. Contact Paul Richard (740-594-3336) if you can help.
- Every Wednesday over lunch from Sept. 15-Nov. 3, we will be hosting **Neighboring 101**—a weekly conversation held at the Timothy House. The purpose is to dialogue with people from local churches about what it means to truly love our neighbors. This year, we will be working through the book “When Helping Hurts.” Details are posted on our website under “Neighboring 101.”

Thirty years ago this month Good Works Counseling and Outreach began in my heart. I was a 5th year student at Ohio University. Some of you reading this will remember those early days. Our first initiative was to connect volunteers from three local congregations with seniors (primarily widows) who were ‘home-bound.’ That fall, we taught a class called Counseling the Older Adult. I was 21 years old and was doing my internship in our local domestic violence shelter. I was also dreaming about starting a place for displaced persons in my home (we didn’t know they were called The Homeless until 1984). Here we are, about to enter year #31 and we are still dreaming about doing good. Thanks for loving us! Thanks for supporting us! Thanks for participating in our dreams!

Love is a verb,

Keith Wasserman



CURRENT NEEDS: High quality, heavy bottomed cooking pots that would not scald everything; a new or “almost new” stove in good condition for The Timothy House; cordless phones, coffee creamer, allergy medicine, liquid floor cleaner, food handling gloves, zip lock bags (all sizes), non-alcoholic cold and flu medicine, hair brushes, fruit juices, paper towels, toilet paper, and hand tools... And for the Transformation Station: cars, washer/dryers, and refrigerators.