

# Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

**Celebrating 31 Years!**



PO Box 4, Athens, OH 45701  
Phone: 740-594-3339  
Email: [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net)  
Web: [www.good-works.net](http://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 29:12-13)*

Dear friends,

May 2011

Hello to each of you from the Good Works community! I hope this finds you well.

Did you know that it is, in part, your faithful encouragement that keeps us going? Our hearts are focused on caring for each person we come to know, and on loving God, who made them precious. *Thank you for empowering us to do so.*

Today, I am excited to tell you about a new Good Works initiative we began in the fall of 2009. *Service Living* connects first-year Ohio University students with members of the greater Athens County community through service-based friendships. We hope to facilitate life-changing encounters in which students grow to appreciate the people, beauty, history, culture, values and needs of rural Appalachia.

Good Works staff member Amanda Juarez-Porter Carlyle currently leads Service Living. Here she speaks (in haiku!) about how her perspective toward Athens County has deepened, and issues this call to students:

At first, the locals  
were invisible to me  
in "my college town."

As I ventured out,  
I began to know *people*...  
not census numbers.

Additionally,  
I met the best of myself  
and also the worst.

It was easier  
to say that Athens is poor  
without *knowing* it.

As I ventured out,  
I began to know *troubles*  
and the ties that bind.

Please don't stunt your reach  
and therefore limit yourself.  
Reach into this place

Athens has struggles  
not unlike many places  
but also *un* like.

I began to know  
homeless people and addicts  
widows and orphans...

So far this year, seventy students have taken up this appeal and enthusiastically committed themselves to service experiences, educational excursions and reflective discussions spanning the academic quarter. Service sites, which we call Transformation Groups, link participants to people outside of their typical social sphere, such as those in poverty, those with disabilities, or people at the end of their life.

Sara Luehring, a student leader in Service Living, has faithfully visited the residents of Echoing Meadows Residential Center in Athens over the last year. There, she enjoys the company of those with severe mental and physical disabilities. She says of one friend, "While Rob has difficulty communicating in conventional ways, he has a communication device on which he has shared with me many anecdotes about him, such as, 'I'm adorable.' Rob has welcomed me into his life as I have him, and he loves to spread his kindness."  
*(With respect for his privacy, this is not his real name.)*

Such moments stir us to ask: "Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and inherit the kingdom he promised to those who love him?" (James 2:5). *We think yes.*

*If you would like to learn more about the Good Works initiative of Service Living, visit our blog at  
<http://serviceliving.wordpress.com>.*

## ***IN THE NEWS...***

- Planning is underway for **Summer Service 2011!** We are interviewing interns and making plans to welcome seven visiting groups from Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Illinois. These Work Retreat groups will serve on our properties and also at the homes of our friends in Athens County who have asked for practical help.
- This summer will mark the third year of our **Teen Agriculture Internship**, focused on developing young people from Athens County in sustainable agriculture and job skills while providing some compensation. We intend to welcome six to eight local youth into a seven-week mentored experience.
- We are also gearing up for our **Summer Kids' Discovery Club** for children K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This will be followed by a sit-down community lunch for people of all ages. We are continuing to trust God for both the people and resources to make these outreaches possible.
- Since 2008, the **Timothy House** has turned away 247 different people because we were at capacity. We are experiencing a significant increase in the number of people seeking shelter. Our Training for Life computer class is continuing twice a week at the Timothy House, along with Good Jobs, our employment support initiative. We believe that these acts of love are very helpful to people without homes and jobs and support systems.
- In the good news category—we recently received an occupancy permit for the **Hope Center**, our indoor meeting space! We still have outside work to do but we are now able to use the facility. An Open House is planned for later this year but if you would like to visit and see it, let us know. Check out the photos on our website and Facebook page!
- Currently, 140 people are on the waiting list to volunteer to serve others, and in exchange for their time, to receive a car from the **Transformation Station**. We really need cars.
- Through **Hope and Possibilities**, we continue to talk with people seeking financial assistance for needs such as rent, utilities and auto repairs in order to connect them with resources from local congregations. Staff member Chip Guyton continues to see an increase in the numbers of people seeking help. He received 141 calls of inquiry in the first three months of 2011.
- **Neighboring 101**, a weekly class that we offer is now studying the book *When Helping Hurts*. The class meets on Thursdays.

In closing this month, I want to express our how grateful we are when we receive letters of encouragement and your gifts. We desire for you to come and visit us and participate in what God is doing in this community. Thank you for supporting this work that God has trusted us with.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman