

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
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 29:12-13)*

Dear friends,

July 2011

Goodness is in the air here—it's resting in the mist that covers the field behind the Hannah House, and sweeping upwards from the table at the Timothy House where staff and residents sit and eat together. Opening letters and gifts from you, it blows right into us! We are grateful.

Inside, we keep relying on God, who we believe in as the source of this goodness. The Psalmist writes, *"You are good, and what You do is good, teach me Your decrees"* (Psalm 119:68). These days, we find ourselves in this delightful pattern of learning and teaching these matters of God's heart with people young and old! Our internship opportunities create many avenues for just this.

Summer Service offers an intensive 9-week internship focused on leadership development and practical care for those in poverty. *Week of Service* allows individuals to participate in the life of the community for a whole week. For those pursuing their education, we can design a unique learning experience through an *Academic Internship*.

Appalachian Immersion gives people an opportunity to go deeper. This 9 to 12 month commitment is ideal for a high school or college graduate who desires to spend a year exploring their vocation in the context of Christian community.

Kelsey Shelter from Powell, Ohio, served in this role last year. Here she reflects on truths she has learned:

The first is a deeper understanding and feeling of God's love for all people. Meeting and seeing people coming from so many different places and different walks in life has given me a greater appreciation for the part of God's creation we call human beings.

As I've met people, I've been able to experience God's love for them. Sometimes it's just been a sudden, urgent recognizing of the treasure hidden inside someone I don't even know. Other times it has been recognizing a particular uniqueness in someone else's life. I can't help but feel love for them regardless of whether they are living in a homeless shelter, on staff with Good Works, or an energetic college student. God created uniqueness in each of us, and it's an honor to be able to see what God sees in people.

Along with this I have seen and understand that in each of us there is a deep, deep brokenness. The solution to this pain is to share our brokenness with each other and share where we have found healing. I want to share my joys, successes, failures, sin—my life—with others rather than feel like I am on this journey alone, left to my own devices to figure things out. Sometimes I have to take the initiative to share my brokenness and lack of knowledge to start something beautiful.

Beauty and brokenness...this is the kingdom of God to me. The uniqueness and vulnerability I experience in people is how I imagine the kingdom of God will feel like. There is such diversity in heaven and I believe that I have caught the faintest glimmer of it in loving those who are not like me. THIS is the one thing I want to never forget from my time here at Good Works. I always want to be seeking out people who are not like me. I want to get to know them and I want them to get to know me. I want to learn from everyone and have others learn from me. I want to love everyone just for who they are because Christ has loved me merely for who I am.

In the News:

- We are currently seeking applicants for our **Appalachian Immersion** internship referenced above. This opportunity typically runs from September to June, and includes room, board and a stipend. For more information, visit our website and click on "Internships," or contact Dawn Tobin at 740.594.3339.
- Creative plans are underway for our **2012 Walk for the Homeless**, scheduled for January 14th. This will be our 10th annual WALK, and we hope you will plan to come!
- **Summer Service**...is happening as we speak! This year, we are welcoming groups from Virginia, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. These teams stay in the Hannah House and put their hands and hearts to service in a number of life-giving ways.
- Our everyday **Summer Lunch** was launched on June 20th. This hot, nutritious meal for adults and kids follows the Discovery Kids' Club taking place every week day morning. Thank you to our partners at The Plains United Methodist Church!
- We are now scheduling **Work Retreats** for the fall and spring. If you know of a group that is interested in coming for a weekend or a weeklong visit with us, have them contact us by e-mail or at 740.594.3336.
- **Hope and Possibilities** is now finishing year number three! We meet with people every day to talk and pray with them about the economic hardship they are experiencing. Through this relationship, we are able to advocate for them to receive financial assistance through partner congregations. So far this year, Chip Guyton has met with 83 people and conducted 219 phone conversations.
- A NEW documentary has been developed on Good Works. To see it online, go to: www.clickingcreateschange.com/causes/good-works

In closing, I want to share that Good Works has two simple approaches for loving and serving people who are struggling with poverty, especially widows, children and strangers. Half of our efforts are to love and serve by building relationships with people: learning and appreciating the history, beauty, values, and needs inherent in their lives here in rural Appalachia.

The other half of our vision is to provide opportunities for volunteers to love and serve our neighbors *with us*. This year, we anticipate that about 1,100 different people will serve here in over 30 capacities. Our HOPE is that both those serving and those being served will experience something of the kingdom of God, *on earth, as it is in heaven*. This is what Jesus taught us to pray and to this end, we press on. Thank you for supporting us with your prayers, your gifts and your many acts of loving-kindness!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman