

# *Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope*

*Celebrating 31 Years!*



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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)*

May this letter remind you, our friends:

October 2011

## **You are a gift.**

Thank you so much for believing in these purposes we hold on to together—making the widow's heart sing, being a father to the fatherless, taking up the case of the stranger. I see how you are giving of yourselves, so that others may be encouraged and comforted. This is so beautiful, and I am grateful!

Indeed, your support has helped to create a unique avenue for people struggling with poverty in rural Appalachia to receive hope and dignity, through giving to others. Yes, all of us, rich and poor, have an inner need to be needed, the desire to be a gift to someone else.

Through the *Transformation Station*, we invite those seeking material resources to offer their time and abilities in service to the community, and in exchange they receive a thank you gift in the form of a vehicle, appliance, bicycle or non-emergency food.

After a season of volunteer service, Marie and her husband, Don drove away in their new car, with pride. The 1999 white Cadillac seemed to fit them just right, and it had all the bells and whistles! Of the tasks they accomplished while working on the Good Works property, Marie reflects, "We enjoyed that we were doing something worthwhile." Even so, it was the friendships that Marie built during her time as a volunteer that remain important to her. "Amy—she was so nice! I've received two notes from her. And Jennifer kept us laughing." Today, Marie and Don continue to stay connected with the community by participating in Friday Night Life.

A place to form relationships: this has been our vision since we began the Transformation Station in 2004. Many a day finds staff member Jim Todd working patiently alongside a new volunteer, or sometimes just taking time to encourage and pray with someone. "They come to expect a thank you and a hug!" Jim says with a smile.

The experience of being valued and appreciated is new for many, and leads to a slow identity change...transformation. The prophet Isaiah speaks of this: "*They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.*" (Isaiah 61:3, NRSV)

This past year, we were graced with a small grant to take our dreams for the Transformation Station a step further. Since last October, we've been able to provide part-time employment to an individual who successfully completed their time as a volunteer. Donald, a man we met through

Friday Night Life, has worked on the Good Works Luhrig Road property three days a week doing small construction, maintenance and lawn-care. We have so much enjoyed his presence, and watching his ownership and responsibility develop has been a delight!

Eighty-four families have received a car through the Transformation Station so far. Each of these vehicles represents it's own story of generosity! Would you consider donating a used vehicle in working condition? Today, there are 149 people on our waiting list to join the Transformation Station.

—Dawn Tobin

### ***In the News...***

- On **September 10th**, Good Works hosted a community-wide event, bringing together Christians from different churches in worship through song. We continue to feel energized by the chance to know and work together with the body of Christ in the Athens community!
- We are grateful to welcome **Jeffrey Fitzwater** into this year's Appalachian Immersion internship! We are seeking a few more interns for this fall. This opportunity is particularly for those who desire to grow in their relationship with God through living in community and serving with people in need. Do you know someone who might fit?
- **Week of Service:** Want to come and see for yourself? We invite individuals 16 and older to spend a week in the Good Works community, living in the Hannah House, learning alongside our staff and interns and serving in a variety of capacities. For more information, click on the section called "Internships" on our website. There is no cost for this opportunity.
- Saturday mornings will be filled with health this fall! In partnership with an Ohio University medical student named Heather Datsko, we are starting a new group involving Friday Night Life participants and first-year medical students. **Health for Life** will focus on encouraging group members towards physical wellbeing, fitness and good nutrition.
- The **Timothy House** has been full in recent weeks. We have been grieved to turn way more than 90 people this year due to lack of space. Yet, the Timothy House continues to be a life-giving place, where volunteers and residents can come together in love and mutual respect. In addition to our five current opportunities to serve at the Timothy House, we began two new initiatives last month—*Breakfast at Timothy's* and a small group on Sunday evenings called *Life's Healing Choices*.
- This fall, we are preparing for a number of **speaking engagements** in the Athens community and beyond. We so appreciate the opportunity to connect personally with our supporters, and share the vision and story of Good Works. To learn more, click on the link called "Arrange a Presentation" on our website.

*In our ongoing work together, with people who find themselves vulnerable and excluded, pray with us for our hearts to remain soft, our belief firm and our hope in Christ sure.*

Love is a verb,

Keith Wasserman

