

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 of ours,

December 2011

Greetings with gratitude! We feel so encouraged by your support and faithfulness, and count this as God's grace, which sustains us in the work of truly loving our neighbors. With earnestness for your generosity in 2011, thank you!

We look back on this year with a sense of fulfillment as well as a certain soberness. Since January 1st, 2011, we have turned away 138 people because of lack of space at the Timothy House. Nearly three quarters of this total represent families with children. These numbers are unprecedented in the history of Good Works.

As you may know, the Good Works Timothy House is the only shelter serving men, women and children who are without homes in 9 counties in Southeast Ohio: Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Vinton, Gallia, Washington, Hocking, Perry, and Jackson. Andrea Horsch, Director of Care-giving at the Timothy House, shares this story. It is one of many:

Jeremy, his girlfriend, and their two children were seeking shelter with us earlier this fall. Over the summer, the home they had been renting burned down. They found a friend to stay with briefly, but the friend had an addiction problem and unexpectedly told them to leave. On the day they called we did not have room for them. They called back three days later to check on space again. We told them again that unfortunately, we just didn't have space. Jeremy told us at that time that they had spent the previous two nights in a shed.

We bear an emotional burden for our neighbors who are struggling so deeply, and this weight is intensified when we are not able to offer help because we are at capacity. Even so, paradoxically, our hearts are filled with hope.

For those who *have* been able to stay at the Timothy House, this has been a very fruitful season. We find joy in being able to connect our residents with resources, including housing, care for emotional wellbeing, and physical health. Just last month, a resident received a new set of teeth at greatly reduced cost through our partnership with a local dentist!

We celebrate the growth that has happened in spiritual dimensions as well. For example, this fall we offered an optional weekly gathering called *Life's Healing Choices* in association with a local congregation. Peter, who was a Timothy House resident along with his 11-year-old daughter in 2010, co-led this biblically-based recovery group. In his words, Peter's life is evidence of "radical changes that only God can do." After experiencing emotional healing through the trusting friendships and prayer he found inside a local recovery community, Peter says he wanted to "go back in and tell my story and how God brought restoration in my life."

Life's Healing Choices created a safe environment in which residents could build trusting relationships with the other group members. This depth and openness allowed the participants to talk about real-life matters of addiction and a painful past in order to surrender them to God and receive wise help. Andrea says that she comes back to the theme of hope constantly, because she has it! "God's will for our lives is good. Anyone can come around to accepting his love and walking in his will," she says.

And during difficult days, she expresses gratitude that “we get to do this together...to remind each other of the grace we’ve received so we can better share it.”

To support the goodness and grace that so many are experiencing through the Timothy House, please consider coming to our 10th Annual Walk for the Homeless on Saturday, January 14th, 2012! Join with us in learning about the reality of poverty and homelessness in rural Appalachia through 8 different interactive Walk experiences, while raising money for the Timothy House.

In preparation for the event, we encourage you to find 10 people who will sponsor you at \$10 each. With 500 participants, we hope to reach our goal of raising \$50,000 to offer practical care to our neighbors who are facing with homelessness. If you are not able to participate but would like to make a contribution to the Walk, enclose your gift with “Walk” in the memo line. To learn more or give online, visit www.walkforthehomeless.net.

In the News...

- **On January 1st**, we will begin our 32nd year! For all those who supported us financially in 2011, we are grateful! You will be receiving a year-end receipt for tax purposes before January 31st, 2012. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact our Administrative Office at 740.594.3339.
- Each weekend this fall we have been blessed with energy-filled teams who have served with us through our **Work Retreat opportunity**. From building the Hope Center deck to doing critical repair jobs at the homes of our friends who are widowed or experiencing disability—what a gift! We are especially excited as we see volunteers making personal connections with those they are serving and expressing generosity in creative ways.
- **Get out your calendars!** We are planning a special event on Memorial Day weekend in May of 2012, including both a dedication ceremony for the Hope Center (which is almost complete!) and a Good Works Staff Reunion. More information to come!
- **Health for Life** was a great success! During this 8-week experience, Friday Night Life participants joined together with medical students on Saturday mornings for a workshop including discussion, healthy snacks and light exercise. We have been so encouraged to see individuals gain momentum in choosing a healthy lifestyle! A medical student and Good Works volunteer, Heather Datsko, led this initiative.

In closing, I simply want to express my thanks for your presence inside this Community of HOPE and the many, tangible ways you provide for those we are learning to love. *This is the grace of God.*

Love is a verb,

Keith Wasserman

