



# Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 32 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)*

Greetings, dear friends!

March 2012

Today, I want to remind you how very significant your contribution has been in creating and sustaining Good Works — *A Community of HOPE!* As each person does their part, together we are truly able to express great love and care for people who are suffering under the burden of poverty. Your gifts of time, money, prayer, and practical items — not to mention the simple act of standing with us in friendship — are so precious to us. Thank you! In the kingdom of God, the fruit of your labor has eternal value.

We are particularly grateful for the way in which so many of you rallied in support for this year's *Walk for the Homeless* on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Almost 500 Walkers participated, and together, we raised nearly \$45,000 for the operating budget of the Timothy House! This deserves a true celebration!!

This year, we were excited to offer eight different Walk experiences, each of which invited a deeper understanding of the struggles that people in our community face during times of crisis and need. A few of the topics we presented were the journey of recovery from addiction, the impact of the coal industry in Appalachian Ohio, and the intersection between poverty and mental health.

The *Sometimes Life Isn't Fair* Walk helped participants "visualize how wealth is distributed in our country," describes staff member Chris Linscott. "Wealth gives advantages that are often overlooked, but those privileges actually make it more likely that children of wealthy parents will remain wealthy, while children born to parents in poverty are more likely to remain in poverty." Designed especially with kids in mind, one activity used chocolate coins as mock currency to illustrate inequality. Chris' final message was clear: "Far more than money, it is the caring friendship and generosity that neighbors can have for one another that we believe will be the difference between a bountiful, thriving life, and one of despair."

Reflecting later, Denae, a first-time Walker shared, "It was such an eye-opening experience. I had never realized how much poverty we have right here in Athens. I went on a mission trip to Malawi, Africa over the summer, so poverty isn't a new thing for me to see. I just hadn't realized how close to home it really is."

As a staff, we are so energized to create these inspiring learning opportunities for the Athens community and beyond. More than this, we are deeply grateful for your tangible support expressed on behalf of our neighbors in need. It means so much!

Looking ahead, 2013 holds some changes for the Walk. We have decided to rename the *Walk for the Homeless*, and are now using the title *Good Works Walk*. This is motivated by our desire to use language that dignifies our neighbors who are without homes. Additionally, due to the shift that Ohio University and Hocking College are making to the semester system, we have moved the date of the Walk from Martin Luther King Jr. weekend to *Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013*. We hope to see you then!

— Dawn Tobin

## IN THE NEWS...

### “Samaritan Projects” becomes “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

This is another important name change we would like to share with you. While the program remains the same, we are now calling our initiative to lead volunteers in service at the homes of our friends who are widowed *Neighbors Helping Neighbors*. We are constantly seeking ways to evaluate the words we use to describe people and our initiatives, because we want to communicate respect for the person receiving help. In this case, we are referencing the biblical command of care for our neighbor, and also highlighting the value of mutuality. It is unclear which neighbor is helping which— an experience that is often true here at Good Works!

### Memorial Day Weekend 2012: Celebrating God’s Faithfulness

We are planning some special celebrations for Memorial Day Weekend, May 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, including a ***Good Works Staff and Intern Reunion***. We look forward to this time to renewing friendships!

In addition, we will be holding a ***Dedication Ceremony for the Hope Center*** on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. This event is open to the public and will be preceded by a meal (5 pm) and followed by music at the stage (7:30 pm). Do come, especially if you had a part in making the Hope Center a reality!

Also on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, we are planning a special ***Dedication of the Solitude Retreat Cabin*** in honor of the life of Bob Carter. We will be renaming this place of retreat “Carter Cabin” in his memory. Bob contributed much to the early foundations of our ministry as he served on staff for ten years beginning in 1987. All friends of Bob are invited to join in this time of remembrance beginning at 2 pm.

*All three events will be held at the Good Works Luhrig Road property. If you would like more information about any of them, please contact Dawn Tobin at 740.594.3339 or email us at [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net).*

Wow — we continue to so grateful for the long-standing support you personally give to us! We need it, and receive it as grace from God, the source of all good gifts. And even now this goodness and compassion are overflowing into the lives of those we serve. What a wonderful sight!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

PS: I received a particular honor this month that left me stunned and shocked and amazed! Some of you know that I am currently benefitting from a time of sabbatical at Asbury Theological Seminary. A few weeks ago, I received a letter from the Seminary’s President, Dr. Timothy Tennent that said, *“I am writing to inform you that upon the recommendation of the Honorary Degree Committee and the plenary faculty, the Board of Trustees of Asbury Theological Seminary has voted to grant you the honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.”* I was totally surprised...and am so grateful! The Seminary has invited me to participate in the Graduation Ceremony on May 19<sup>th</sup> and to receive my Honorary Degree at that time.