

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)*

A warm hello to each of you!

June 2012

The hills surround us here in Southeast Ohio, and now their green growth shouts with life. Daily, this abundance reminds me of the steadfast love of God, whose goodness comes to us in so many ways. I am particularly grateful for your generosity, which is expressing this very goodness to so many of our neighbors in need. Thank you!

What's in store for your summer? I want to share with you the part you can take in ours: It is called *Summer Service 2012* and runs from June 10th to August 11th. Audacious as it is, we believe God wants to work *in* and *through* this community, so that we live out these specific purposes:

**"I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist them.
The one who was dying blessed me; I made the widow's heart sing.
I put on righteousness as my clothing; justice was my robe and my turban.
I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame.
I was a father to the needy; I took up the case of the stranger." (Job 29:12-16)**

We desire for these words to take on real meaning as we meet and serve the very people spoken of here. And these encounters inside the kingdom of God are not only for us: over the summer, we hope to welcome approximately 200 volunteers to come and serve under the leadership of eight college-age Summer Interns.

In the *Summer Kids' Discovery Club*, we will embark on our 15th year of loving kids! Some of these children are especially vulnerable, as they are not attached to healthy adult relationships, or their families struggle with poverty. Thus, we are very excited for these 7 weeks full of education, creativity, fun, and faith-nurture! *Kids' Discovery Club* is led by Good Works staff and interns and occurs in partnership with The Plains United Methodist Church. This is our fifth year of ending the day with a hot, nutritious meal that is free and open to the public. Last summer, we served meals to about 65 people each day, and with rising food costs, this meets a great need for many of our friends in need.

With groups from 7 different churches (and four different states) making a weeklong visit to Good Works this summer, our capacity to extend practical service at the homes of seniors, many of whom are widowed or experiencing a disability, greatly increases! From the quiet care of listening to the rev of lawnmowers, from conversation and laughter to the hammer of a new roof going up, we really hope to "make the widow's heart sing!" So many people feel forgotten and unable to help themselves, and through *Neighbors Helping Neighbors*, we want to change this!

In addition, we are looking forward to our fourth year of the *Teen Agricultural Internship*, in which eight local teens will help put in vegetable gardens at the homes of seniors. This becomes a way in

which our friends really can help themselves: by maintaining a garden at their home, and enjoying its produce! The teens on the other hand, receive an opportunity for intergenerational friendships, personal development, hands-on learning, and a stipend.

Our care for men, women and children without homes continues steadily at the Timothy House. This summer, we are excited to invite some of our interns and volunteers into this setting to connect with the residents and grow in their compassion for people. We're also initiating another internship for teens in partnership with local churches this year: the "Kingdom Internship" is specifically for those 14 to 17 who desire to be mentored in their faith. They will serve alongside staff members in various Good Works contexts.

As you can see, our community will be extending itself both relationally and financially in the coming months. Would you consider giving toward our mission this summer?

In addition to financial support, we are seeking donations of fresh food (especially fruits and vegetables) and grocery store gift cards for the Summer Lunch. If you'd like to be directly involved the meal or Kids' Discovery Club, let us know! We are seeking weekly volunteers in both of these areas.

IN THE NEWS

- **Prefer online giving?** To contribute to Good Works through our secure website, go to www.good-works.net and click on "Make a Donation."
- We are currently seeking applicants for our 9-month **Appalachian Immersion** internship beginning in September. Do you know someone who wants to know and love those in need? Have them contact us!
- This year, one of the Timothy House staff, Matt Carlyle, has been able to hold an individualized GED class for the residents each week. This is in addition to **Training for Life**, our twice-a-week computer class.
- Want to spend a week with the Good Works community? Come visit as a **Week of Service** volunteer at no cost to you. We have spots open for this summer!
- We provided car number 92 last week through the **Transformation Station**. Would you continue to pass the word about our need for good, working vehicles?
- **Service Living**, our campus initiative connecting Ohio University students with transformational service opportunities, completed its third year! This quarter, we offered 8 different contexts for relational service, all focused on connecting students with the history, beauty, values, needs and people of rural Appalachia.

In closing this month, I want to say this: People often ask me how Good Works is doing and about the numbers of people we are serving through Friday Night Life, the Transformation Station, Hope and Possibilities and especially through the Timothy House. I want you to know that numbers are high (for us) and we have again been forced to turn away families and children from the Timothy House because of lack of space. This grieves us and challenges us. Thank you for walking with us in this journey of love. Thank you for supporting us as we love and care for so many people who need our help.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman