



Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 32 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 2012

Greetings from Good Works, this Community of HOPE!

I feel so grateful for your long-standing support for the work that God has trusted us with here in rural Southeast Ohio. *Your* involvement in my life and your partnership as we reach out in love to our neighbors who are struggling with poverty means so much to me!

Right now as you read this letter, the Good Works community is in the midst of Summer Service, our most intense season of the year. This time of expanded outreach is being made possible by the energies of eight college-age Summer Interns— a fantastic group of young adults committed to growing as leaders as they live out their love for God and their neighbor.

Every Sunday night, they have been welcoming a new group of 10 to 30 people (including youth, adults, and families with children) who stay in the Hannah House and serve in a great variety of capacities all week long. Is all of this activity for activity's sake? No. We feel compelled to organize ourselves together and work in unison for the sake of those who are vulnerable:

*One beautiful child... whose home is, at times, sadness and chaos.
This teenage boy... who was called names at school today.
A determined grandmother living alone, recovering from surgery.*

These are our friends: the many "reasons" we are, this summer, pouring ourselves into—

Summer Kids' Discovery Club and Lunch: Here's to nurturing holistic HEALTH for kids!

That's 30 to 50 of them, all summer long. Our everyday meal after the kids' program, which is open to parents and community members, continues to be a success. Last summer alone, we provided approximately 2,000 meals through the help of donations.

Teen Agricultural Internship: For that young man to find confidence. He's one of eight local teens ages 14 to 17 who are benefiting from this character-building experience. These young men and women are learning skills in agriculture while serving others, and will receive a \$300 stipend. Through our newest initiative, the Kingdom Internship, we are also mentoring four teens from local churches in faith and service.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: A new roof, for her peace of mind. From major home repairs to lawn care, we continue to celebrate the fruit of this initiative: practical help for our friends who are widowed, as well as the life-giving connections that often happen between them and the volunteers we send to their homes. Now that's *good!*

On the deepest level, we are motivated not only by a vision to care for our friends in need, but by God's pleasure when we do justice, His praise as we love mercy. Thank you so much for encouraging us along with your gifts, prayers, and visits. You are an essential part of the hopefulness being created here!

IN THE NEWS...

- Good Works' **Supportive Employment** initiative has allowed us to hire three people part-time who received cars through the Transformation Station. This experience has been very inspiring to our whole community because we are facilitating ways for those who came to receive a car to now give back to others.
- As many of you know, Keith was awarded an **Honorary Doctorate** from Asbury Theological Seminary this spring. The graduation ceremony was held on May 19th in Wilmore, Kentucky, and his family and friends came to celebrate! During the ceremony, Keith was invited to give a speech to the faculty, graduates, and their families. You can read this speech on the Good Works Facebook page.
- **Below are some items we need:** Kroger/Walmart gift cards for the Summer Lunch, postage stamps, Mac laptop computers, chain saws, trash bags (all sizes), laundry detergent, cleaning spray, coffee and creamer. For a complete list of our current needs, contact us at 740.594.3339 or goodworks@good-works.net. We are so thankful for the great generosity that makes what we do possible!
- This fall, **Hope and Possibilities** will complete its 5th year! Enabled by fruitful partnerships with many local congregations, we are continuing to help and encourage people in difficult financial situations. In the first five months of this year, we received 182 calls from people seeking financial assistance and met face-to-face with 78 people. We are grateful to report that many of these individuals were able to access the funds they needed.
- The waiting list for cars through the **Transformation Station** has grown substantially. If you know anyone who might be willing to donate a car to Good Works, please let us know. Donors get a full IRS tax deduction.

IN CLOSING: Summer is a very busy time for our community. Today, we are in the middle of our largest ever Summer Service initiative, which includes 22 interns. Thank you for supporting and encouraging us as we persevere in this work God has trusted us with: the work of loving people! May God be glorified through our actions, words, and attitudes! Amen.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

The creation of Good Works newsletters is a team effort! This year, Keith Wasserman and Dawn Tobin collaborated to write the letters, with Dawn providing much of the written material. Sherilyn Weinkauff took the document from words on a screen to a letter in your hand.