

# Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope

*Celebrating 33 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)*

Dear friends,

October 2014

Has anyone else enjoyed the crunch of leaves underfoot recently? Fall is here! This season, a different team of volunteers will visit us every weekend. They will stay on the Good Works property in the Hannah House, and be sent out all over the county in small groups to serve people who are widowed or who have a disability. This is what we call a “Work Retreat.” Sound like an oxymoron? Not when *work* is imbued with new meaning:

**WORK AS WORSHIP:** As a Christian community, our experience of the love of God is the source of our love for others. It is the overflow of gratitude for the grace we have received. Hear from Work Retreat participant Jennifer Miller from Huntersville, North Carolina as she reflects on her Summer 2014 experience: *“I personally walked away with a new-found love for work. It sounds crazy, but headed into the week, I was a stressed out working mom of two kids with a husband who travels. I was looking at all of the work and interactions that I had as a burden, but I ended the week realizing that work is a form of “worship” and an opportunity to show people, my spouse and my kids God’s love. This new-found outlook and appreciation has truly changed the way I do life!”*

**WORKING WITH:** This value is present in all of our projects, but is especially evident in the Good Works Gardens, in which Work Retreat members work alongside seniors and people with disabilities to help them grow food at their home. Staff member Doug Schmaltz shares: *“When we go out to work on a garden, we may have homeowners, Work Retreat members, Service Living students, Transformation Station volunteers and Good Works staff all working together to produce food. Whenever possible, we are inviting the people we are serving to work with us. This shakes things up for those on both ends: the people who are stuck in the “provider” role and others who are stuck in the “recipient” role. There is something extremely dignifying and equalizing about people coming together to work toward a common goal.”* In return, some homeowners have generously shared the food they grew with our community!

**PEOPLE OVER PROJECTS:** Our first priority is to value *people*, which includes spending time together and doing the project with excellence. Staff member Seth Lundeen takes joy in being able to see folks again and catch up on the time that has passed since their previous visit. He says, *“People tell me about their families, and I have a lot of women asking me how my daughter is...this sharing of our personal lives is precious.”*

Catherine Crichlow, a Work Retreat participant from the summer of 2014 describes the same: *“I have always put the work that needs to be done above the people, but I learned that week that my formula was backwards. Building relationships comes before building housing, because it’s in building relationships that we really build the kingdom of God. And looking back, it seems to me my entire week was glimpse into that very kingdom. (The crazy part is, we still finished the projects on time.)”* Helping group members build stronger bonds between themselves is also an important element of a Work Retreat.

### **FAST FACTS about Work Retreats...**

- Each year, Good Works provides a formational service experience for about 40 different groups made up of youth, adults, families or an intergenerational mix! This fall, we are hosting 15 different groups.
- In 2013, we hosted over 500 Work Retreat participants, built relationships with 45 families, and completed over 150 different projects.
- Some of the projects we have done recently include regular grass mowing, establishing vegetable gardens, building ramps, replacing bathroom floors, and helping Timothy House residents move into their apartments. To learn more about how you can join in, visit the Short-term Mission Teams link on our website.

### **IN THE NEWS...**

- **Senior Friends** is an initiative of Good Works to facilitate friendships between volunteers and older adults who may be homebound or widowed. We currently have several seniors who would really be encouraged by such a friendship! To learn more about participating, contact Anne Wilson at 740.594.3339.
- We are celebrating 10 years of the **Transformation Station**, and recently provided car #129 to a family! They worked together with joy and dignity, serving others to receive this vehicle. Do you know someone who might consider donating a car this year? Would you help us pass the word? We are also seeking appliances in good condition to provide to people struggling with poverty here in rural Ohio.
- **Friday Night Life**, now in year 21, moves from the Good Works property to The Plains United Methodist Church on October 10<sup>th</sup>. In partnership with students from the College of Osteopathic Medicine, we are planning to another health-focused educational series after dinner on Fridays this fall. In addition, under the leadership of Emily Axe, we continue to provide a weekly Kids’ Club for children ages 4 to 17. We are currently seeking volunteers to invest in the children on Friday nights.
- **One Hundred Thousand...** is the number of nights of shelter we’ve provided to people without homes through the Timothy House since we started keeping statistics in 1985. Wow... that is a lot of showers and laundry loads, too!
- Do you like giving **meaningful gifts**? This fall, we will be offering a way for people to contribute to Good Works in honor of a friend or relative. More information to come!
- Please join us for our **OPEN HOUSE** at the Timothy House on Central Avenue on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4 pm. You will be able to see the new renovations, enjoy refreshments, and hear a brief presentation by Keith at 2 pm.
- Our community has begun planning the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual **Good Works WALK** scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Please pass the word about the date, will you? We have also just created a new WALK website. Visit [www.goodworkswalk.net](http://www.goodworkswalk.net) to check it out!

IN CLOSING... I want to tell you that this feels like a vulnerable season for us at Good Works. We are trying to navigate many new challenges and we rely upon your love, your prayers and encouragement. Thank you for staying close to us. We hope to see some of you on November 8<sup>th</sup>!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman