

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,

December 2014

I have chosen that greeting intentionally, because we are sincerely grateful for your friendship! Thank you for coming alongside us this year with your love and encouragement. 2014 has been a difficult year, and much as happened. Here is the year in review:

The Timothy House: Purchased in 1984, this year marks its 30th anniversary! That symbolizes over 100,000 nights of shelter we’ve provided to people without homes. Biblical hospitality to “strangers”– people in need who are disconnected from community– remains at the heart of our mission.

This year, we’ve weathered some storms, starting with our decision not to receive a State grant because of its terms that would have caused us to violate our ethics and the rights of people without homes. Nearly a year later, we still feel we made the right decision. Then came the fire on April 7th. We are especially thankful for God’s protection, and for his sustenance through the very challenging season that followed. We’re also grateful for you, and the unique ways you stepped in to make it possible for us to continue caring for people without homes. What do you do when the homeless shelter is itself “homeless”?

For two months after the fire, we provided shelter to our neighbors out of the Hannah House on the Luhrig Road property. This proved to be very difficult and required major adjustments for all involved. Right before our Summer Service initiative began, we were able to move the operations of the Timothy House back into 91 Central Avenue, but only had access to half the house, and no kitchen. Many generous friends brought over 60 picnic dinners for the household, which we ate outdoors.

With much relief, we were able to open the rest of the house on August 5th. It had been four long months, especially for the residents who were doubly displaced. Our motto through this whole saga was, “We can get through this.” And by the grace of God and the support of a generous community, we have.

The New Good Works Website: Through the hard work of several staff members, we launched our new website this year, to help further our vision. Recent features include an easy way to give the gift of HOPE in honor of your loved ones. Learn more at: www.good-works.net

10th Anniversary of the Transformation Station! Over the last 10 years, we have been able to provide 129 families with vehicles. That’s 129 families who donated a working car to share with others! And 129 people who, not only received the tangible resource of transportation, but also gained dignity as they used their time and skills to serve others. We also provide appliances, bicycles and non-emergency food through the Transformation Station.

“Recipients Becoming Participants” ...How else does one describe what we are witnessing? Time and time again we see people who initially intersected with the community to access a resource find a place to serve others, experiencing life-giving relationships and a sense of purpose. It is as if we’ve uncovered a gem-like truth about humanity: when people truly *feel* loved, they experience inner freedom to change, grow, and give. For example, at Friday Night Life each week, those benefiting from the meal get together to package leftovers and organize food for others to take home. Transformation Station volunteers come back to give of their time after they’ve earned their item. At the Timothy House this year, one former resident returned to lead a biblically based recovery group called *Life’s Healing Choices*.

A New Kitchen! Thanks to many generous people, we completed a much-needed renovation of the Hannah House kitchen in February. Not only is this space a daily blessing to those who live in the house, but it also provides an important resource for the Friday Night Life community and the 40 Work Retreat groups we host each year.

Good Works Gardens: We’re cultivating soil and relationships, and a lot of good stuff is growing! This year, we maintained gardens at the homes of 16 neighbors, in addition to three community gardens. Thanks to some hardworking friends, we also have a newly re-built greenhouse on the Luhrig Road property.

Summer Service 2014: Remember the Summer Kids’ Discovery Club, Summer Lunch, and internships for local teens? I’m thinking of the laughter of children, warm meals eaten together, and youth working with dedication! Not to mention the many different Work Retreat groups who served with us this summer and throughout the year, under the leadership of staff and full-time interns. Here is a reflection from Micah Stiffler, who was a recent participant in our Summer Internship for college-age adults:

“I just want to thank Good Works for the opportunity to participate in an internship there. It was one of the greatest times of my life and it continues to benefit me greatly. I currently feel that God has called me to work in the factory I worked in during high school and minister to the people there (many of them struggle with poverty because of previous life events). Sometimes people will ask in small talk about what I’d like to do with my life, and I often start off with telling them about my experience at Good Works. It doesn’t take more than two or three sentences and most people have stopped working and are staring in awe as I explain to them what Good Works does. That experience and all of your commitments to Christ have made that happen. So again I just thank you all so much.”

LOOKING AHEAD... Mark your calendars for the **13th Annual Good Works WALK** on Saturday, February 21st from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm! The WALK is an educational and inspirational experience focused on helping adults and children of all ages better understand poverty and homelessness in Appalachian Ohio. Together, we are hoping to raise about one third of the annual operating costs of the Timothy House. Even if you are not able to be there, would you consider contributing towards the WALK, and inviting people you know to do the same? For more information, or to give, visit our new WALK website at: www.goodworkswalk.net

In closing I want to say that though we’ve faced some struggles this year, we are ending it with gratitude and hope. We are not discouraged. We are continuing to live out the same values that have motivated us from the beginning– learning to love God and love our neighbors with authenticity, integrity and humility. Thank you for being with us on the journey!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

PS: On a more personal note, I want to let all of you know that Darlene and I are still welcoming people without a home into our home after they are screened by the Timothy House staff. As many of you know, we moved into the neighborhood near the Timothy House in 2013 so that we could care for people needing shelter that the Timothy House was not able to assist. We call this initiative “Sign of Hope” and it has gone very well. We are grateful to serve in this way.