



Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Since 1981

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

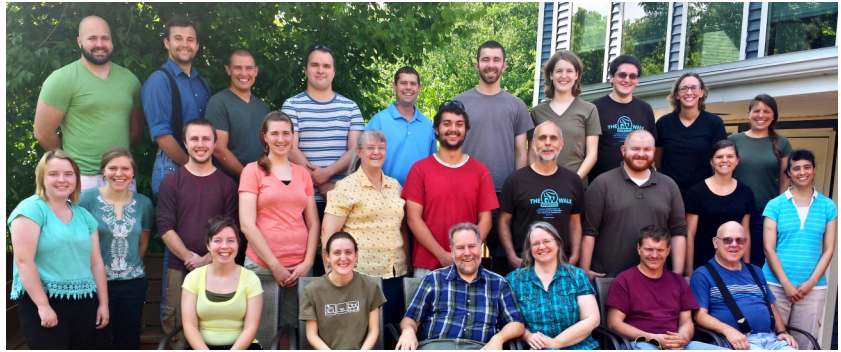
*"I made the WIDOW'S heart sing, I took up the case of the STRANGER, I was a father to the FATHERLESS."
(Job 29:12-13)*

Dear friends,

August 2015

Good Works has been full of life these last few months, especially the Hannah House with six interns and a staff member living upstairs, a total of 11 Week of Service guests, and nine visiting Work Retreat groups.

As you receive this letter, we'll be in the midst of Closing Week with our Summer Interns. We will put things in order, rest, reflect, celebrate, and say many good byes! Through this Summer Internship with us, we hope participants grow as disciples of Christ, as leaders in mission, and in compassion for people experiencing poverty. Reflecting on why she wanted to join the internship, Johannah Couch shares, "I just really appreciated your concern for people and your faith. I wanted to be somewhere I could grow in my faith. I'm enjoying it a lot, seeking God, and growing."



Good Works Staff and Interns - Summer 2015

Johannah's role is to help lead our Summer Kids' Discovery Club. She says, "I am finding out about myself—another piece of me that I didn't know I had. I am building relationships with 5 year olds and 8 year olds... it has brought me this joy. I am seeing God through these little kids. Jesus emphasizes how important the kids are."

Madeline Cowan, who provides leadership to our Teen Agricultural Internship, reflects on Good Works' "ethic of inefficiency"—the desire to patiently value people over accomplishing tasks. Of our Work Retreat members, she says, "It's so inspiring to watch their understanding change each week as they learn to stop working at maximum velocity in order to complete as much work as possible, and to start recognizing the importance of taking time to build relationships of love and respect with the people they are serving."

As a yearlong Appalachian Immersion intern, Jonathan Lawrence leads many volunteers in service through Neighbors Helping Neighbors. He agrees that the emphasis on relationships and taking time to stop and talk to people has been significant to him, so much so that he has picked up the habit! You can sum it up in one word, which Megan Roberson, yearlong intern from Richmond, Virginia did: "Community."

Community is not only something we want to offer others, but also each other. Garrett Smith, an Ohio University student who served as a volunteer before joining the internship says, "The community here has helped me through so much. I'm not even sure anyone even knew."

Summer Intern Jessica Brantmeier explains one of the reasons why community is so important. "You experience God through people, and through conversations with people." Jessica especially enjoys the times of reflection the interns lead with each volunteer group, because she can see the many unique ways God works in people's lives. "This summer I've seen him in little everyday things. He shows himself more than I realized."

Thank you for investing in us as we invest in the lives of these young adults, our volunteers and our neighbors in need! – Dawn Tobin (current staff member & Summer Intern in 2006)

IN THE NEWS...

THE TIMOTHY HOUSE: As most of you know, we reorganized the way people enter the Timothy House last fall due in part due to the financial challenges which occurred when we turned down a State grant in 2014. All prospective residents must now come to a face-to-face interview with the staff in order to stay in the house. We hold these interviews every weekday afternoon.

This summer, we are serving many families with young children and the numbers of people in the house remain close to our capacity. We seek to continue providing a safe, clean, stable place for people to live while they identify, own and work on the issues which have caused them to be without a home. Thank you for sustaining us as we continue to provide the only "shelter" for people without homes in eight counties here in rural Southeast Ohio.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS: The warm summer months and many committed volunteers allow us to focus on larger projects with our neighbors (especially widows). We have constructed wheel chair ramps, replaced rotting floors, power washed and sealed roofs on mobile homes, and completed varied and extensive yard work.

NEW VIDEOS: There are several new videos on our website! They highlight Friday Night Life, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, the Transformation Station and the Good Works WALK. Visit www.good-works.net to check them out!

THE TRANSFORMATION STATION: We are continuing to provide cars, furniture, appliances, bicycles and non-emergency food to people who struggle with poverty here in rural Ohio. The TS uses a "sweat-equity" model to welcome people into community, clothe them with dignity and provide an opportunity for them to use their abilities to serve *their* neighbors.

A special story... Last week, we provided car #138 to a TS volunteer. But this time, something very unusual happened. We had gathered in a circle and were affirming the volunteer right before they received their vehicle when unexpectedly, a person drove up who was donating another car! They were able to join us for the celebration and witness what it is like when someone receives their vehicle. This was the first time something like this has occurred in our 11-year history with the TS.

IN CLOSING, I want to remind you that the Good Works community is composed ordinary people yielded to Christ, who are *learning* how to love and take risks together as we come alongside people at the point of their weakness and brokenness. Thank you for your intentional support for our work produced by faith, our labor prompted by love and our endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ (I Thessalonians 1:3). Amen.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman