## Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 33 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)

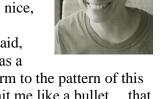
Greetings with gratitude!

September 2014

As you may already know, four of our current full-time staff first came to the Good Works community as residents of the Timothy House. Today, two have shared a piece of their stories with us: stories of life-transformation.

## "A different beauty in the earth"

Terri Woodson left Cleveland because she felt it was no longer suitable for her to stay with the family she was living with. Traveling on foot, she wasn't looking for a place like the Timothy House, but became a resident in June of 1996. "Coming here was like night and day for me: I felt accepted into the community." The residents themselves were extremely friendly, and happy to make food for everyone. I remember the first dinner we had was manicotti. Everyone was so nice, and so welcoming."



"One day, a staff member named Kim came upstairs, all excited. She said, "Come with me, I've got to tell you something." Terri remembers that there was a scripture she wanted to share with her. It was from Romans 12: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Terri says, "It just hit me like a bullet... that was transformational."

After a season at the Timothy House, Terri participated in Life in Transition at the Hannah House, and then served as an intern while completing her degree at Hocking College. She remembers that season with a smile: "I came on staff the day after I graduated: June 20, 1999 was my first day. God works great like that! I graduated on a Sunday, and started on a Monday. It's been 15 years."

When Terri reflects on why she stayed, she says, "There's a lot. I felt very welcome into the community. When I messed up so bad, how come they welcomed me back? I remember a staff person named Michael said, 'We're all sinners and God forgives us.' I felt zero judgment."

Also high on the list was the connection Terri felt with the greater community. "I felt like I was useful here. Throughout the years this is a place where I have learned so much about God and about how God uses people and community to do things you could never do alone. It awakens you to the need for the body to be unified and working together."

"Before, it meant something to have nice things, like a car, clothes, and furniture. I am learning in community what really matters...my value system has shifted. God has opened up my heart and mind to see a different beauty in the earth." Today, Terri serves as the Hannah House Administrative Assistant overseeing much of the day-to-day operation of the Transformation Station. She says, "God is working on the love. "To maintain kingdom life, you gotta' grab hold of love."

## "Teach me to love like you love"

In 1990, Ken Weinkauf was devastated by a divorce that left him homeless, and he stayed at the Good Works Timothy House for nine months. Not long after, Keith invited Ken to be a volunteer. "When I came to do Friday Night Supper, I loved it. There was something inside of me that wanted to serve others," he remembers.

During that season, Ken observed the lack of concern for people in need he saw around him. Reading from the book of James, he was cut to the heart: "Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?" (James 2:15-16).



Ken has now been part of the Good Works staff for 21 years. Currently, he serves as our IT Resource Manager, including other supportive roles, such as in Neighbors Helping Neighbors. He says, "It has been my great joy to use my skills and abilities for the cause of serving the neediest in our neighborhood. I continue to be strengthened, nourished and edified by this work. I am growing, learning. I can still learn more about God here."

You can trace a beautiful thread in Ken's life: long before he connected with Good Works, he knew his life had a special meaning and purpose. Not knowing what it was, he began to ask God to show him his ministry. Ken also prayed repeatedly, "Lord, teach me to love like you love." He feels God fulfilled these desires by allowing him to experience homelessness himself. "I had to walk in their shoes. The ministry I found at Good Works was the answer to my prayers."

## IN THE NEWS...

- We were able to re-open the Timothy House on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, about 4 months after the fire on April 7<sup>th</sup>. We are so very <u>grateful</u> to everyone who assisted us during this very difficult season. We are planning an **Open House** at the Timothy House on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4 pm. Please come!
- Good Works is hosting an evening in which people from different church groups can come together for a time of sharing food, friendship and music. This event is called **Being the Body** and will be held on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 8 pm at the Good Works property. All are welcome! For more information, contact us at 740.594.3339.
- September marks the start of the 6<sup>th</sup> year of **Service Living**, our initiative to invite students to "get off the green" and experience service-based friendships. We have 6 weekly "Transformation Groups" planned, which invite students to learn about the history, values, needs, beauty and people of rural Appalachia.
- We provided **1,546 meals** through our Summer Lunch this year! We also had 67 different volunteers do presentations at our Summer Kids' Discovery Club. Thank you, all!
- We are seeking applicants for our yearlong, residential **Appalachian Immersion Internship**, which provides opportunities to grow in love for God and in service to people in need. Know someone who might be interested in learning more? For more details, visit our website.
- Our third annual one-day seminar called **Going Deeper** is scheduled for Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm at the Hope Center. Taught by Paul Richard, Andrea Horsch and Keith Wasserman, this learning experience is for people who desire to follow Jesus into deeper relationships with people who are struggling with poverty. To register, email us or call Dawn Tobin at 740.594.3339 by Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

In closing, I want to express our need for your prayers as we seek to navigate the many things we have been trusted with. As most of you know, we decided to not accept a state grant earlier this year. We are seeing some of the first signs of this decision this month: as one full-time Good Works staff member who served at the Timothy House finishes his contract, we are not planning to re-hire anyone to fill his responsibilities. We still believe we made the right decision about the state funding earlier this year, and we simply need wisdom to reorganize and press on. Thank you for all of your loving support for Good Works!

LOVE is still a verb,

K

Keith Wasserman