



# Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

*Celebrating 35 Years!*

PO Box 4, Athens, OH 45701  
Phone: 740-594-3339  
Email: [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net)  
Web: [www.good-works.net](http://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)*

Hello Friends,

August 2016

Greetings from the rolling hills of Athens County, Ohio! As I write to you today, we are near the end of our nine weeks of Summer Service. We are enjoying working alongside many local volunteers as well as youth and adults in Work Retreat groups from Kansas, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. We are also hosting a lot of Week of Service volunteers who come for one week and serve alongside our interns.

For each group we welcome, each new volunteer we train, and each of us who join the staff, there takes place, to a greater or lesser degree, a reorientation to some of the values of Good Works. If you have visited, you know that we are a community that strives toward good stewardship of our resources. You will see us switching off fans before we leave a room and walking around turning out lights in unused spaces. We are careful with the financial donations we have been trusted with.

However, in the case of our *time*, we desire to be generous. We often describe this with the phrase "the ethic of inefficiency." We will take the slower road in order to arrive together. There are easier or faster ways to do things than the way we serve people, but if our purpose is to experience *mutual* relationships with people in poverty, we will reorganize our tasks and acts of service in order to make them inclusive.

Paul Richard oversees Work Retreats at Good Works. He writes this about the ethic of inefficiency, "Each individual has intrinsic value as one made in the image of God, and this suggests a reorientation of our priorities. Regardless of what their need may be or what they may or may not be able to accomplish, they deserve my loving attentiveness because they are fearfully and wonderfully made. Ultimately, this practice involves surrender. Setting aside my agenda, my ego, my tasks are small acts of surrender that must happen over and over again to live this out."

Through Neighbors Helping Neighbors, our Work Retreat members visit the homes of older adults. Some team members come with very high skills but others with just a willingness to serve and learn. It would be faster to send out a team that operates like a well-oiled machine. While machines may accomplish work, they don't grow. The group that comes, that learns together, that takes time to visit and listen to the wealth of stories that our neighbors have to offer—that is the group that grows.

When we practice the ethic of inefficiency, we discover that there is more to our neighbors than their poverty, and there is more to our volunteers than their skills. The process is the product, and our presence together is precious.

Every Monday through Friday this summer, we are hosting a lunch for anyone from the community who would like to come and eat together. Darlene Wasserman and a few volunteers prepare a meal for 40 to 60 people, and then sit down and eat with those who come. There are more efficient ways to get calories into a human body, but a person is more than a body, and a *meal* is more than just fuel.

Isaiah 58:10 says, “And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.” What do we spend on behalf of the hungry? Some public assistance? A handout? No, we spend *ourselves*. We spend our most precious commodity, the one which, once spent is irretrievable—our time. – *Andrea Horsch*

## IN THE NEWS

- Our two summer internships for teens end August 5<sup>th</sup>. Teens who complete the internships receive a \$300.00 stipend. Thanks to everyone who made this possible!
- We still have a few openings for our **Appalachian Immersion Internship**. Interns live in the Good Works Hannah House and are trained in the philosophy of Good Works as it relates to our paradigm of hospitality for widows and children and people without homes. A monthly stipend is provided. Can you pass this opportunity along to someone you think might be interested?
- Later this fall, Good Works will be hosting a one-day seminar on November 12 called **Going Deeper**. Our primary focus is to encourage people of faith to take the next step into relationships with people struggling with poverty.
- The Transformation Station is about to provide car # 150 to a participant. We are excited about reaching this mile-marker! Access to transportation makes a major difference in the lives of families struggling with poverty here in rural Ohio.

In closing this month, I want to give “shout-out” to some of the Good Works team. Our 17 staff members worked with 16 adult and teen interns this summer. Leadership was provided to 7 different visiting Work Retreat groups and 11 Week of Service volunteers. Together, we served 28+ kids with educational and inspirational presentations in our every-day Discovery Club. With the help of many other local volunteers we provided a daily nutritious lunch to about 40-60 kids and adults. We developed and led two teen internships. We visited the homes of many seniors (primarily widows) and built ramps, fixed roofs, established and tended gardens, and provided a care-community for many dear friends who are struggling with issues related to aging and health—all through the generous support and donations of friends like you. **THANK YOU!**

I feel so very grateful to work alongside some amazing people who are growing in wisdom and discernment, have teachable hearts, a desire to learn from one another, a commitment to integrity, and a vision for innovation and excellence. In short, I am inspired to be involved with a heroic community.

Love is a verb,

Keith Wasserman



P. S. —Summer has historically been a time when we feel stretched physically, relationally, and financially. I want to offer my sincere thanks for your support for our vision to “connect people from all walks of life with people struggling with poverty so that the kingdom of God can be experienced.”



Week of Service interns work alongside our Kingdom Interns preparing salsa for our Summer Lunch from donated tomatoes!



The Teen Agricultural Internship concludes with a final affirmation event. Darlene Wasserman is affirming the interns.