

Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope

Celebrating 36 Years!



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*“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 2017

As we write to you on this hot and humid southeast Ohio day, string trimmers are whirring in the background, preparing the Good Works property for Friday Night Life. Summer Lunch has been prepared, shared and cleaned up, and our visiting Work Retreat group is out for the afternoon on a community-building hike. The staff of the Timothy House is meeting with someone who is need of a temporary home, and our six Summer Service interns have gathered with staff for our weekly educational session. It feels very important that we continue to set time aside to build into the people who are doing this work with us.

Six current members of our full time staff came to Good Works through internships. They were each recently invited to reflect on that time:

Frances Bissell is the Director of Care-giving at The Timothy House. She did an Appalachian Immersion Internship in 2012. Fran says, “Probably the biggest takeaway from my internship was that ministry to others is also healing for us. I knew going into the internship that I needed healing and found space for that; it wasn’t separate from ministry. In serving and loving others I could also learn how to be whole and receive healing. We hold each other up when something is difficult. We’re not loving people alone.”



Top row: Andrea, Waylon, Emily. Bottom row: Nick, Frances, Jimmy

Emily Axe is currently directing Summer Kids’ Discovery Club and also works with the Good Works Walk. She did the Summer Service Internship in 2006. Emily reflected, “I came to Good Works initially through a spring break missions trip with a campus ministry I was involved with. I was very missions-focused. I remember coming back for the Internship and discovering the gift of presence—sitting and listening and not necessarily ‘doing.’ That was one of the first times in my life I realized God could move through just listening and being with people.”

Nick Smith serves in the areas of Friday Night Life Kids’ Club as well as Work Retreats. He completed a Summer Service Internship in 2014. He reflected on a special connection that he formed. “I met a Work Retreat member who struggled with addiction and had the same issues as my father, but this man had been redeemed by the work of God very early in his son’s life. He pointed out to me after observing me at Friday Night Life that I did know something about being a father, not because of something I had done, but something God had been doing through me.”

Waylon Rogers serves as a Care-giver at the Timothy House. He did the Summer Service Internship in 2008. He says, "I was involved with a campus ministry in college, but to focus on loving people in poverty almost seemed 'extra curricular.' It made me hunger for how to love people in this way. Something that I discovered during that internship that I still use today was growth in my gifts of hospitality. I didn't know I had those gifts, and the internship began to cultivate that in me."

Jimmy Blackwell completed his Summer Service Internship in 2016 and now manages the Hannah House and serves in the area of Community Life. Jimmy says, "The paradigm of hospitality at Good Works seemed like a very grounded way to approach leadership. There is a difference between intellectually learning that real growth takes a long time, and realizing that you have to choose to be in relationships that are uncomfortable. I have learned so much from my co-workers, who can listen in productive ways and welcome people into their lives."

Andrea Horsch directed the day-to-day operations of The Timothy House for ten years and now serves in a leadership role on the Administrative team. She did her Summer Service Internship in 2002. Andrea shared, "I heard my whole life that if I wanted to be 'successful' I should get out of southeast Ohio. That summer at Good Works I met people for the first time in my life who had come to this area on purpose. They saw something good in the people here and loved them with the love of God. It filled me with hope and made me believe that I could make a difference if I stayed."

There are four questions we encourage people to ask as they explore making a commitment to a Good Works internship or staff position: (1) Can I learn something from these people? (2) Are these the kind of people I believe can learn something from me? (3) Is this organization *as* concerned about my growth and development as it is the people it reaches out to serve? (4) Can I get healing here too? These questions are all about the kind of environment what will sustain people over many years.

In the NEWS...

- The Timothy House is experiencing a very high volume of calls from people who have no home. The staff is attempting to discern each situation and navigate it alongside the commitments we have already made. We continue to ask, "What is the most loving thing?" Please pray for us because we all want to do what is right and just and merciful in the wisdom that comes through humility.
- The Transformation Station recently provided car #160 to one of our neighbors. He had the joy of celebrating his 51st wedding anniversary and receiving his car on the same day. We are so grateful for the mutually enriching relationship we formed with him. We continue to be thankful for the *many* people who have donated vehicles over the years.
- What a gift!! We have had steady donations of produce this summer, putting fresh fruits and veggies on the table at the Timothy House and Summer Lunch, and we have also been able to send some extra home as "take home food" for participants in Friday Night Life. Good Works provides around 21,000 meals a year and our desire is to provide healthy, nutritious and tasty food to those we serve.

The needs that we see here in rural Ohio continue to be greater than we can meet, but we strive to do our part. We pray "*Lord, help us to faithfully do our part and to do it well.*" Thank you for the way you provide support for us—your financial gifts, your donations of food and supplies, of vehicles, and for all of your prayers and encouragement!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman