

# Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope

*Celebrating 34 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 2015

Greeting with gratitude! We are coming to the end of our 35<sup>th</sup> year and continue to feel so grateful that we have been given this grace from God to love and serve so many people over the years.

About 12 years ago, Good Works started experimenting with a sweat equity model to benefit people in poverty: participants give of their time and skills, and in exchange they receive a needed resource such as a vehicle, large appliance, bicycle or box of non-emergency food. We call the initiative the *Transformation Station (TS)*, and count it a privilege to be the conduit of so much blessing! Since 2004, 143 families have given us working vehicles, and 143 individuals have served with us for a season and driven away with a much-needed car. Ralph was one such volunteer.

He says, “I put in an application for a vehicle a long time ago. The day before they called me [to start volunteering], my car blew up.” As a TS volunteer, Ralph stacked wood, cut grass, built decks, patched roofs, moved gravel, dug ditches, built shelves at the Timothy House...in his words, “basically anything for anyone who needed it.”

“I got a Dodge Caravan about 5 months ago and I’ve gotten nothing but good service with it. I liked the program and the people I was meeting so well that now I come down every Thursday on a volunteer basis. I’m looking forward to coming down tomorrow!”

Serving others runs in Ralph’s blood; for years prior, he worked with youth at a local boxing club. He feels he has a little bit of wisdom to offer the next generation: “I did a lot of crazy stuff when I was younger. Then I started to have my own kids and wanted to change my life. I wanted to help people. When I came down and met everybody, I knew I wanted to stay if they would have me. I want to contribute my time.”

Terri Woodson, who interviews and schedules all of our TS volunteers, says this is a theme with many participants: “People want to give their time. They will say something like, ‘If you need me, just call me!’” She has noticed that volunteers are especially motivated and encouraged when they can find their niche while serving. For some, that is organizing the food pantry, cooking a meal, or using a special skill. “We open the door to allow them to recognize that they have worth and value. That just lights them up! These people have skills and gifts and they are more than willing to come out here and use them.”

The generosity of the larger community is what makes the vision of the Transformation Station possible. Jim Todd, who works with many TS volunteers, wants our supporters to know this: “Every little bit helps. Every little bit counts.”

**GIVE A HAND UP to a family in need by donating your used vehicle! To learn more...**

- View a video about the TS on our website: [www.goodworks.net](http://www.goodworks.net)
- Contact Paul Richard at 740.594.3336 or [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net)

**Consider giving by the end of the year to receive a tax-deduction for 2015!**

We are also seeking the following items in good, working condition: washing machines, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, stoves/ovens, air-conditioners and bicycles. Items are not resold, but provided to a family in need in exchange for their service.

**IN THE NEWS...**

- Seventeen different weekend and weeklong **Work Retreat** groups from all over Ohio participated with us this fall. That brings the total to 46 groups and 493 volunteers for 2015! Consider bringing a group in 2016 to serve, learn and grow in compassion!
- Emily Loosli, a student and Albert Schweitzer Fellow from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine has been organizing a health initiative with our **Friday Night Life Kids' Club**. Currently the "Happy Healthy Hooligans" are learning about dental care!
- It's bedtime for **Good Works Gardens!** Earlier this year, our Teen Ag Interns worked 17 different gardens at the homes of seniors and people with disabilities, in addition to two gardens on our properties. This fall, staff member Doug Schmaltz and many different teams of volunteers have been shoveling a lot of manure, putting these gardens to bed well so that the 2016 growing season will yield a fruitful harvest.
- We are actively recruiting for our **Summer Service 2016** internship. This Christian leadership development experience involves serving in a variety of contexts and living in community in the Hannah House. A stipend is provided. See our website for more info!
- Our 14<sup>th</sup> annual **Good Works WALK** is coming up on Saturday, February 20, 2016. Consider joining us that morning and bringing a friend! The WALK is both an interactive learning experience and a fundraiser for our home for people without homes, the Timothy House.

In closing, I want to say again how grateful we continue to be for your generosity and God's provision as we carry out the mission of Good Works. THANK YOU for giving of your time, material resources and funds to form and support the Community of HOPE!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

PS: If you would like to give creatively this Christmas, you can donate to Good Works in honor of a person you care about. We will send the person of your choice a special card of recognition. For more information, visit our website!