

Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope

Celebrating 36 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)*

February 2017

Dear Friends,

We have completed another year together, and a new one is under way! We have tried to be faithful in 2016 to hold out warmth and hope during seasons of loneliness and discouragement in our neighbors’ lives, and we plan, by the grace of God, to do the same in 2017.

Good Works formed in 1981 when Keith and some of his friends began taking people who had nowhere else to go into the basement of his home. For 36 years now, this community has extended hospitality to people without homes. While our mission has deepened and expanded into other areas, it has not shifted away from this form of hospitality, which is at the heart of Good Works.

One hundred and twenty people stayed at the Timothy House in the past year. Thirty-one of them were children! We provided 3,642 nights of shelter, meaning that in our history, Good Works has provided more than 110,000 total nights. This is an every-day mission—to maintain a structure that people without homes can enter and build on as a foundation for their future. Carrying it out has everything to do with faithfully guarding the dignity that is present in every human being.

Our community makes a commitment when we welcome someone—a commitment that someone will be present when the house is open to keep order, a commitment to listen, and a commitment to keep our word and treat everyone with fairness. *Our goal for the Timothy House is that it would be a safe, clean, stable, temporary, but home-like place for people to be while they work on the issues in their lives that led to homelessness.*

Safety really is the foundation. So many people come to us from situations and relationships that make them anxious every day. Their sense of who they are gets torn down. We do everything in our power to be safe people who work together to create an atmosphere of safety: not to turn away from someone’s tears, but to cry with them; not to wither someone’s hopes, but to give them space to dream.

What it means for the house to be clean has been evolving in recent years. Of course we want the facility to be tidy and for residents who live in it to take a large part of the responsibility for that cleanliness. But as the prevalence of drug abuse has soared in southeast Ohio, we have found the need to also increase our diligence in making sure that people living in the house are sober, safe, and not engaging in behaviors that put their housemates at risk. This is often the source of greatest stress to the staff, because it means that we say “no” to some people so that our “yes” actually lifts individuals and families into a better situation.

Home-like settings, at their best, evoke the reassurance that people are known, understood, and loved. While the leadership of the Timothy House can set this tone, it's our volunteers who flesh this out, who drink gallons of coffee and play hours of board games. Who hold babies and listen to jokes. Who share their family life by bringing their own children to the Timothy House. Who, by volunteering their time communicate that our residents are worth *their* time.

The staff of the Timothy House, who are there every day, are remarkably loving people, who delight in showing mercy and also have the backbone to fight for justice. The weight of the responsibility we take on when the care-giving team grants someone shelter is tremendous, but the joy of discovering the uniqueness of each person shouldn't be overlooked! We don't run a shelter for homeless people. We stopped doing that a long time ago. We form a home with individuals and families who don't have another home. – Andrea Horsch

Andrea Horsch began her relationship with Good Works as an intern in 2002 and joined the staff in 2005. She directed the day-to-day operations of the Timothy House for about 10 years before transitioning to a wider leadership role.

WHAT IS HAPPENING

- JOIN US for the 15th annual **Good Works WALK** scheduled for Saturday, February 18th from 8:30am-1:00pm. This is a big deal for us, and we need your support. We have five WALK experiences planned, and our hope is to raise \$60,000.00, which accounts for about 1/3 of the total costs to operate The Timothy House! www.goodworkswalk.net
- Know someone who has a passion for agriculture? In March, we will launch a NEW internship called **Hallowed Ground**. Under the leadership of Doug Schmaltz, we will provide an educational “hands on” experience during this 9-month residential internship. Interns will work with 15-17 gardens, help supervise our summer teen agricultural internship, and meet regularly for conversation about growing food and friendships with people who experience poverty. More details on our website under “internships.”
- We are also receiving applications for our 20th year of **Summer Service** (June 11 through August 12). This 9-week internship focuses on leadership development as we host visiting groups every week who come to serve as “Work Retreats.” Know someone who might want to explore this?
- The **Transformation Station** has provided car #155. Transportation is often a key to stable employment. Know someone who might donate their car to Good Works this year?
- **Friday Night Life** has entered year #24. We began FNL in 1993 by inviting people who stayed at The Timothy House to come back for dinner on Friday Nights in the hope of building long-term relationships. About 50 groups sponsored Friday Night Life last year, and I am amazed and encouraged to see so many people “step up!” Know someone who might want to sponsor one FNL this year?
- **NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS** is one of our many initiatives to “*connect people from all walks of life with people in poverty so that the Kingdom of God can be experienced.*” During 2016, we visited and served 61 families or individuals, and led about 225 different projects at their homes! It was a good year!

Gratitude is an appropriate way to transition from one year to the next—from one season to another. Gratitude sets a boundary around my heart, and creates a lens through which I see the world. Gratitude is also a door through which generosity is released. I am especially grateful for each person who reads our newsletters and follows our journey as we press on into another year of loving God and loving our neighbors. This continues to feel like the right thing to DO.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman