

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
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)

Summer greetings with gratitude!

July, 2016

As you read this, we are "in the thick" of our most intense season—Summer Kids Discovery Club, Summer Lunch, two teen summer internships, and a different Work Retreat Group coming every week through August 5th. This is a challenging but very joyful season for all of us. Lots of adventure, lots of excitement, and lots of hope to spread around! It feels good to be invited into many different opportunities to SEE people impacted and changed every day.

One of the core values of our community is that relationships are at the center of our vision and purpose. Much of the *work* of Good Works is to provide shelter, repair the homes of older people, or give people opportunities to earn things they need. While it is right and good to do all of these things, so much of the *goodness* of Good Works comes from this value: the most important way we can spend our time and energy is on building loving relationships. This happens through every Good Works initiative and especially through the Timothy House.

Waylon Rogers works full time as a care-giver at the Timothy House; our home for people without homes in Athens and eight surrounding southeast Ohio counties. "Care-giver" describes Waylon's personality and his day-to-day responsibilities. He plays a crucial part in running the activities of the House and meets with residents one on one through the course of their stay. He says, "I see myself as someone who is put in a place of power, but my role is to provide accountability—someone they can share their life with, and someone who is there to connect them to our community."

At the Timothy House, there is no end to the chores or tasks that could occupy a staff person's time, but Waylon makes an intentional effort to set tasks aside in order to spend time with residents living in the house. During this most recent season, that has meant pitching in to cook dinner, taking the time to laugh with people, and refereeing the occasional heated card game.

Waylon describes it this way, "If someone is looking for a case manager, they will find it—someone who can help them figure out a plan for housing. But we are seeing people on a far closer level. We're there when they're getting their morning coffee and before they go to bed at night. Because of that, our relationships are more about being part of their lives. Being present *with* people is really important. We tend to forget that when we aren't willing to be connected in a relationship. This is weird to talk about because this is just what I do. People aren't checklists."

Jack is working two jobs and raising two very bright, and handsome, elementary school aged sons on his own. He came to the Timothy House after exhausting his options and resources while living outside of town and looking for work. Jack struggled for reliable transportation and a good answer to the question, "Who will be with my kids when I'm at work?"

While Waylon mostly got to know Jack in a care-giving relationship, today their relationship is more mutual. Waylon says, "Being in people's lives means we are willing to share in what's important to them." Early on, Waylon and Jack discovered they have a lot of those important things in common—from nature to movies, Jesus to cooking. After Jack and his sons moved from the Timothy House into their own apartment in town, Waylon got the blessing of his co-workers to initiate some more time together with Jack.

They come together for meals sometimes, and have become part of the same church community. Jack has found good connections with other parents in that church setting, as well as people who are happy to spend time with his kids. Today, Jack puts his passions to work—cooking at one of his jobs, and at the other, supporting people in their mental health. Jack and Waylon are two warm, encouraging people, who happily see the goodness in each other; they are friends.



Good Works moved from the basement of the Wasserman's home on Elliott Street to the Central Avenue property in 1984. This facility was named "The Timothy House" in 1999. This home has 4 bedrooms and can accommodate up to 15 adults and children. The house has a kitchen, an "eating and meeting" room and two offices. Residents of the Timothy House do most of the cooking and cleaning, participate in two weekly "House Meetings" and are given daily chores. Caregivers meet regularly with each resident/ family to work through the different issues they are struggling with. The Timothy House has "home rules" and the structure has a curfew, eating times and expectations regarding cleanliness, communication and community living. Around 60 different people volunteer at The Timothy House each month during the week, on the weekends and through internships.

IN THE NEWS

- **Appalachian Immersion** is our residential internship for anyone seeking to grow in their skills, knowledge, and character while serving people struggling with poverty. It is especially focused on those who are filling a "gap year." Do you know someone who might benefit from a four or nine-month internship with Good Works?
- We have 17 interns this summer, which include our college age and teen internships. We feel a strong sense of responsibility towards each person's development and safety. We are very thankful to those who contributed to Good Works and enabled us to have the resources to invest our time into the growth and development of this **next generation of leaders**.
- On Saturday November 12th, the staff of Good Works will be sponsoring a one-day seminar called **GOING DEEPER**. This is an opportunity to learn from our community on many subjects around loving our neighbors. We hope you will consider coming!
- Under the leadership of Buddy Ballard, a current GW staff member and former resident of the Timothy House (2009), we have just completed an eight-week series on Friday Nights called ***Life's Healing Choices***. Each week a group of people gathered during Friday Night Life for a one-hour video and discussion session.
- Our campus organization, **Service Living**, completed year #8 this spring, with students volunteering in different weekly "transformation groups." This Good Works initiative will become autonomous and take on a new name, "SERVE Athens County" this fall.

I feel so grateful for the sense of unity that we are experiencing right now with the people we get to serve and partner with from so many diverse backgrounds. We feel this incredible strength as we work together, extending ourselves to help people in vulnerable situations. The kinds of relationships we are able to experience are so rich. Thank you for supporting us while we take time to BE present with people.

Love is a verb,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kw'.

Keith Wasserman