

# Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

*Celebrating 35 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)*

Hello Friends,

June 2016

Spring rains and spring flowers are here—blanketing Athens County in their fresh, clean smells that say, "Summer is coming!" At Good Works we are actively preparing for our most intense season of the year—Summer Service. During this summer we will welcome many new interns who will provide leadership to seven week-long work retreat groups coming from Kansas, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Ohio. When these groups come to partner with us, they think of themselves as "Work Groups," but we receive them as "*Worship Teams*."

*Worship Teams*? Some people think of songs sung together in a church building on a Sunday morning when we hear that word. Other people may think of liturgy and incense. Worship can be perceived as something separate, set aside, special, and it can be. But is that all? If I can't sing, am I bad at worship? How can I worship with my heart, my head, my hands?

If worship is bigger than singing, the settings of worship must be more expansive than a building. When we love and care for our neighbors, this too is an offering of worship. Why? Because it comes from the heart, and when we reach out to someone who is vulnerable, we are participating in God's good will for that person. It is, in fact, one of the most sincere ways that we can express our love for God. We want the gracious love we receive from God to overflow into the lives of those around us.

When Buddy, who works with Neighbors Helping Neighbors, takes volunteers of different skill levels out to the home of an older adult to build a wheelchair accessible ramp, this is done as an act of worship! The team tunes their hearts and picks up hammers, saws, drills and two-by-fours; tools are transformed into instruments of praise. Together, they make a gift for one of our neighbors that meets a great need in that person's life. Their resulting craftsmanship is often beautiful as well as functional. They make an offering of praise to God—they have set aside time, expended thought, energy, and work in order to do something good, and to love someone in a beautiful way.

Many people discover this idea: when I am serving others, I feel like I am doing what I was made to do. Indeed, I would affirm that rendering help in this way is an active, fervent, and vital expression of devotion—one as pleasant as any song, as sweet as any incense. "...Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18).

Is worship singing? Yes, and so much more! What other gifts do we have that can be put into service? In what other ways can we come together in unity and harmony to love God and love our neighbors?

- Andrea Horsch

## IN THE NEWS....

- Several years ago, we renamed our Solitude Retreat Cabin “Carter Cabin” after our beloved friend and former staff Bob Carter, who died in 2012. The Cabin was developed to create space for anyone who desires a time of rest and solitude. It is free. Maybe you know someone who might benefit from this.
- This spring we are going through several staff transitions:
  - Anne Wilson recently transitioned off the full time staff. Anne started as a summer intern in 2003 and returned to join the fulltime staff in 2007. We feel so grateful for the nine years that Anne spent here.
  - Andrew Bissell is transitioning off the staff to return to study at Ohio University after a seven-year connection with Good Works. Andrew started as a student with Service Living, and then joined the Appalachian Immersion Internship before moving to the full-time staff.
  - This month Timothy Wasserman moves from the part-time staff to the full-time staff working with Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Friday Night Life.
- A new edition of GOOD WORKS BY THE NUMBERS is posted on our website under What’s Happening Now. This document offers some perspective on the scope of our ministry over the past year. We can also email you a copy.
- Good Works provided car #148 to a participant in the Transformation Station recently. We continue to be excited to work alongside some really amazing people, who volunteer to serve others and receive a desperately needed vehicle! Participants can also earn appliances, bicycles, furniture, and non-emergency food.
- We need some help! We are seeking groups to organize a non-perishable food drive and/or a frozen food drive for Good Works.
- We just updated our needs list. If you’d like to explore practical ways to assist us, take a look, visit our website or we can send you a needs list.
- We are seeking volunteers to step into some leadership roles with our kids at Friday Night Life. On an average Friday night, we have 35-40 kids. Know someone who might want to volunteer once a week with kids?

As you read this month’s newsletter, we are launching our 18<sup>th</sup> year of Summer Service. We are so excited to host what we expect to be around seven full-time interns, seven week-long Work Retreat groups, two summer internship opportunities for teens, and our daily Kids’ Discovery Club and community lunch. THANK YOU for supporting us as we extend ourselves into the lives of people who really appreciate and benefit from this love, which is in our hearts.

Love is a verb,

Keith Wasserman



**Carter Cabin**



**Friday Night Life & Kids Club**