

Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope

Celebrating 36 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)*

Dear Friends,

July 2017

Hello from Good Works! Our Summer Service season is well under way on this beautiful, sunny day. The Good Works property is abuzz with Work Retreat members, Transformation Station Volunteers, and Summer Interns, as well as teen interns from around Athens County.

While half of our mission is to reach out to widows, people without homes, and children in poverty, the other half is to invite others into transformational relationships *with* us. There are some things in life that cannot be learned through classroom lectures, books or sermons. There are things that require us to say, “Come along with me, and we will do this together.”

At Good Works this exchange of knowledge and experience comes in the form of hundreds of introductions each year. It looks like a staff member saying, “Come with me,” as she brings a new student volunteer to have dinner with residents at the Timothy House. It looks like an intern introducing teenagers, who are on their first mission trip, to the widow whose plumbing they will spend the week fixing. It looks like a staff member leading a teen intern and a Transformation Station volunteer in cooking Summer Lunch together. Developing people to be able to care for their neighbors requires a launching place, and we strive to be such a community—one that will invest deeply in the people who want to join us in our mission, learn together, and carry what they learn into the future.

At Good Works, mentoring into defined relationships is especially focused in the form of internships—in which people, primarily young people, join our community as learners for a season. This past year, a student completed an internship that spanned the school year. She worked in the Timothy House and also served alongside Transformation Station volunteers. As she reflected on her experience she said, “I came in with the idea that this experience would help me grow as a Christian. I didn’t expect it to have such an impact on my life. This internship has shown me how there’s mercy, kindness and grace—not only in God, but also in *us* that we are able to give. It comes out in how we treat people with dignity and respect.”

Facilitating growth in people who are exploring their calling, vocation and lifestyle of service is one of the great privileges of our community! The Psalmist writes, “One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts” (Psalm 145:4). The psalm goes on to praise God for providing for the needs of people, for being compassionate, and lifting up those who fall down.

In this way, investing in young people is also an investment in the kind of future we hope for: a future full of compassion, in which those who fall down are lifted up. There are many people who want to learn; whose hearts are fertile soil for seeds of dignity, mutuality, hope and respect. As we bring people along, raise them up and prepare them for these responsibilities that God trusts us with, we have an opportunity to multiply good not just for today, but also into a fruitful future.

IN THE NEWS...

- This summer we have 15 interns serving with Good Works. We are very intentional (and grateful) with the opportunities we have to pour into them, encourage them and help them grow!
- We are feeling very stretched! Our Summer Kids Discovery Club is the largest group we've seen in years, with 51 kids registered, and our Summer Lunch is also well attended. We continue to step out in faith and rely upon the community to supply the food we need to provide 60-80 meals every day.
- Each year, Good Works hosts about 40 different short-term mission teams (which we call Work Retreats). These groups come from Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana and other surrounding states. On an average year, half of these groups result from partnerships that have been established over many years. Many groups come for weekends in the fall and spring, but the summer groups are all week-long. They stay in the dorms inside the Hannah House and work along side of our staff and interns as we travel to the homes of widows and others in need to build retaining walls, mow lawns, and complete a variety of labor-intensive projects for our older neighbors.
- The Timothy House screens everyone seeking shelter through the phone and a face-to-face interview. As a result, the house is much more stable and predictable. On any given evening this summer, there are up to 20 different people around the dinner table, between residents, staff and volunteers. Children living at the house with their parents can make meal times especially lively, and also make the house feel like a home.
- LifeTogether is a community we formed last fall that meets on the Good Works property every Sunday from 5-7 pm. We gather for liturgical worship, spontaneous sharing and a meal together. We are so thankful for the opportunity to share time in God's presence with participants and recipients of the Good Works initiatives! It gives us great JOY to provide an avenue for current and former residents of The Timothy House, participants in Friday Night Life and the Transformation Station to share the new and good things God is doing in their lives.
- Ever thought about organizing a group of 7-14 people to sponsor one Friday Night Life? Maybe you have sponsored and want to "step up to the plate" again? This fall we are planning several educational presentations/discussions on issues related to health care with the Friday Night Life community.

IN CLOSING I would reach out to ask for you to pray for me. I am experiencing some difficulties navigating my many responsibilities. I want to be faithful. I want to keep my word. I want all of us to be faithful and to keep our word. Please pray that our commitment to integrity would keep growing, and that we would continue to be trustworthy with the people, resources and vision that God has given us. Most summers, we all feel stretched and this summer is no different. If you are able to participate with us and encourage us with your time or resources, THANK YOU!

Love is a verb,

Keith Wasserman

