

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)*

Hello friends!

May 2015

In our community we often say, "What we do emerges from who we are." Today you have the opportunity to learn about Good Works from the perspective of two long-term staff members, Jim Todd and Andrea Horsch (pictured below). Both are native to Southeast Ohio, and have invested their personal integrity into the mission of Good Works for a long time– each for more than 10 years.

An Example of Humility

Intermixed with his formal roles of Transformation Station Manager and facility maintenance, Jim has a ministry of encouragement. "I strive to support," he says. "My success is when the other staff don't have to think about a light switch not working or a car not working, so they can do their jobs and do it well." Jim has been on staff twice, first from 1999 to 2001, and a second stint from 2007 to the present. Prior to that, he initially met Good Works community while a resident of the Timothy House.



These days, you'll find Jim in the big green building called the Transformation Station with the radio on. Surrounded by small engines and the smell of gasoline, he'll be conversing with a volunteer or working on a project. Or, he may be on his way to the Timothy House to respond to an emergency plumbing need– with smile! Most Transformation Station volunteers work with Jim at one time or another, and are blessed. He enjoys watching folks come for one reason– the resource they need– and leave impacted by how warmly they were received and the relationships they built.

Reflecting on formative moments in his time in the community, Jim says, "What stands out most is the character-building aspect of Good Works. So many different people have been part of the sanding process." In particular, working out forgiveness and giving forgiveness face-to-face has been significant to him. "I still don't like to get called out– it's not comfortable. But when someone gives me a correction, I need to look at *me*. I have learned that responsibility is acknowledging my mistake and having it in my mind that I won't do it again." Jim believes it is the Holy Spirit who sustains him in his work, and his daily prayer is, "God help me today because I ain't doing it on my own. God help me do this job."

Hope for Redemption

Andrea Horsch first came to Good Works in 2002 as a Summer Intern, and joined the staff full-time in 2005. She currently serves as Director of Care-giving at the Timothy House, and works to form a nurturing community and home for people without a home. Andrea says, "I do what I do because I have hope that things can be better and I feel like God renews that hope often."



Reflecting on how her story intersects with the Good Works community, Andrea relates, "I often immediately think of my grandmother. She did the best she could with what she had and raised five children in poverty. They didn't have what they needed, like food and clothing. I think about her life and the way she loved the Lord and struggled to find a community that would be kind and accepting toward her. I hope that Good Works can be an easy and accepting entry point into the kingdom and into the body of Christ."

In Andrea's work at the Timothy House, she has many opportunities to seek redemptive outcomes in difficult situations. She reflects, "I want us to be the sort of people who it is easy to tell the truth to. We want to give people the opportunity to do the good thing here."

Like Jim, Andrea plays an essential role in the community, and being from Southeast Ohio is an asset. Andrea says, "I often think of myself as a translator... I have a role with old and new staff helping them to discover what in Appalachian culture is beautiful and good, what God wants to redeem, and what he wants to set us free from." In his book *Cry, the Beloved Country*, Alan Paton describes the rich South African countryside in these words: "Stand unshod upon it, for the ground is holy, being even as it came from the Creator." Andrea believes the same can be said of our Appalachian hills, and continues to be motivated by these deep loves for God, her neighbor, and this place. – *Dawn Tobin*

Summer Service 2015 & Other News...

- Over the last few months, we have been interviewing college-age students for our Summer Service Internship that begins in June. They will provide leadership for the 9 different Work Retreat groups coming from New Hampshire, Ohio, Kentucky, Maryland, Illinois and North Carolina! In addition, six Week of Service volunteers will be participating with us throughout the summer. You are invited to consider a Week of Service with us sometime!
- Soon we will have the privilege of interviewing 14 to 17 year olds for our Teen Agricultural and Kingdom Internships, both 7-week experiences. We are stepping out in faith once again, trusting God and God's people to supply the resources we need. We are planning for seven weeks of Summer Kids' Discovery Club, Summer Lunch, in addition to an increased focus on Neighbors Helping Neighbors.
- Our gardens are going strong! Last year we established a total of 19 gardens, most at the homes of those we serve through Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Doug Schmaltz continues to lead this initiative, connecting volunteers with our friends in the county.
- In partnership with some Ohio University students, we created several NEW videos. They highlight the Transformation Station, Neighbors Helping Neighbors and the Good Works WALK. You can view them on our websites!
- Keith and Darlene Wasserman continue to operate Sign of Hope out of their home. Beginning in 2013, their vision has been to provide temporary housing to people the Timothy House can't accommodate due to lack of space. They have two bedrooms set aside for this purpose (Isaiah 58:7).

IN CLOSING: REJOICE with us as we witness the on-going transformation of many people's lives (including ours) as we continue to provide **welcome** and love and care to people who seek our help. We are inspired by this grace to press on and we hope you are too.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined the things that God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)