

Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope

Celebrating 34 Years!



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*“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)*

May 2015



Dear friends,

Greetings with gratitude to each of you! As you read this letter, I encourage you to make a brief “immersion” into the Good Works Community of HOPE.

To do so, we’ll need two tools to equip us for the journey: 1) The Learner Hat: Wearing this hat implies that we see ourselves primarily as learners rather than experts. 2) A New Set of Glasses: These specs are for seeing people as God sees them (see Matthew 9:36). Do we see ourselves and others through the lens of compassion or judgment? Ponder this.

Now that we are outfitted, on we go! The focus of Good Works is simply to love God and love our neighbors here in Southeast Ohio. Out of this humble vision, beautiful things keep happening! I caught a glimpse of it yesterday as Jeff, who formerly lived at the Timothy House, volunteered alongside members of a Work Retreat group for the day. Sandwiched between a morning and afternoon of gardening, fixing water lines and visiting with elderly neighbors, was a healthy lunch shared in community. Several staples of life were provided here: food, friendship, and WORK.

Jeff still has financial needs, but his identity is no longer defined as “client” or “recipient.” He is a member, a participant. He is one of many others who has found a place of belonging and contribution in this community. It could be argued that one of the greatest needs of the poor is to be needed - to be given the opportunity to provide for themselves and others.

This summer we hope to offer part-time employment to someone who has previously received assistance from Good Works. Making this kind of opportunity available gives us a lot of joy, and we invite you to join in by investing financially in Summer Service 2015! Here is what it is all about:

I MADE THE WIDOW’S HEART SING...

This summer, our Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative will go into high gear. We plan to welcome over 100 volunteers from 7 different churches located in Ohio, Kentucky, Maryland and North Carolina. Each group will stay at the Hannah House for a week, and we will send them out all over the county to serve senior citizens who are experiencing poverty, are widowed or have a

disability. In addition to building relationships with our neighbors, these volunteers will bless them with needed practical help on their homes and properties. This is our 20th year of facilitating service experiences for groups.

Young and old will come together as our Teen Agricultural Interns help us maintain 16 gardens at the homes of seniors, in addition to several community gardens. This is our 7th year of offering this paid internship for local teens that focuses on service and character-development. These teens are unlikely to receive other summer employment.

I WAS A FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS...

We invest in kids and teens all year long through Friday Night Life, and do so in an additional way each summer. Our Kids' Discovery Club is a free day camp for children ages 5 to 12 held Monday through Friday for 7 weeks. Led by a team of staff, interns, volunteers and a number of one-time presenters, our young participants get to have a blast and learn a lot about themselves, the world, and the God who loves them. We end the day with a hot lunch that is free and open to adults in the community.

I TOOK UP THE CASE OF THE STRANGER...

The Timothy House is often a very busy place in the summer with adults and children of all ages living together in a temporary community. People often come as strangers to one another and leave as friends. This summer, we will again provide opportunities for volunteers and interns to give to and receive from the people who are living at the Timothy House. Members of our Work Retreat groups, individuals participating in Week of Service, and our college age interns often build trusting and transformational relationships with the people we are providing shelter to.

IN CLOSING, I want to ask you to support, encourage and contribute to our vision. Would you help us as we create and facilitate these and other initiatives for those in need and those who are planning to serve with us? This summer requires a significant step-up for us financially and we are asking our friends who believe in our mission to come alongside and help us fulfill what we believe we have been called to do. As you may know, we are an entirely donor based non-profit organization.

Here are a few ways you can help:

- Send a gift of any amount in the enclosed envelope.
- Make a secure online donation via our website at www.good-works.net
- Organize a group to collect things we need for our summer initiatives.
Contact us, and we can send you our current needs list.

As we prepare for yet another season of intentionally reaching out to the people in rural Appalachia we have come to love, I am reminded of this grace, this "trust" that we have with you and I want to thank you for your prayers, your love, and your kindness. Amen.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

PS: If you are thinking of visiting us this spring or summer, we want you to know that we would be delighted to receive you!