

Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 36 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)*

Dear Friends,

May 2017

Greetings to you on this beautiful, sunny day! Trees are budding, and flowers are blooming in Athens. The birds that make a home in the woods on the Good Works Property are active and seem to be singing every minute of the day. We are enjoying visits from creatures big and small from chipmunks to white tailed deer and entire families of rabbits. Everything seems to awaken with spring!

While spring holds its own good work to be done, and this is a busy season for us, this is also a time of preparation as we look forward to a fruitful summer. 2017 will be the 20th year of Summer Service—a season of great activity in which we accelerate our service and multiply connecting points in the community. This summer, we hope to bring on six to eight college-aged interns who will live in community in the Hannah House, receive training, and be sent out to meet, serve, love, and build relationships with our neighbors in a variety of contexts. These interns will also lead the seven weeklong Work Retreat groups who come to learn and serve alongside us.

Over the summer, we have the opportunity to do more labor-intensive service for some of our older neighbors at their homes through Neighbors Helping Neighbors. The leadership of summer interns makes these opportunities accessible for Work Retreat members. The Teen Agriculture Internship (now in year 9) is another connecting point with many of these same older neighbors, as we bring on local teens that join us in the planting and maintenance of gardens at our neighbors' homes.

Through Summer Kids' Discovery Club (starting year 10 this summer), kids from different walks of life are led in activities by staff and interns, as well as many different volunteer presenters from the area (50 last summer!) who share anything from music lessons to pony rides during this five-day-a-week day camp. For every day of these seven weeks, we also provide Summer Lunch for anyone who wants to come, and what we find is that people of all different ages come together in friendly, respectful relationships around delicious food.

Summer Service gives everyone involved a way to build our futures on a firm foundation, as we don't just study what scripture has to say about loving God and our neighbors, but learn how to put it into practice together (Matthew 7:24). This is a season ripe with opportunities to put faith into action, and I believe our interns find it to be so. They try new things and are entrusted with responsibility as they are put into situations in which they must grow. They take risks in faith as volunteers, kids and local teen interns are looking to them for guidance. In this process, many of them are testing out their sense of calling for the future. All of them discover and develop their own strengths as leaders.

In closing I want to say this: THANK YOU to each of you who sustain us financially, and enable us to DO what I have written about above. If you are not already supporting Good Works, would you please consider making a contribution now?

We are again stepping out in faith with a vision to *make the widows heart sing, take up the cause of the stranger* and somehow, some way be a presence for GOOD in the lives of many *children* who are often caught in the cross-fire of poverty and circumstances beyond their control. The vision of Good Works is primarily a vision for transformational relationships, where we learn the importance of being present in people's lives; where trust is developed; where significant needs of food, shelter and companionship are met; and where the people we are serving are invited into a place of service with us. This is the pathway of HOPE.

And so I ask. We need those who believe in our vision, mission and integrity to walk alongside of us as we extend ourselves this summer. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

More ways to help...

- As you may already know, Good Works provides more than 21,000 meals each year to people who struggle with hunger. All the food for our Summer Lunch (1700 meals last summer) is donated. Darlene Wasserman is very creative as she prepares food each day with the help of volunteers. Can you provide a gift card from Kroger, Wal-Mart or Piggly Wiggly?
- Do you know someone you can encourage to do a food drive for GW this year? We provide "take-home" food every Friday to an average of 40 families, many of whom struggle with food insecurity and live in "food deserts."
- You can give to Good Works through Network For Good on our website. It is easy and safe. Visit www.good-works.net and click on "Make a Donation."
- Maybe you'd like to visit and encourage us this summer. We are glad to host you for an afternoon, evening or overnight. We often host small groups and lead tours of our properties. We also welcome Week of Service volunteers. For more information, visit our website or email us!
- For more than 20 years, Good Works has offered residential internship opportunities. Appalachian Immersion is a 4 to 12 month experience geared for people who want to live in Christian community while they grow in service. We are seeking applicants interested in exploring this. Maybe you know someone. More information is on our website under "Internships."



The Good Works Staff gather together several times a week for a time of sharing, community building, education and prayer. Everyone comes together on Tuesday morning and Friday afternoon to encourage each other, offer affirmation and talk about what is happening in their particular areas of ministry. This photo was taken on the deck next to the Hope Center.