

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)*

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Dear friends,

Have you considered the fact that when you give to Good Works, you are not only providing people in need with tangible help, but you are also creating opportunities for ordinary people to love *their* neighbors?

Half of our mission is to provide care for widows, people without homes and children in poverty. The other half is to create avenues for people from all walks of life to do this with us.

The truth is most of us do not need more information about the problems in the world. We need to meet a person face-to-face, hear their story, and grow in real empathy for their struggles. We need models and starting places for *how* to truly help our neighbors who are going through very difficult circumstances. This is the type of context we seek to provide.

THE WORD LOVE

“I wanted to help people but I didn’t know how,” shares Wes Marsh who began volunteering about seven years ago. “Good Works gave me an outlet.”

Wes serves at the Timothy House one evening a week from 4:45 to 9 pm. After being briefed in by the staff, he helps get dinner on the table, enjoys conversation with the residents, takes calls for shelter, and supports the staff in numerous ways throughout the night.

“What I have received from Good Works is encouragement,” reflects Wes. “This experience brought me out of my fears of reaching out and of being rejected. Good Works provides a safe place.” 1 John 3:18 says: “Let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.” Good Works wants to create this kind of environment.

Each year, we receive about 1,100 different volunteers from many different backgrounds and walks of life. In Wes’ case, his faith motivated him to serve. He says, “We are called to love God and love others. The Timothy House has challenged me to love people in difficult contexts, ones that are different than I am used to. There are times when a person’s faith doesn’t match their walk. My life was like that, too.”

“The word love comes to mind. Jesus really does love you and has called you to love others. Sometimes people are very difficult to love. This is what we are called to.”

Wes sees the residents at the Timothy House as “broken people, just like me. Not *more* broken than me, but *as* broken as me.” He believes this perspective impacts the way he relates. “We can walk side by side and help each other.”

Did you know that Good Works offers over 30 different ways for people to serve their neighbors? You can visit senior citizens, teach computer classes, provide transportation, cook food, work with your hands, share music... the possibilities are as great as your talents! We are currently seeking volunteers to serve at the Timothy House.

To learn more, visit www.good-works.net and click on “Volunteer Opportunities.”

IN THE NEWS...

- **THE TRANSFORMATION STATION:** Last week we provided car #140! More specifically, a local mom with several kids was able to earn a seven-passenger van to be able to transport her family. She is excited to not only be able to drive her own children, but other family members and neighbors as well. We believe the impact of these vehicles is far reaching—changing the life of not only one person, but a network of people. Transportation barriers continue to distinguish rural poverty from urban poverty, making resources and employment harder to access for people in rural areas.
- The nationwide phenomenon of generosity called **GIVING TUESDAY** is coming up on December 1st. If it gives you joy to give online in this way, please remember Good Works this year, or consider honoring a family member or friend by giving a gift to Good Works in their name. We will send that person a card telling them about how your gift to Good Works uplifts and provides HOPE people in need here.
- The 14th annual **GOOD WORKS WALK** is happening on Saturday, February 20th. Please save the date! Last year we were overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters, as well as the determination of those who braved our level 2-snow emergency—you must really love us! We have four different experiences planned for walkers to choose from. We hope you will make it out this winter as we engage our feet and our minds as we walk in someone else’s shoes. Learn more on the WALK website: www.goodworkswalk.net
- **THE TIMOTHY HOUSE** continues to receive many requests for shelter every week. We have continued to provide a safe yet temporary home for many families with young children. Right now we are using three out of four of our bedrooms to house families. The staff of the Timothy House pray daily for doors to open up for permanent, affordable housing for these families, who struggle to locate places with adequate space and reasonable rent.
- Last month, Good Works held a public presentation and conversation with the people of Athens County about **RURAL HOMELESSNESS** in our community. We desire to have clear communication with our neighbors about the way that we work with people who request shelter at the Timothy House. This event was followed by an Open House at the Timothy House.

In closing... I want to express my HOPE that as you read this, you will be encouraged and will continue to pray for and support us as we press on towards an even deeper expression of sacrificial love. Thank you so much for standing with us as we complete our 35th year.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman