"I made the widow's heart sing, I took up the case of the stranger, I was a father to the fatherless."

-Job 29:12-17

Greetings from Good Works,

As I write on this beautiful, bright and warm fall day, we are preparing for a celebration. Paul Richard, who oversees several of our initiatives, is on his way to the title office on the other end of town with Judy. When they get back to the Good Works Property this afternoon, Jim Todd, who manages the Transformation Station, will attach a new set of license plates to the black Toyota currently parked in front of the Hannah House. Staff and volunteers will gather around Judy and share words of



encouragement, affirmation and gratitude. We will pray a blessing on her and her new car, then hand her the keys. She will get behind the wheel, and her son will climb into the passenger seat, and they will drive away.

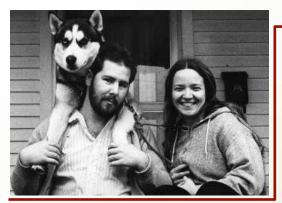
Her mother earned a car a few months ago, and her son spent time volunteering with her in these last couple of weeks. About ten years ago, we met Judy during a stay at the Timothy House. She was in a very different season, struggling in several areas that caused her to need a place to live. It has been so good to reconnect with her, and to see her thrive as part of her family. This is the beginning of new opportunities for Judy and her son! Owning your own reliable transportation in a rural area makes a thousand things about life easier, and they are proud of the work they've done to earn it.

It is remarkable, yet not uncommon that our long-term presence in the Athens community affords us the opportunity to know several generations in a family and to form community with them over several years. While we hope it would never be necessary, we sometimes see adults move into the Timothy House who lived there with their parents when they were children. Friday Night Life continues to be so beautifully intergenerational, and it is a gift when we are able to know the families of the older adults we serve as well.

And now, we have new generations of volunteers and staff as well—people whose parents were involved in the early days of Good Works have developed ownership of our mission and participate of their own accord. Today, most of our staff members were born after Darlene and I began welcoming people into our home.

Mother Teresa famously said, "God has not called me to be successful; he has called me to be faithful." Her words are repeated often at Good Works, where our mission is to build mutual relationships with people in poverty. In our community, I would affirm that being successful is not different from being faithful; in fact, faithfulness might be our best definition of success.

Over the long term, we have seen the tremendous faithfulness of God. God is faithful to the families we are walking with, faithful to inspire us with a vision to build community in this place, and faithful to provide the people and resources to realize that vision. "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23). Come along with us as we reach back into our history to celebrate God's faithfulness. Space does not permit us to talk about all of the fruitful initiatives that have come and gone over the past 35 years, but we look back with joy at the origins of these activities we are still carrying out!



→ 1981 Good Works is Founded

Good Works began by providing shelter when Keith Wasserman had a vision to reach out to those struggling with homelessness and poverty in rural Appalachian Ohio. During his last year at Ohio University, Keith and his friends remodeled the basement of his home at #3 Elliott Street in Athens, Ohio into a two-bedroom apartment. He opened a shelter for adults and children experiencing homelessness with the help of friends and supporters.



→ 1984 Purchase of the Timothy House

In 1982, a board of directors was formed, and in 1984 the organization was incorporated with tax-exempt 501(c)3 status. In 1984, the Good Works Emergency Shelter moved out of the home of the Wasserman's and into its present facility on Central Avenue which was re-named The Timothy House in 1998. By 2014, Good Works had provided over 100,000 nights of shelter to men, women and families with children at this location.



→ 1989 Internships

Since the late 80's, Good Works has been facilitating internship opportunities. Today, residential and academic interns still come to learn and serve with us. These opportunities for people to test out their gifts and sense of calling also infuse new life and energy into the community. Our hope continues that these would be mutual experiences in which staff and interns can learn from one another and grow together.



> 1993 Friday Night Life

As people moved out of the Timothy House, the need to be able to continue to facilitate the sense of family enjoyed there became apparent. Friday Night Life (FNL) was formed as a way for former residents to stay connected with each other and to the staff and volunteers. FNL gathered in the basement of Central UMC until 2002, and now happens at the Good Works Property on Luhrig Rd from April through September and The Plains UMC from October through March.



▶ 1994 Luhrig Road Property

In 1989, we began our Lorene project as a second, long-term transitional house for single residents after they left The Timothy House. In 1994 we redeveloped this ministry to offer a "live-with" approach at the Good Works Transitional House, renamed Hannah House in 1999. In recent years we have constructed the Carter Cabin, Administrative Office, picnic shelter, Transformation Station, Amphitheater, and Hope Center on this beautiful 35 acre property.

Work Retreats 1996 €

Originally called "Short-Term Mission Teams," our Work Retreat initiative began over 20 years ago with a vision to bring together groups of youth and adults to serve both on our properties and in our community, providing practical help to older adults and people with disabilities who often live in isolated rural areas of Appalachia. Each year, we welcome roughly 45 different groups who come to serve for a day, a weekend or a whole week.



Good Works Gardens 1997 ←

As early as 1997, Good Works began using some of the land available on the Luhrig Road Property to produce food. The purpose of the Good Works Gardens today is to empower people, especially those experiencing poverty, disability, and decreased physical ability due to aging, to provide nutritious food for themselves, their families and neighbors. We help plant and maintain gardens at the homes of 15 to 20 neighbors and continue to grow food in the garden pictured. Eight years ago we launched a summer internship employing local teens to help us in this initiative.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors 1998 ←

Originally called "Samaritan Projects," we changed to the name of this initiative to Neighbors Helping Neighbors a few years go. We welcome groups of volunteers to visit our neighbors in Athens County, spend time with them, and do labor-intensive projects at their homes. Each year, nearly 500 volunteers participate. Since the program began, we have established relationships with nearly 60 families which include older adults or people with disabilities who are not physically able to care for their own homes.



The Good Works WALK 2003 ←

Originally called the "Walk for the Homeless," the Good Works WALK began in 2003. Our vision was to create an experience for adults and children of all ages which would deepen their compassion and help them to see ways they could love and care for their neighbors who were experiencing poverty. The WALK has turned out to be a very meaningful experience for many people, and continues to be a vital source of funding for the Timothy House.



Transformation Station 2004 ←

The Transformation Station is both a building (being constructed in this photo) and a way of opening an avenue for people in our community to access resources they need. By volunteering their time to help other people, participants in the TS earn points they can "cash in" for a vehicle, appliance, bicycle or box of food. In this way, it is our hope that participants experience an identity transformation—that people who come to us with a need would discover how much they have to give.





→ Invitation

Good Works exists to connect people from all walks of life with people in poverty so that the kingdom of God can be experienced.

We feel so grateful that we've been invited to demonstrate God's faithfulness to people who often feel overlooked. Truly, it is our joy to walk *with* our neighbors through good seasons and bad. To offer hospitality through the Timothy House and Friday Night Life, and likewise, to receive hospitality as we visit neighbors' homes—this brings us closer to living in the kind of community that we all long for—a community characterized by the justice, mercy and love of God.

Over and over as so many people come to serve with Good Works, to donate food and supplies, or to give financially, they discover that giving not only meets a need in the lives of our neighbors, it meets a need in the giver as well. Those of us on the staff of Good Works feel the same way. We may have come with some notion of what we have to offer, but are continually in a process of discovering what we still need to receive.

We are so grateful for everyone who has partnered with us—the faithfulness of our supporters is humbling. This is a trust as well, and what we are able to do together is so much more meaningful than what we could hope to accomplish on our own.

We invite you to join us today in this journey of care and love. You can contribute financially to the mission of Good Works by:

- •Mailing a check made out to "Good Works, Inc."
- •Contacting us to set up automated giving via your bank
- •Making a secure online donation via our website
- •Giving a gift in honor of a relative or friend via our website

Thank you for joining us as we extend our lives to embrace our neighbors. We are so grateful for our community of supporters who surround us with hope.

Love is a verb.

W

Keith Wasserman

PS: Our long journey continues to be filled with HOPE as we experience the goodness and faithfulness of God. We look forward to sharing a future together of what scripture calls "life that is truly life!" (I Timothy 6:17-19)