



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)*

Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope Since 1981

Dear friends,

September 2015

Greetings with gratitude! September in Athens is filled with new energy as Ohio University and other local schools re-start and the “new year” begins. The Good Works community is planting hope in the hearts of the people of rural Appalachia as we continue to extend ourselves in love to our neighbors. We are making plans to do GOOD (Ephesians 2:10) and are working hard to create and sustain many opportunities for people to serve and love *their* neighbors. Good Works now has 40+ volunteer opportunities!

We have just transitioned from an intense summer and a short time of slowing down in August, and now we are pressing on into a new season this fall. Our vision remains steadfast: *“I made the widow’s heart sing; I was a father to the fatherless; I took up the case of the stranger”* (Job 29:12-17). This is the mission the Good Works community embraces. Thank you for being a part of the *Community of HOPE!*

Caring for Strangers by Sherilyn Weinkauf

“I moved from Virginia to Athens, Ohio in order to live closer to a family member who was in poor health. The job market, I discovered, made it difficult to obtain a job that would support me. When I was later evicted, I was still a stranger in a strange place, without many friends, and without a home as well. I went to the only place I knew about because my church donated to it: Good Works.

I was there for 3 months and became friends with the staff, who were very patient and loving. Through those relationships, I was later asked to join the staff as an Administrative Assistant. I discovered that I had a deep-seated need to give back what I had so abundantly received, and that I really enjoyed my job!

My duties, like paying bills, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, and keeping the Friday Night Supper sponsor schedule, help support the staff that are on the front lines. This allows them to take care of people who are without homes, and help people who are in desperate need of what we are able to provide. All of this is still made possible, as it was when I needed help, through many donations and generous contributions from the community.

Good Works started as my community of hope, but quickly became my family. It has been 19 years since I have felt like a stranger. I have felt loved, received healing from my mental wounds, and have been able to give love as well.”

Sherilyn has been part of the Good Works staff since July 1996, and she still loves her job!



Making the Widows’ Heart Sing by Buddy Ballard

“This summer was a great experience being part of making the widow’s heart sing. I have to tell you I’ll never forget these experiences. My first encounter with a widow this summer was a woman who had lost her husband and on top of all of this she has been battling breast cancer and lymph node cancer. Now the cancer is in her brain. Her only



son fights drug addiction, which leaves her with no real family support. No family is able to help her in any way. She is often isolated with her cats as her only companions and an occasional visit from a nurse's aid.

On top of all these difficult circumstances, she had no running water in her home. Her toilet and hot water heater were ready to fall through the floor from water damage from leaky pipes. She had been told that she was going to have to leave her home, the only thing she felt she had left. All her memories were there and she felt closest to her husband there.

A group of volunteers came to help repair her floors. They were mostly teens with very little skills for the job and plumbing is my weakest area of home improvement as well. We fixed her hot water heater first. Her water lines were clogged with calcium and oxidation making only a trickle of water flow out of her faucets. Through many prayers and trips to the hardware store, I watched God lead us in a way that brought everything together.

Each morning she was weak, and we would pray for her and listen to all she was going through. Each day she seemed more full of life. I truly experienced what God meant in James 1:27: "Religion that our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this, to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

We first met Buddy when he and his daughter lived at the Timothy House several years ago. Buddy served as a key part of our summer staff this year and joins the full-time this month working with Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

IN THE NEWS...

- **Service Living** starts year #8 this fall. Under the leadership of Doug Schmaltz and Frances Garrett, our vision is to introduce Ohio University students to the history, values, needs, beauty, and people of rural Appalachia through service-based relationships.
- Good Works is sponsoring another 1-day seminar called **GOING DEEPER** on Saturday, November 14th from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Taught by several Good Works staff, this learning experience is for people who desire to follow Jesus into deeper relationships with people who struggle with poverty. To register, contact Dawn Tobin at 740.594.3339 or goodworks@good-works.net by Saturday, November 7th.
- The 2016 **Good Works WALK** is scheduled for Saturday, February 20th. Would you "save the date"? We are planning 3 WALK experiences this year all intended to help adults and children better understand the struggle of widows, children and people without homes here in rural Ohio. Visit www.goodworkswalk.net to see our new videos!
- **Friday Night Life**, now in year 22, brings together adults and children from *all walks of life*. FNL has been taking place on the Good Works property all summer and returns to The Plains UMC on October 9th. Good Works is seeking volunteer groups to sponsor the meal in 2016 and welcomes volunteers to serve once a week in these three areas: (1) FNL Friendship, (2) FNL Kids' Club, and (3) FNL Van Driver.
- **On Sunday, October 25th** at 3:00 pm, Good Works is holding a public presentation/conversation with the people of Athens County to talk about the way in which we provide shelter, changes we have instituted, and our desire to continue to be a good neighbor as we operate the only home for people without homes in 8 rural Southeast Ohio Counties. The event will be followed by an Open House at the Timothy House. More information to follow (please see our website for further details).

In closing this month, we simply want to thank you for your friendship, towards us and the neighbors we love!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman