



Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope

Celebrating 37 Years!

PO Box 4, Athens, OH 45701
Phone: 740-594-3339
Email: email@good-works.net
Web: www.good-works.net

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

February 2018

Hello from the snowy landscape of Athens, Ohio. Today is a truly beautiful day, as the setting sun is glancing off the hills around us. With this beauty, though, comes the bitter cold, and a busy Timothy House. We have had several different families with kids find a temporary home with us. While we enjoy talking about the sense of community we are able to experience with the people we serve, the weather in this season makes us keenly aware of their vulnerability and the significance of offering *shelter*. This has an immediate impact for good in the life of the person moving in, but in extending ourselves, we are transformed as well.

As we enter our 38th year, we have asked a few former staff, interns, and volunteers to look back and write a reflection for the next few newsletters on the impact Good Works had on them. The words shared today stem from the way they were shaped by offering hospitality through the Timothy House.

One of the most unique and impacting things about Good Works is their intentional use of language to re-shape culture. I had never heard the phrases “people who struggle with poverty and homelessness,” or “a home for people without homes” until I came to Good Works. It’s much easier to just say, that Good Works “serves the poor and needy” or “the Timothy House is a homeless shelter.” But instead of doing what’s easy, Good Works is beautifully intentional with language to elevate and promote the dignity of the people whom they are called to love. - *Meghann (Bruno) Svec served with Good Works from 2012 to 2014.*

Volunteering at the Timothy House and then interning with Good Works one summer was instrumental in my life. At a time where I was discovering what it meant to practice my faith and love my neighbor, I couldn't have found a better example. Good Works gave me a new lens to see the world through, a way of seeing that was based on relationships and dignity. I learned how to live beside people from many walks of life and have since taken what I learned at GW to many corners of the world; from rural Africa, to refugee camps and Native American reservations. I have discovered that everyone I meet is my neighbor and when I give my life to my neighbor they in return give their life to me. - *Katie (Pagensteker) Ernst was a Summer Intern in 2008.*

I can really say that my experience on staff was life changing. My time at Good Works broadened my perspective of what it means to love your neighbor, and at that time social justice issues became a core tenet of my faith. Professionally, I continue to work with people who are struggling with poverty and the issues that come along with that, and I can say that my time at Good Works ignited the fire in me to persevere through the difficult times. Advocating for those who have no voice has continued to be a priority for our family in the place I love and now call home. – *Catherine Lachman served on staff from 2002 to 2005 at The Timothy House.*

I served with Good Works from 1994-1997. My time at Good Works has profoundly shaped my way of following Christ. I changed from a person who shunned “the least of these” to someone who sought them out as a part of my life. I learned at Good Works that taking a risk to show kindness and love to someone who is hurting or abandoned, or unlikeable, or misguided, is where faith starts. - *Matt Moore and his wife Jessica met through their internship with Good Works.*

I went to Good Works at a time I needed to be affirmed of goodness and God’s work in the world and in me. I always say that Good Works is a little piece of Heaven. That is what it felt like to me the two summers I spent there as an intern. It is a space where all people are valued and respected regardless of our differences, where everyone has something to contribute and is given the opportunity to do so. The thing I will always hold dear about my time at Good Works is that I felt love, real, genuine and authentic love that propelled me to love others and accept myself in the process. – *Abigail (Carter) Fields did two summer internships with Good Works in 2009 and 2010.*

Good Works helped me learn that people need more than just food. They need people. They need love. They need hope. They need God. Of course, this is more than we can give on our own, in a few minutes’ time or even in a lifetime of service. But if we open ourselves to the Lord and to others, the Lord might use even our short interactions to bring some measure of hope to others in their need...and likely we’ll find the Lord using them to bring encouragement to us as well. - *Alex Young served as a Summer Intern and also in Appalachian Immersion in 2011 and 2013.*

IN THE NEWS

- **The 2018 GW WALK is planned for Saturday, February 24th.** Five different WALK experiences are planned this year, including the mini-walk for people who want to participate but find walking difficult. Our goal is to raise \$60,000, which is one third of the annual budget of the Timothy House. Visit the WALK website at www.goodworkswalk.net for more information.
- Because of vision, planning and capacity, The Wasserman’s have been able to continue to provide hospitality at their home in the Westside neighborhood for people experiencing homelessness who cannot be accommodated at The Timothy House because of lack of space.
- For more full reflections and more quotes from former staff, interns and volunteers, check our website in mid February!
- Our first Work Retreat is scheduled for early February. We are expecting around 40 groups this year. About half of those who come are returning groups. This year, we are launching Spiritual Formation Retreats for groups who desire this.
- We provided car #165 to a Transformation Station participant last week. In a brief ceremony, we gather around the TS volunteer, offer them words of gratitude and affirmation and give them the keys.
- Last fall, our new initiative with Ohio University (Praxis) went very well. We had 4 different professors and their students work with Good Works in service-related activities.
- LifeTogether has begun year #3. We gather every Sunday from 5-7pm for a time of sharing from scripture, songs and a potluck meal together.

IN CLOSING I invite you to celebrate with us. We have just completed our 37th year! Friday Night Life enters year 25, the Transformation Station begins year 14, and we have provided 37 consecutive years of shelter. All of this is possible because of the faithfulness of ordinary people who are willing to step into different roles and responsibilities to love and serve our neighbors. Thank you for your part!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman