In January 2018, several former staff, interns and volunteers were asked by Keith Wasserman to write a short reflection about how their experience at Good Works has had a lasting impact on their life. The following short paragraphs were written by those who served alongside us dating back to 1989.

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. God met me in this place with affirmations of His acceptance through the love of the people at Good Works. 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 were all people are valued and respected regardless of our differences. It is a space where all people are beautiful and seen through the eyes of our loving Creator. It is a space where everyone has something to contribute and are 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. There are so many things I could talk about my summers spent there. God is at Good Works. And He is beautiful and good. *– Abigail (Carter) Fields did 2 Summer Service Internships in 2009 & 2010*

I joined the staff of Good Works in 2002, right after completing my master's degree at Ohio University. I had intended to find employment as a school counselor, but felt that my time in Athens wasn't over yet, and my career path took a different turn. I really did not know what I was getting into, but I had a desire to serve God and to serve people, and Good Works is where I landed. I can really say that my experience on staff was life changing. The 3+ years I spent on staff feels like a much longer time, in that I categorize it as a phase of my life that was formative. 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. I met people (staff, volunteers and residents) who became cherished people in my life. One of the most powerful things I experienced while working at the Timothy House was watching people who came to "serve" really get it, and really start to understand how serving those in need is not an extra thing to check off your list, but a way of life; what following Jesus is all about. Loving the people that He loves is the Good News. To this day, I live in Athens. 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. Social justice and 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 was on the full time staff of the Timothy House from 2002 to 2005

There are two main things that I have carried with me after my time at Good Works. 1. Treat everything as "service unto the Lord". Certain things are obviously in the Lord's service- helping, listening, and being there for people when one is needed. What I learned is ALL THINGS can and should be service unto the Lord. Doing dishes, mopping the floor, having plans ruined because you have to deal with something messy, etc. The mundane things that one actually doesn't want to do, but needs to be done especially if it wasn't your responsibility to do it. Instead of being all mad and frustrated or doing something grudgingly the concept of doing it for the Lord gave me a whole new outlook in doing those things that I really rather not do. If you treat things you would rather not do but have to as service to the Lord, I found out then there comes joy in doing them. I have to remind myself of this pretty often! Where did I learn this from? The Hannah House kitchen! 2. Seeing people as God sees them no matter what their background was reinforced even more in my life while at Good Works. I think that speaks for itself. – *Todd Tatum was on the full time staff of Good Works and served as the Hannah House Manager in 2001 and 2002*

As I reflect on my time at Good Works, one of the things that sticks out to me most is language. One of the most unique and impacting things about Good Works is their intentional use of language to re-shape culture. By changing the language used to describe and refer to people who are struggling with poverty and homelessness. the people of Good Works change the perception of this marginalized community. I was recently at a church service where a video was shown about a non-profit and the services they provide. When discussing the meals they provide to the community, the words "we feed" were repeatedly used. That made me very sad. What kind of creatures are "fed"? Animals, babies, people with disabilities who are unable to feed themselves... this language unintentionally de-humanizes and places the people who benefit from the meals in a dependent and powerless position. 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 more of a mouthful. 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 was an AmeriCorps* member placed at Good Works from 2012 to 2014

I stumbled across Good Works during their activity fair on College Green when I was a freshman. I had never served the homeless and admit I probably was pretty naïve with some preconceived notions. What I realized is that the homeless are our neighbors, our friends, acquaintances and even our family. So many people are 1-2 paychecks away from being homeless or in a serious financial crisis. Homelessness doesn't discriminate. After serving in different capacities, what I walked away with was a new sense of community. Everyone needs to belong

somewhere. Good Works creates a sense of belonging and community from Friday Night Life, gatherings out at the Luhrig property and just simple family style dinners around the table at the Timothy House. That sense of community helps give the residents the support they need at a very difficult and often isolating point in their lives. As a volunteer, it transformed my ideas of who the homeless are and deepened my heart and compassion for all people. – *Amanda Reindel volunteered at the Timothy House in the 1990s*

My husband and I met at Good Works when we both interned there way back in the 90's. Looking back, I can't think of a better place to meet, in an organization where just about everyone is stepping out to help others. Because of the nature of the work, it was a great place to really get to know each other as we faced the varied dynamics of befriending such a wide variety of people from such different backgrounds and experienced growth within a tight-knit faith community. Good Works equipped us for a lifetime to be able to "get involved" in the lives of people in need. While we see other people shy away from those in difficult situations, fearful of how to handle circumstances beyond their control; our experience at Good Works gave us so many tools to be able to befriend people with histories of brokenness. We know how to help build a larger community of support, connect people to social services, and help and seek out help for those who need it. Our experience at Good Works was invaluable, I truly wish everyone could intern there as a young adult! *– Jessica Moore was a residential intern at Good Works in the 1990s and worked with Kids' Club and Agriculture*

My experience with Good Works was both transformative and unforgettable. The work of the Holy Spirit was demonstrated through the love, care and dedication for all the people involved in the ministry. I learned about the power of self-less love, increasing my love for Christ and others. One of the main lessons that I have learned is the importance of solitude in ministry. One day, I woke up early so that I could experience alone time with God. I went to the cabin, where interns and staff can rejuvenate. I remember God's holy presence and incredible voice. I felt God's love for the poor and the broken hearted. I felt God's heart for justice, reconciliation and holiness. The Holy Spirit reminded me that I ought to be in solitude, first and foremost, before I can surrender to serving others. Good Works taught me to first see fulfillment through God's presences before serving the most vulnerable. I learned that without being filled with the presence of God, I could not alleviate the physical, social and spiritual poverty of others. The interconnectedness of service and solitude was demonstrated through the works of this ministry. Jesus mentioned, "Apart from me you can do nothing." Similarly, Good Works understands that the foundation of its ministry is Christ, the founder and perfecter of our faith. -Bereket Mamo did a Summer Service Internship and worked with Kids' Discovery Club in 2014

I came to Good Works, because I longed to see the Church in action. I stayed at Good Works, because I was so grateful to be welcomed, known, and loved. I grew at Good Works in learning to love others, living in Christian community, and welcoming people from all walks of life into my own life. I remember Good Works for helping me understand what the Good News of Jesus looks like when it is embodied in real life, flawed, forgiving, encouraging, and deeply loving people. – *Cory Blackwell was on the full time staff of Good Works, and served on our leadership team, with Friday Night Life as well as community and church relationships from 2007 to 2010*

When I first headed to Good Works in the Appalachian Immersion Internship I was an 18 year old who did not know what I wanted to do with my life. I know I didn't want to go to college just yet, but also didn't want to work full time and had also lost a connection with my faith. While I was at Good Works my faith grew tremendously. It was over the course of the eight months I was there that I had an opportunity to grow my faith to a point it had never been at. The people around me at Good Works, including both staff and community members that I worked with hand in hand, helped guide me to a realization that I wanted to do human service work when I was older. I am very grateful for everything Good Works did for me, as well as the positive impact it had on my life. – *Mark Donlin did an Appalachian Immersion Internship in 2013 to 2014*

My name is Matt Moore. 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. As Bonheoffer says, we are called to an active faith. As it says in James, faith without works is empty and powerless. Matthew 25 became one of my life chapters at Good Works—knowing that when we spend time with the hurting, that we are spending time with the Lord, is a cornerstone of my beliefs. I learned at Good Works that every person is a miracle of God. Each one brings something beautiful and essential into this world. It's when those of us with privilege and power reach out that those people can bring their gifts into the world. – *Matt Moore did a residential internship with Good Works in mid 1990s*

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 Service Intern in 2008*

When I think of the ministry of Good Works, I am reminded of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s instruction that Christians should "pray with their feet." Dr. King was referring to Jesus' teachings that his followers would be identified by their actions, especially by the ways they served the most vulnerable and marginalized (Mt. 25:31ff). Dr. King was also critiquing a common mistake among Christians: to ask God to do something that God has already assigned his followers to accomplish in his name. For the past 37 years, Good Works has been "praying with their feet" and hands. They have faithfully served the least and most vulnerable without expecting God to do what they dared attempt. If you want to see faith in action and to witness prayers being offered and answered through courageous words and deeds, look no further than the ministry of Good Works. – *Dr. George Pickins served on the Good Works Board in the late 1990s & early 2000s*

I served as an intern with Good Works in the summers of 2006 and 2007. Although I entered the experience with what I thought was a passion for the poor, I quickly recognized that I knew so little about what I supposedly had a passion about. Through the examples of Keith and the other Good Works staff, I entered a community where loving one's neighbor was more than a verbal refrain. The concrete actions of service opened my heart to what it means to love one's neighbor, especially our neighbors who are poor and/or otherwise vulnerable. Good Works is a mechanism in which God's grace flows. My views on what it means to be poor, what it means to love one's neighbor, and what it means to live in authentic community will never be the same. My experiences during these two summers have impacted how I spend both my time and money for a lifetime; it furthermore enhanced my practice as a pastoral counselor. I am extremely grateful to Keith and the Good Works team for the opportunity to grow alongside them. *–Elizabeth (Franko) Parker did Summer Service Internships in 2006 and 2007*

Just last week, when I was feeling too frustrated by a friend of mine to show him compassion, my wife reminded me of a lesson we first learned at Good Works. Wounded people in survival mode will sometimes hurt you, even when you're trying to love them. That's one reason why we need partners - community, The Body - to really love and serve people well. If one of us gets stepped on in the process, someone else is there to pick up the load and maintain compassion. It's been 15 years since we left Athens and began an intentional interracial community in the heart of Detroit, but the lessons from our 7 years at Good Works are with us all the time. What we learned there shaped so much of our lives today: how we relate across lines of class & race, how we live out the Great Commission, even how we understand the big picture of God's Kingdom. We are so thankful for the

Community of Hope that opened our eyes and hearts. – *Matt & Bev Hale were on the full time staff of Good Works from 1998 to 2003. They worked with Friday Night Life and organized mentoring relationships with local kids*

Growing up in the church and learning the Lord's love for me gave me a foundation of wanting to live a life to glorify God and love others. Participating in the community of Good Works modeled for me one beautiful expression of a community integrating worship of God and love of others into each one's daily life. Here's a snapshot of Good Works' lingering impact on me. My church occasionally participates in serving meals at a shelter for men without homes. I help serve the food if extra hands are needed, but as soon as I can, I get some food for myself and find a place next to a few men at the table, that I might eat with them, and offer them a listening ear if they want to talk, or just sit with them so they know they are not completely alone, not completely overlooked, not completely forgotten.

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 in 2011 and an Appalachian Immersion Intern in 2013*

Good Works was much more than a summer internship for me. It was a transformative time in my life that helped me discover paths in leadership and stewardship of Biblical social justice and mercy. I've always sensed a calling to work with vulnerable populations, but for a long time, I had no idea what that looked like lived out. I wanted to see it modeled. After searching and serving with several organizations who were trying to help the poor, but with minimal success, I found Good Works, a community of hope that serves with the poor not to the poor. Suddenly, all of the readings from my favorite authors and social justice advocates, like Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day, Shane Claiborne, and Henri Nouwen started to come to life. I saw and lived in a community where genuine relationships formed. intentional living occurred, vulnerability was honored, and all people were treated with dignity, worth, and respect. I witnessed a community and a leadership that operated out of their values of integrity and put people over their programs. The trajectory of my life changed after serving at Good Works and God clearly set me on a path toward social work. I went back to school for my Masters and now I'm not only working in the field, but teaching bachelor level social work students because I'm passionate about educating others on experiencing the Kingdom of God by being with and loving those who are seen by the world as the least. - Paige Christian was a Summer Service Intern in 2008

From Good Works, I got the belief that if God draws your attention to a problem, why shouldn't you pray about it and cook up something to do about it? I don't see my life as a Christian as just me and Jesus. It's me and Jesus and everybody else, too. My time and resources are God's, and I want to be generous—babysit other moms' kids just to help; share stuff from my freezer with the family working four jobs and barely making it; help the new people move in across town even though I don't know them; sit and listen to my friend's struggles. I also don't want to simply blow off people who aren't in my social group: the unhoused, the abused, the stranger, the impoverished, the "At-Risk." I know that each of them has a name and a story; that his problem may or may not be of his own making; but that if I can't find some compassion or mercy in my heart for him, maybe I'm the one who is poor.

- I taught a middle school class at our home school co-op last year called "Make a Difference" that got each kid to design and carry out a plan to make a difference in some way. They made a newsletter about social problems; one did a toy drive for a Mexican orphanage; one did a food drive; one worked on her writing about mental illness; one found ways to be more involved in his mom's religious education outreach. I was thinking about GW the whole time.
- We sponsor kids through Compassion International, whose mission is to release kids from poverty in Jesus' name. We volunteered with them too, and advocated with our pastors in such a way that eventually they decided to create a partnership with Compassion and a local church in Colombia that serves well over 100 children. We did this because GW helped me look for things that I could do, now.
- I served at church in the nursery for years, but when it became clear we needed to help with a new middle school group, I switched to that even though it's harder. I stick around when I drop my toddler off at her class and sometimes get sucked in to be an extra pair of hands so that the other volunteers aren't eaten alive by the 25 2-and-3 year olds. I do this because GW showed me I'm not 'above' any service, and that sometimes there's just a need that needs met. I also learned that he who waters others will himself be watered (Proverbs 11:25).

-Katie (Ellis) Rankin did an internship with Good Works in 2001 and 2002

I came to work and serve (and be served) at GW right after finishing seminary in the Summer of 2001 and, looking back, still view my 3 years there as my "second seminary" experience. It gave feet and real-life to what I had been studying for the previous 4 years. A couple of lessons I learned along the way while at GW: 1) Leadership is lonely. 2) If life is a 400m race, I started out a good 50-100m further down the track than many people. 3) God's heart for the poor is clear in Scripture and those of us who are rich (which is most of us) have a lot of work to do to align ourselves with God's heart in this way. Good Works was (and still is) a community that discipled myself and my family in areas of life and faith that we otherwise would have not been discipled in. My family and I took these lessons with us as we

served overseas for 12 years after leaving Athens. I am grateful. – *Craig Garrison* served on the full time staff in leadership at Good Works from 2001 to 2004

My first experiences at Good Works were as a volunteer during college, and then as an intern in 1997-1998 and again in 2001. Certainly the encounters with a community committed to loving Jesus through care for vulnerable neighbors shaped the trajectory of my life; yet what has left its deepest impact are my experiences with Good Works since then—in particular the prayerful reflection on and sharing of practices which have nurtured relationships and sustained the work at Good Works. These have encouraged me in my life and work in Detroit. In particular, Good Works strives to find ways to create a welcoming setting which offers dignity by blurring boundaries between 'insiders'/'experts' and 'outsiders.' These practices are on my mind at church and youth group in Detroit as we welcome teens and adults with different experiences, strengths, and needs. And this fall, when two women without housing moved into my home, I immediately pulled out my notes from Good Works from this distance and am thankful that they share what they do and what they learn that I can also grow in these practices.

- Carole Hawke volunteered with Good Works and also served as Intern in the late 1990s and early 2000s

I will always cherish the time I had at GW and support the work that you all do. I am continually impressed by your excellence and perseverance and love in serving so many people (and in so many ways). I have been wanting to return for an event (pretty much annually) or even to come and serve a bit during a summer. I am grateful that we are able (and my bread-winner husband is willing) to continue to give financially! - *Dawn Smallcomb served as our first academic intern in 1989*

It was 1998, and we had just been married one year. One of us (Bart) had just graduated from seminary and the other (Anne) just finished college. Bart had connected with Keith at Asbury Seminary, and Anne was planning to start her Master's degree at Ohio University. We began to explore what it might mean to live out the gospel by serving with Good Works. We discovered that there was an opening for the Transitional House (now the Hannah House) managers. We wanted a place to serve and we needed a place to live, so this seemed like a providential opportunity. We had only an inkling of what we were signing up for. What we found was a big house in various states of repair and disrepair. We found long hours staffing the house during the days, evenings, and weekends. But most of all we found people: residents working through the challenges of long term homelessness, other staff members who became our local body of Christ, interns coming to follow Jesus in their life and work, and guests of all kinds from friends to visitors to large groups coming to serve with the ministry. We shared daily meals. We talked with people

with beautiful souls from every walk of life. We were able to love people as Jesus' hands and feet when they faced frustrations and tragedies. We did a lot of good with and for vulnerable people in the broader Athens community. We lived and worked with Good Works for two years. It was all very fruitful and all very stressful. Several years later, we were in a new state with new children trying to fit into a new place. It was not going so well, and we sought God for wisdom about our nagging sense of loss and confusion. Then we realized that Good Works had ruined usruined us in so many good ways. It ruined our ability to tolerate incomplete and lone-sided expressions of the gospel. It ruined our habit of turning a blind eye to the presence of Jesus in the vulnerable people around us. It ruined us for shallow Christian relationships that require no sacrifice and exist only within the walls of the church. It ruined our assumption that a middle-class lifestyle was pleasing to God. It ruined our capacity to separate Sunday morning worship from how we live in our local community. It ruined us for comfortable and complacent living that does not respond to the call of Jesus to abandon all that we have and follow him (Luke 14:33). Life has never been the same since Good Works ruined us, and for that we will be eternally grateful. -Bart & Anne Bruehler served on the full time staff as Hannah House Managers ***

I can't believe it has been 14 years since my last summer with Good Works and 17 since my first! It is interesting that the farther away from an event one becomes, the more difficult it is to remember exactly what changed because of that event. At least for me, I think this is because I incorporate and change based upon new experiences and ways of thinking all the time.

However, with that being said, my time with GW stands out as a pivotal time in my thought process. Even this past week I was sharing with a friend about where I grew up and how it was not until my time at GW that I realized I grew up in rural Appalachia. In seeing the one map on the wall somewhere there, I suddenly understood my entire childhood, how and why everyone interacted with each other in the way they do, their views on money, government, property, and many other things. That event happened near the end of my first summer, so I guess I need to back up to what I learned about rural Appalachia from GW to that point.

When I first heard about GW in a class I was taking at the time, everything in me said, "YES, DO THIS!" I visited at Thanksgiving time and spent a week checking out the place and interacting with everyone (e.g. staff, interns, visitors, guests, people without homes, people it took me a while to figure out where they fit into GW (more on this aspect later), etc.). My first realization came over that week, sitting down for a Thanksgiving meal with people I have not met before. Family time is not limited to blood. I felt so welcomed there. In some cases it was better than family. People were not pretending to be what they were not. Some were nice, some abrasive, and some shy, but I never felt people were trying to hide. They just were: faults and strengths combined. It was refreshing.

I have never journaled in my life and never saw a point to it. However over this week I felt the need to document what I found, the people I interacted with, conversations I had, thoughts, feelings, hopes, anger, and frustration as seeing someone fall back into alcoholism. When I was accepted for the summer intern position, I asked several close friends if they wanted to receive a daily or so e-mail from me about what I am up to (now I guess it is called a newsletter, or I would have started a blog.) Also I didn't want to explain to everyone individually when I got back what I had been up to. For the entire summer I journaled everything. I journaled the good, bad, ugly, stupid stuff, funny stories, crazy learning experiences I had, times when I screwed up, times when God showed up in amazing ways, incredible work groups, odd people, amazing people, hurt people, lives changed, books needing to be written about things there, and 100 other single spaced pages worth of stories. It is through those stories that my worldview started to change.

I went to GW with the "pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstrap" mentality. I figured I was going to go there to help people who are homeless by doing stuff for them, because as Christians that is what we are supposed to do of course. Wow, was I wrong. One of the more interesting things about how GW is organized is that if one stavs at the Hannah House, it is not immediately apparent who is an intern, and who is the homeless person getting their life back on track. This threw me because I like to know where people are and therefore can figure out where I stand. Everyone has tasks to do to keep up the house. Some people work outside the organization. People sit down and discuss their day, argue, laugh (both with and at each other), and sometimes get into conversations about family, upbringing, and theological things. Over the meal people became equals. If one was at the Timothy House, then the meal itself could (and probably was) prepared by a homeless person. I remember one guy who was an amazing cook. He could turn random donations into a gourmet meal. I do not remember what landed him at the Timothy House as I have not reread my journal since I wrote it, but I remember being sad and angry that someone with so much potential got sidetracked.

That reminds me of another extremely intelligent person who developed some kind of mental disorder whereby he needed to drink to get the courage to even cross the street. He started doing art of various kinds. Even now I am looking at a piece he drew of a bunch of daises using colored pencils I bought for him while there for Thanksgiving my first week ever. To see that much talent and intelligence in someone who is homeless surprised me. Before arriving there I figured homeless people were lazy, crazy, or willful about their situation. After my time, I realized but for the grace of God, there go I. I could be one of these people without a place to call their own. I could have a medical issue come up that bankrupts me. I could end up in a bad relationship where a person controls everything, then, when they are done with me, I am left with nothing, including a place to lay my head at night.

I continue for many more pages just from memory. If I reread my journal (I think it is about 130 pages long), I may rewrite that many pages and more. However, I want

to bring you up to where I am now in life and decisions I make based upon things learned from my time at GW.

Currently, I am successful by all measures. I have an amazing wife and child (both can be confirmed by anyone interacting with them). I have a thriving business, though it could be better except for a reason I will get to later. I get unsolicited job offers pretty often. I have gone to the same church for 19 years. As a family we give to various organizations, and individuals (that we don't get credit for because it is gifts to individuals not to a non-profit). We host gatherings for church and friends in our house monthly or more. We have had friends and their families stay with us for anywhere from a few days to years.

So why is my business not more successful? I refuse to build it by hurting others. I have rental properties. I never raise the rent on the people living there. There are some who are paying \$100 less than market value. I have worked with people when they have had life situations come up (deaths in the family, cancer (lost 3 this past year), new babies, job loss not due to anything in their control, car accidents, etc. All of this has come at a personal financial price. To be worldly better, I would have to evict more, charge the late fees and penalties that are stated in the lease, raise rents yearly to keep up with the market rates, and go after those who skip out. I do believe my pendulum started too far one direction and that has lead me to let people go to long before letting their consequences catch up with their actions and decisions. However, I will not build an empire off the backs of the poor. If I am able to eat some cash, but it will help someone in the long term, then isn't that part of what I should do as a Christian?

Sorry, this has been so long. I know you were looking for some bullet points and a few quotes. I think there are some in this. I guess that as I started into this project, I realized how much my time at GW changed me as a person.

- Alfred Haase did Summer Service Internships in 2001 and 2003 and worked with Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Friday Night Life