



# Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

*Celebrating 37 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)*

April 2018

To the Community of Hope,

Hello from Good Works! Spring has had some false starts in the last couple of weeks, and winter has hung on a little longer than expected. This morning the Easter lilies bowed their heads with frost, but they will revive by afternoon. Spring will come on in earnest, lift our thoughts, and remind us of many things for which we are grateful. At Good Works, we desire to make gratitude the orientation of our hearts. Today, we want to share about a few people we know who are contributing in different ways, doing their own unique parts in loving their neighbors, not because of their need to be appreciated, but because of who they are.

The owner of a local pizza place makes sure that two huge pizzas are hot, ready, and delivered on time for dinner to the Timothy House every Tuesday. They have been doing this faithfully for more than ten *years*, and even ordered pizzas for the house from another restaurant during a week their business was closed.

There is a woman in the Friday Night Life community who is deeply invested in the people who come. She is a leader in preparing take-home food for those who need extra through the week, and from time to time brings in clippers and sheers and gives haircuts to anyone who wants them. More so, however, she knows how people are doing, cares for them, and is trusted.

Kids in the children's ministry at a local church get rewarded for their participation in things like memorizing scripture or remembering to bring their Bible on Sundays. Instead of getting candy, the kids pick a gift for someone else, regularly sending bus passes and gift cards our way.

Two different members of the Athens community contact the Timothy House once a week, speak with the staff there, and go shopping for the fresh foods and other items that would most benefit the house that day, making fresh fruit something residents of the Timothy House can count on.

There are two men who come out almost every week to help on the Good Works property with maintenance issues. Both of them have taken seasons off as they've gone through health problems of their own, persevered, and returned, as they were able. They help us, and also work side by side with Transformation Station volunteers.

An Ohio University student group contacted us a year ago to find out how their members could get involved this school year. They started the year with a food drive, sponsored Friday Night Life, walked in the Good Works Walk, and are coming soon for a Saturday Work Retreat.

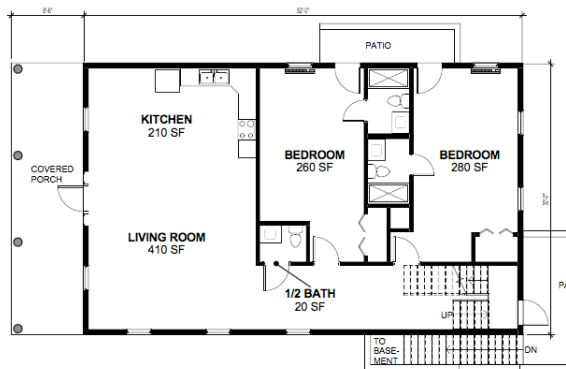
It is easy to be grateful for these many different people who saw a need, organized themselves, and made a commitment to reach out to their neighbors using their own resources. We meet many people during very difficult seasons, but we are honored to be a connecting point, a conduit for others who are poised to give, and ready to share resources, time, and hope. When I started Good Works in 1981, it never entered my mind that there would be SO MANY people, who would surround us, lift up our hands (and hearts), come alongside us, and step into faith-filled, creative and unique love and service with us. We are truly filled with gratitude!

## IN THE NEWS...

- Our **Work Retreat Season** is in full swing with groups coming every weekend to serve alongside us as we reach out to people at their homes in rural Athens County.
- **Friday Night Life** moves back to the Good Works property from April through September. We are still seeking groups to sponsor FNL once this year.
- We provided car #166 last month through the Transformation Station.
- The **Good Works WALK** (at this point) has provided \$35,500 towards the operations of the Timothy House. The staff and volunteers who serve there are truly sustaining a community of HOPE!

Good Works has owned a lot at 100 Central Avenue for many years because of a gift we received. In recent years we have had a community garden there. Several years ago, a local organization committed to helping us raise \$50,000 toward building a house on that property. They have reached that goal and are ready to release these funds as soon as we have the rest of the funding we need. In late January, the city approved our plans for a home with two first-floor bedrooms that will be wheelchair accessible. Both rooms will have their own bathroom. This new facility will enable us to assist singles and families who are turned away from the Timothy House simply because of lack of space. As many of you know, Darlene and I have been offering space in our home since 2013 for situations like this.

Our philosophy has always been to raise the funds before we begin construction. We estimate that the total cost of the materials will be about \$150,000 so we will need to raise around \$100,000 this year prior to beginning construction in 2019. As in years past, we rely upon volunteers for most of the construction. If you would like to know more about this initiative, please contact me through email or by phone at 740-541-0816. The property will have a second floor but here is a diagram of the first floor:



IN CLOSING, I want to share that the Good Works board and staff have again allowed me to step back and take some time off. I feel rested and refreshed. I am incredibly grateful for all of you as well as our staff and volunteers who form the Community of HOPE and make Good Works possible (Matthew 5:14-16).

Love is still a verb,

Keith Wasserman