



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)*

May 2018

To the Community of Hope,

Spring greetings with gratitude! Today, like many days, is one of preparation around Good Works—creating schedules, gathering materials, maintaining clear communication, and seeking education to address needs that will come up tomorrow, next week, or over the summer. All the while, many people who struggle with poverty in our area are praying. We know, because sometimes we are invited to pray for them and with them—for food for their kids, for running water in their home, for their family's future, for companionship, for help. While they are praying, we are planning.

Preparation and prayers come together in many forms at Good Works, but they can be seen perhaps most clearly in Work Retreats. Nearly every weekend in the spring and fall, and for seven full weeks in a row this summer, we have Work Retreat groups who have scheduled months in advance, assembled their teams, completed profiles listing their skills and their goals, and made plans for the trip to Athens, sometimes from several states away. They all come knowing that we need their help, and many already have the understanding that they have a *need* to help.

Thirty-five Work Retreat groups had an experience with Good Works in 2017. For many of these groups, joining us for a day, a weekend, or a full week is an expression of their faith. We hope while they are here that they will come to understand that chopping veggies, tilling a garden, cutting grass, fixing a sink, building a ramp, replacing a toilet, sharing a meal, and simply listening, *especially* listening, can be acts of worship when done in humility with love. This is, in fact, "religion" at its best (James 1:27), and we get to enjoy a great deal of unity across denominations, economics, and politics when we roll up our sleeves together, speak our own minds a little less, listen a lot more, and get down to the good work of the kingdom.

There is plenty of work to be done. There are many things we simply can't do without these "worship teams," as they come to be called. While our staff assesses the needs of the widows in our community who ask for help in the maintenance of their homes, it is the volunteers who come who carry out the work. We aren't paid repairmen—the project doesn't happen without this relational connection. People feel loved when they are heard, understood, and respected. For older people who are stifled with loneliness, this is one of the great pains, but having the undivided attention of another person who will listen to what they need to say, whether it is good or painful, is healing. That's not the role of a contractor; it's the role of a friend and neighbor.

In the summer in particular, groups that come also help prepare meals every day. There is the lunch with Transformation Station volunteers who they have worked side by side with all day. And there is the seven-week Summer Lunch that happens in The Plains with children from our Kids' Discovery Club, our Teen Agricultural Interns, and anyone else who wants to join in. At the end of their week, Work Retreat groups provide the food for Friday Night Life, sit down together at our picnic tables, and receive the hospitality of that community.

Signs of a "successful" Work Retreat are not found so much in numbers and projects, though, as in names. Did they learn the names of the neighbors who asked them into their homes, not just for help but for hospitality's sake as well? Did they learn the story of someone they shared a meal with at Friday Night

Life? Were they able to see some of themselves in the lives of residents of the Timothy House? If so, then certainly some prayers have been answered, and in all likelihood, new ones learned.

This month, we are asking if you might consider how you can ***come along side us*** in our journey and share your support. Each summer for more than 20 years we have stepped out and expanded our ministry and changed the story-line of many people's lives.

*All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor,
the very thing I had been eager to do all along. – Galatians 2:10*

Love is still a verb,



Keith Wasserman

YES—I would like to support the mission and vision of Good Works!

☐ Enclosed is my financial gift of \$ _____

☐ I would like to learn more about arranging automatic giving through my bank

☐ I would like to learn more about donating a car to the Transformation Station

☐ Please send me a copy of the current Needs List

☐ Contact me about donating food and /or fresh produce to Good Works

☐ Send me your new (May 2018) publication on the history of Good Works

☐ I would like more information about sponsoring Friday Night Life

☐ I would like to explore bringing a Work Retreat Group, contact me

Send me more information at:

Name _____ Email _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**What you share with us is confidential and is considered a trust.
We do not share any information you provide to us with other organizations.**