



# 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)*

June 2018

Dear Friends,

Greetings with gratitude! We will have the privilege of facilitating volunteer opportunities for 1,100 different people this year. This month we want to share reflections from interviews with a few volunteers who have made ongoing commitments in different areas of our ministry.

*Friday Night Life and Kids' Club began in 1993 when we invited former residents of the Timothy House to come back for dinner on Friday Nights to stay connected. Today, we average 20-30 kids every Friday night.*

It's one of the easiest volunteer things I've ever done. If you like hanging around young people, it's more of a party. Kids come for a lot of different reasons, but mostly because it's a good place to be. Some of it is just acceptance of behavior that's on the surface and looking beyond to see the kid underneath. When you see a kid that shows up with the skeleton shirt, and the black hoodie, and the purple hair, who spent all day writing on themselves—you go, that's obviously not good—but it's just the veneer of the world they live in, not who they are. It has asked me to look deeper and see this person for all that they are and can be. It gives me joy when I see them just being kids. They're so guarded in so many ways. It's not safe to be goofy, sensitive, caring, because you'll be shown to be vulnerable. So, when you see it happen, a kindness to one another, or they get to laughing without their guard up, you look for those moments and you cherish them. When other people treat our kids as having value, God works through them so the kids can accept that they are of value.

*-Michael Adams volunteers with Friday Night Life Kids' Club and also serves through the Weekend Opportunity at the Timothy House. He retired from the National Parks Service several years ago.*

*Since 1998 Neighbors Helping Neighbors has connected widows and older adults in Athens County with volunteers who visit with them and provide labor-intensive maintenance and service at their homes.*

I had read in the paper about Good Works. I was very involved in my kids' lives, so after they grew up, I thought I'd like to get involved here. Neighbors Helping Neighbors helps older adults, widows, people in need to stay in their homes. These are neighbors who could take care of their homes before, but they can't now, and they want to keep what they have. I love their stories—how they got where they are. A lot of them like to talk about their kids and grandkids and are proud of their families. I meet couples where one is caring for the other; they are trying to make their spouse comfortable and be able to stay where they are. There's one gentleman who is so interesting. He built his home and he tries to keep it up. His wife has been gone a long time. Every time I go there he works beside us, or we sit and talk. I would like to see more people treated with respect. I believe this is the right way to treat people, and I try to live that way.

*-Noreen Hone volunteers on Saturdays with Good Works through Neighbors Helping Neighbors and serves alongside those who volunteer through Work Retreats and the Transformation Station. She also works as a daycare provider for young children.*

*Good Works has been providing shelter to people without homes since 1981. There are five different ways to serve as a volunteer at the Timothy House.*

I enjoy meeting new people. It's good for me spiritually to be serving others. It stops me from thinking about myself or my problems. We have dinner, and I help residents clean up. Some of the time people are more serious, but a lot of the time people just want to kick back and relax. I want to be there to listen, no matter what their moods might be, to be friendly and be welcoming. I really enjoy painting with kids—they have some fun and usually a time when they're quieter before bed. It gives the parents a little break so they can do something they need to do. Sometimes the parents will sit and watch their kids paint. I hope that I can do something that will help someone out, even in a small way. I am in a place where people are getting help, and a little part of that comes from me, and I am glad.

*-Margaret Adams is a painter and has volunteered one evening a week at the Timothy House for the past six years.*

## IN THE NEWS

- The Timothy House continues to be a place of healing, hope and transformation both for those who stay there and for those who serve there. It is often difficult for us to talk about some of the challenges and difficulties we experience as we care for those who come to stay at Timothy House. Confidentiality, along with the delicate nature of each person's situation causes all of us to be careful with how much we share.
- We are looking forward to our 11<sup>th</sup> year of Summer Kids' Discovery Club and Summer Lunch that begins June 18<sup>th</sup>. We intend to provide 50-70 children and adults with a hot, nutritious lunch (M-TH) for seven consecutive weeks. If you know where we can obtain meats or vegetables or would like to donate a gift card to help this summer, we would appreciate this!
- We are grateful for the seven week-long Work Retreat groups coming to Good Works this summer and the impact for GOOD they will make in the lives of our neighbors. Please contact us if you'd like to bring a group to serve with us sometime.
- Our vision to construct a new facility in 2019 (Sign of HOPE) is moving along. Once we raise the funds, we will begin gathering the names of people who would like to volunteer their time and skills to assist us in the construction of this house.
- Friday Night Life completed year #25 in March! We are so thankful for the joy we experience with the people who form this community. We are also grateful for the groups who sponsor the meal each week, as well as those who share health, educational or musical presentations. On any given Friday after dinner, people work in the garden, gather for prayer, or participate in another forms of community building or education.
- Summer and fall are always good times to visit. Contact us to set up a time to see and share community with us. You may want to work with us in our gardens (and see the pigs), spend a morning (or longer) in the Carter Cabin, or enjoy some of the beautiful hiking trails on the Good Works property.
- In addition to our college-age interns who will join us for nine weeks and live in the Hannah House, we are also expecting ten teen interns, some of whom will join us in agriculture, and others who will participate in our Christian discipleship internship.

THIS MONTH I want to tell all of you that Good Works has been enriched with countless faithful, creative, innovative, and loving volunteers over the past 37 years. We are so grateful for the many people who partner with us to make the widow's heart sing, take up the case of the stranger, and be a father to the fatherless (Job 29:12-17).

Love is a verb,

Keith Wasserman

