



Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 37 Years!

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*"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)*

July 2018

Warm-hearted greetings from all of us who form the Community of Hope!

As I write to you today, our Summer Service season is under way. Our two internships for local teens have started up, and our second Work Retreat group is with us. With the advent of summer come many opportunities to see people move from a "do for" mindset to a "do with," and even a "be with" mindset. At Good Works, we believe that being *with* someone (Matthew 25:36) is not less significant than doing something *for* someone. When we choose to spend time with someone, we communicate love often without having to say anything. We hope for the opportunity to impart something about the value of time spent in relationships that cross economic lines, and the joy to be found therein.

There are a few pictures from the past year that come to mind which illustrate this. In one of them, two of our teenaged Kingdom Interns have stopped chopping veggies at Summer Lunch to pause for a picture with Doris, who was working to earn a car through Transformation Station. She had been there in the kitchen with them a couple of days a week and had helped them learn a lot about cooking healthy food—something she cared about a great deal. They shared a lot of conversations over food, and this became a special friendship for everyone involved.

Another picture that comes to mind is a very skillfully executed watercolor painting. It was hung up on the Timothy House refrigerator, next to one that was clearly done with joy, if not with the same level of grace. Our friend Margaret is a painter and has been volunteering alongside the Timothy House staff once a week for about six years. She has brought in art supplies and regularly paints with adults and kids experiencing homelessness. Margaret deals with a mental illness, and volunteering is an opportunity for her to get outside of herself for a while and give her attention to others. She shares from her own experiences and says, "There are many residents who have a mental illness. I just recommend seeing a doctor if they're having trouble. I encourage them to go to our local community mental health center to get help."

Finally, there is the image of our neighbor Amanda in her garden. Amanda struggles against the impact of poverty in her life, which is exacerbated by some physical and emotional difficulties. Amanda is seated on the ground, picking bush beans in the posture that makes her most able, surrounded by lush garden growth and by three of our Teen Agricultural Interns. She is smiling and talking while participating in the work of the harvest, and the interns are gladly listening and helping. Amanda is an experienced gardener and a welcoming person. It is evident that her request for help with her plants is also an invitation into her life in some way.

We are learning how to lay down our own need to be in control, in order to be willing to learn from those we are here to help. "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not think you are superior" (Romans 12:16). Often, people like Margaret and Amanda, who have a grasp of their own weaknesses, can lend their strengths to the whole community. Sometimes youth can carry the least preconceived judgments and most easily lead the way into mutual relationships. We are learning to BE together.

We are so thankful for all of those who serve with Good Works, and we are learning together how important it is not only to “do for,” but to “do with,” and “be with.”

IN THE NEWS

- We are planning our next GOING DEEPER conference for Saturday, October 27th, 2018 on the Good Works property. We will provide more details in our next newsletter and on our website in July. Please consider participating!
- We are welcoming applicants to apply for the fall season of our Appalachian Immersion Internship. You can learn more about AI from our website under internships.
- This year, four of our summer week-long Work Retreats are returning groups! Maybe you know a group of adults and/or youth who would like to come and serve with Good Works. We are now scheduling for the spring of 2019.
- Good Works provided car #169 in June. The Transformation Station continues to have a huge impact upon families here in rural Ohio. Last year, 56 individuals participated in the TS and received appliances, food, bicycles, furniture, and cars. We need washers & dryers, refrigerators, and freezers to provide to people struggling with poverty who want to work for them!
- The Carter Cabin is our solitude retreat cabin and has been a place for people of all ages and all walks of life to find rest and refreshment since 1999. Maybe you know someone who might benefit from some time there.
- Plans are moving along for our new construction project called Sign of HOPE. We will be looking for volunteers for the spring and summer of 2019.
- Good Works Neighbors Helping Neighbors continues to reach out in so many different helpful and practical ways. Last year we were able to complete around 190 projects with 58 individuals and families in Athens County.

In closing this month, I want to ask again for your prayers and continued support. We have a LOT going on this summer, and we are seeking to be men and women of integrity, who are found faithful. We have several staff transitions coming up this year and several gaps as a result of those changes. This is often stressful, especially for me. We are praying for new interns, who might eventually step into a few of our staff positions. Good Works is primarily about people—*developing* people into a wise, discerning, loving, and faith-filled community. What we do emerges from who we are. We *are* the body of Christ at work in the world for the glory of God.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman