



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)*

August 2018

Hello from Good Works!

We have enjoyed a brief respite from the intense heat of Southeast Ohio summer in these past couple of weeks. The relative coolness has been a relief for our interns, staff, and Work Retreat members. One of the pleasures of this summer—a breath of fresh air for all of us in the Good Works community—has been Gary, who began serving with us in the spring, and drove home the 170th Transformation Station car a couple of weeks ago.

Buddy Ballard currently leads our Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative. He described his predecessor, Seth, commissioning him with this relationship, and telling him, "Take care of Gary." Buddy has had several opportunities to visit Gary at his own home over the past few years, leading teams of volunteers out to help him with maintenance issues.

Buddy says, "Gary felt like he couldn't be in large crowds and had social anxiety, but every time I came back he shared a little more of his story. He shared about the hurt of losing his mom, who left him his trailer. He keeps it really clean inside and out to honor her." While Gary hasn't been able to complete all the work his home needed by himself, he was always helping alongside volunteers—from fixing his roof, to replacing his water heater and back door, to cutting down a tree before it could fall on his trailer.

Buddy says, "I learned Gary's name came up on the Transformation Station list for a car (he had signed up to volunteer for one nearly two years earlier), and that he turned us down! He said he couldn't come out to volunteer because of his social anxiety. I asked permission to call him and ask if he would at least come out and try working with me for one day. So I called Gary and told him *I* had been rough around the edges and hard to deal with, but this community is very loving and accepting, and we would try not to put him in large groups of people. He agreed to come out."

Jim Todd manages the Transformation Station. He says, "Gary is the ideal candidate for TS—you see it in his actions. He was here to get his car, but he didn't want to coast. He went full throttle from the time he arrived until he left. He gave 110%. He can do a lot for himself—that's his mindset. Offering him the chance to do physical work was huge for him, but one of the most important things Good Works did for Gary was something we didn't do—we did not push him to conform. What Good Works provided for Gary was a safe atmosphere for him to be himself. It brought Gary out from a place of self-imposed loneliness."

During Gary's time as a TS volunteer, Buddy led him out as part of a volunteer team to help several older women who had lost their husbands. Buddy says, "Each day, Gary went from just looking around and checking things out to really enjoying the community. He started telling stories and talking to the neighbors. He was training our Work Retreat group, teaching them different carpentry tricks. He went from being this shy person who didn't believe he could be in community, to thinking, 'I can lead and teach these people.' I have not personally had a relationship with anyone of my neighbors that has had that kind of transformation since I've been here."

IN THE NEWS ...

- Our sixth annual **GOING DEEPER** conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 27th from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm on the Good Works property. This year, we will be sharing what we have learned about the four practices that sustain our mission and our life together. They are Promise Keeping, Truth Telling, Hospitality, and Gratitude. As we walk in these practices as a community, we have come to believe there are many transferable principles that apply to every Christian Community. Space is limited. Contact Andrea Horsch before October 23rd to register (740-594-3339 / email@good-works.net). The cost for the day is \$30.00 and includes lunch.
- **Praxis** is the name we use to describe the defined relationship with Ohio University professors we created several years ago. Through Praxis, professors build service with Good Works into their class syllabus.
- The Timothy House has been very full all summer. The staff and volunteers who serve there with JOY continue to be stretched as they care for the adults and children who are living there. The Wasserman's have continued to provide a place to stay at *their* home for those who are turned away because of space limitations.
- Good Works Summer Kids' Discovery Club and Summer Lunch ended August 2nd. Thank you Emily Blackwell and Darlene Wasserman for your leadership! This year we had a large number of children (51) register and participate. Summer Lunch served about 70-80 adults and children each day. Heart-felt thanks to those who donated food and to the many volunteers who participated.
- Deepest gratitude to our seven week-long Work Retreat groups who came to Good Works this summer from Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. We do have openings for the summer of 2019!
- Through the leadership of Paul Richard and Jimmy Blackwell, we have been able to lead six different Spiritual Formation retreats so far this year. Maybe you know of a group who might want to come and experience a time of refreshing in the presence of the LORD. Our theme this year is righteousness and justice.

In closing, I want to share this: We are *so thankful* to the families and individuals who have donated cars to the Good Works Transformation Station (TS) since 2004. For the first time since we began this initiative, we only have one car on the lot with no further cars promised. **Would you be willing to share the vision of the TS and our need for cars in your network of relationships?** I am also happy to come and speak to any group you think may want to learn more about the TS and the current situation. I am still convinced that God will continue to use all of our offerings "to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman



Celebrations and a time of affirmation and prayer takes place every time someone receive their car!!