



# 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)*

## Thanksgiving 2018

Dear friends,

Greetings with JOY and GRATITUDE from all of us at Good Works! On this day, our first snow of the year, we write with knowledge of so many good things we are experiencing because of the goodness of God (Psalm 27:13).

Our community intentionally carves out time for gratitude before meals and especially at Friday Night Life, as we take time to invite participants to share what they are thankful for. Once a week, when we gather for our staff/community building time, we spend part of it expressing gratitude and words of affirmation to one another. We find this essential time to be something that sustains us. We hope through these practices that gratitude would become the orientation of our hearts.

Today, we wanted to share a few expressions of gratitude from our hearts with you:

*For the end of this year's growing season, and the 15+ gardens now put to bed, which bore a lot of food at the homes of our neighbors all over Athens County.*

*For Linda, who lived at The Timothy House several years ago while she went through treatment for cancer, and now takes the bus once a week to volunteer there, organizing donations and slicing bread for the take home food at Friday Night Life. Linda begins every conversation with, "Praise God!"*

*For the gift of a pickup truck over a year ago, and the many volunteers, tools, and materials it has hauled to and from the homes of our elderly neighbors.*

*For Jennifer, who stayed at The Timothy House, has worked hard on her recovery, and connected with a local congregation. Now Jennifer mentors other women and leads weekly meetings in which people are finding freedom from addiction.*

*For the Friday Night Life community, all the people who find a home there, and the multiple generations of different families who are rooted in Southeast Ohio and bring stability to many friends.*

*For the children from all walks of life who learned, ate, and played together at Summer Kids' Discovery Club. For kids from other countries being welcomed to Southeast Ohio by kids in poverty from the community of The Plains.*

*For the groups who have done food drives, stocked our pantries, and hosted Friday Night Life, and made it possible for Good Works to provide 21,000+ meals this year. And for Katie, our intern who is cooking with residents of The Timothy House every Monday through Thursday this semester, making sure dinner is on the table.*

*For the 40 groups who came to serve with us this year through Work Retreats, including many teenagers who put down video game controllers and cell phones to pick up shovels and hoes to grow food and friendships on the Good Works Property and at our neighbors' homes.*

*For over 173 families who have donated their vehicles and made them available to Transformation Station volunteers. For the TS volunteers who persevered just to get here, worked hard to serve alongside us on our property and at homes in Athens County, saw their commitments through to the end, and drove home smiling in their new cars.*

Finally, we are grateful for our loving heavenly Father, who unites us with a shared vision of building community with people in poverty.

## IN THE NEWS

- Plans are taking shape for the 17<sup>th</sup> Good Works WALK scheduled for Saturday, February 23, 2019. If you are able, please come and please encourage people you know to participate this year. This will be a very significant WALK.  
[www.goodworkswalk.net](http://www.goodworkswalk.net)
- We will host our annual Christmas Store at Friday Night Life with the vision to invite those who participate in Friday Night Life to pick out 1-2 items for someone they love. In doing this, we offer a platform for them to express generosity.
- By the grace of God, Darlene and I will be finishing up another year with Good Works. January 1<sup>st</sup> marks the start of our 39<sup>th</sup> year.
- We hosted our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Going Deeper Conference in October with the GW staff leading breakout sessions on gratitude, hospitality, promise keeping, and truth telling.
- We are very challenged by the number of people experiencing homelessness who are seeking shelter right now—especially the number of families with small children that we are serving through The Timothy House.
- Our Needs List/Wish List is on our website, and there are many opportunities to assist us. We can also mail or email you a copy if you contact us.
- We are seeking interns for our residential internship called Appalachian Immersion and also for our Summer Service (9 week) internship for 2019.
- Our vision to construct a new home on land owned by Good Works near the Timothy House remains strong. When fully funded, we intend to break ground in the spring of 2019. We have met two-thirds of our \$150,000 goal.

IN CLOSING, I want to say THANK YOU to each of you who support us, visit us, pray for us, follow us on our website, and read our newsletters. Please continue to uphold us with your love and with prayer as we persevere with joy and gratitude to love the stranger and care for the fatherless and widows in their time of distress (James 1:26-27).

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman