

THE LAST WALK

Greetings with JOY and gratitude!

THANK YOU for supporting the Good Works WALK. Some of you reading this have been walking with us from the very beginning and others of you have walked with us for many years. Thank you! Your presence today and your support are very significant to us! We are truly grateful!

As many of you know by now, we have decided that this will be the last Good Works WALK.

What began as the WALK FOR THE HOMELESS in 2003, shifted about 6 years ago and was renamed The Good Works WALK. We did this for several reasons: (1) We wanted to move away from the language of “the homeless.” It no longer fit our view of how to use language to describe people who were vulnerable and in a housing crisis. We learned how important it is to separate what has happened to someone from their primary identity. (2) We had intentionally held the WALK on Martin Luther King Day weekend for many years to connect our vision of loving people with the values and legacy of Dr. King. However, when the University moved from quarters to semesters, we found it too difficult to host the Walk in the same time frame and also include OU students.

The WALK is monumental for the Good Works staff and volunteers. It has been a significant source of funding for The Timothy House. We have organized 17 consecutive WALKS with multiple generations of staff, board members and volunteers. We were the first “walk” in Athens in 2003. Our goal that year was to raise \$15,000.00. We raised about \$40,000.00 and were very encouraged.

Seventeen consecutive years is a long time to do anything. Anything that grows and changes needs to be transformed into a new stage. We want to create a new event that will challenge all of us to learn more and grow more in loving our neighbors.

The cost of operating the Timothy House is about \$180,000 each year. Our financial goal for the WALK is to raise 1/3 of the total costs. We have never reached that goal (although we have come close). We are hoping that this year, our last year, we will reach or even exceed that goal.

In 2014, Good Works decided to turn down \$64,000.00 of funding from Ohio Development Services because our ethics collided with the ethics of the State of Ohio. They were asking us to upload confidential personal information that we learned about each person staying at the Timothy House to their website without the permission of our residents. This was a significant loss to our funding.

Good Works is a donor-based organization. This means that the largest amount of funding (maybe as much as 95%) comes from individuals and families. We also receive a lot of support from churches and religious organizations. Finally, we are very grateful to the business who support Good Works, and especially those who sponsored the WALK each year.

Moving forward, it is our hope to create an event in 2020 that will incorporate three core values that we have experienced with the Good Works WALK: (1) Bringing the community together intergenerationally to gather around the cause of loving and serving people who are struggling with poverty. (2) Raise funds for Good Works. (3) Provide education, inspiration and motivation from what we have learned from serving others regarding how all of us might take another step of service in our community.

THANK YOU for coming to the last Good Works WALK.
It has been good. Very good. We are all very grateful!

Love is a verb,

Keith Wasserman

Ps—We are interested to learn from you some suggestions and ideas on how we may create an event in 2020 that will reflect our vision and values. Please take some time to email us or write us your thoughts and ideas, will you?

What suggestions or ideas do you have for us for an event we could create in 2020?

What type of fundraising events have you experienced that have been most impacting to you?