



Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 38 Years!

PO Box 4, Athens, OH 45701
Phone: 740-594-3339
Email: email@good-works.net
Web: www.good-works.net

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)*

Hello friends, greetings once again with JOY and gratitude!

May 2019

We continue to feel so thankful for each of you who share in our vision and who are involved with Good Works in so many different ways that sustain us! I want to tell you this month that the work of love is very hard sometimes, and yet we have each other and share the experience of the love of God as we bear this weight of responsibility.

This month I want you to hear from Ami Snyder, one of our co-workers who is on the front lines of love (and tough love) every day serving at The Timothy House. This is Ami's reflection on her journey:

One thing I can say for sure is that God is certainly changing me. Some days this work is just like any other: mundane tasks to be done, laundry, cleaning, and paperwork. But unlike most settings, we are working in the lives of others who are vulnerable and in probably one of the lowest periods they've ever been in. This is where there is such a beautiful opportunity to see God at work in this world.

This ministry isn't quite what I thought it would be like when I joined the staff almost two years ago. It is rewarding beyond most anything I've experienced, but the rewards are often wrapped up in extremely messy and hard things with strangers who have just come into my life and don't truly trust me and my motives to help yet. Sometimes they don't ever trust me or receive the guidance we have to offer about how they can make changes and stop living in the brokenness that brought them to this point.

I have found that it is often the most difficult people who have made the biggest difference in my life. This does not always mean that there was a happy ending, although sometimes that is the case. While I've seen breakthroughs, and have seen a lot of people get healing and housing, my most memorable experience so far has been with a parent who was caught up in circumstances out of her control and some bad choices. At the end of the day her situation was more severe than we originally realized, and we were not able to continue helping her. On the way home from The Timothy House that night I pulled over and just cried out to God about the "whys?" *Why do kids pay for their parent's mistakes? How do we help? Will the kids grow up to continue the brokenness?*

My faith and trust have grown. My empathy for others has grown. My understanding that we can't help everyone has grown. Thank you for being a supporter of my role here.

Ami Snyder joined our community in 2017 and works inside the day-to-day life of The Timothy House as a Care-giver. Ami and her three daughters have lived in the Athens area for 5 years.

The work we do is hard but important. I feel very thankful for my co-workers who are wise, discerning, patient, and very loving. I see their service. I watch them make sacrifices and keep commitments. I experience their integrity. We recently had three families with young children and several single adults living at The Timothy House. I am really grateful as I have watched the attentiveness these parents have towards their children. I witnessed some really good parenting in these families. The situation of homelessness is difficult for anyone but especially hard for parents who have young children. Yet these parents did the hard stuff, and it was obvious to all of us.

IN THE NEWS

- Each spring, we host a special picnic for our on-going, scheduled volunteers who serve through The Timothy House, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, The Transformation Station, Friday Night Life (and Kids Club), and Senior Friends. This year we enjoyed hearing story after story of how transformation is taking place both in those we are serving and those who serve.
- Summer Service is our 9-week initiative to train new interns, welcome seven week-long Work Retreat groups, offer an every-day Summer Lunch, and welcome teens into the experience of service. Once again, we are seeking donations of food and gift cards we can use at local grocery stores to assist with the cost of our Summer Lunch (Kroger, Aldi's, Walmart, Piggly Wiggly, and the Dollar Store).
- Good Works Country Bed and Breakfast continues to provide a revenue source which helps cover some of our utility costs on the Good Works property. We are now available through "AirBnB".
- Sign of HOPE groundbreaking is planned for early September. We have about \$170,000 given and pledged to us. Our hope is to raise a total of \$200,000 by August 15th. If you would like to contribute to this new initiative, we would appreciate your support. Mark your gift Sign of HOPE in the memo line. More information is available on the website.
- The Carter Cabin is our solitude retreat cabin and is available to anyone seeking a time away for a morning, afternoon, or overnight. There is no cost to use the cabin. To make arrangements, contact us at 740.594.3336.
- LifeTogether is the weekly worship gathering we host on the Good Works property. We meet every Sunday from 5-7 pm for a time of liturgical worship with scripture, song, and prayer followed by a shared meal together. You're invited to join us!
- Can you pass the word about our internship opportunities and encourage people you know to visit our website and explore the different internships we provide? We know (and you may already know) that we often hire full time staff from our internships.
- Spring and summer are good times to visit us. Please let us know if you'd like to come! We enjoy hosting guests in the Good Works Hannah House. A good time to come is Thursday-Saturday when you can experience and enjoy the community, walk the hiking trails, join us for our Friday staff time, and participate in Friday Night Life.

IN CLOSING I am wondering...I'd like to travel and visit some of you this year. I'm looking for places (and people) that might welcome me for 1-2 days of rest and the opportunity to share how I'm doing and about the ministry of Good Works in some way. Let me know if you would like me to provide you with more information.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman



Photos of The Carter Cabin located on the Good Works Property. This solitude retreat cabin was named in honor of Robert (Bob) Carter who served in the Good Works community for 10 years.