



Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 38 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)

Greetings dear friends with JOY and gratitude!

September 2019

We have just completed another intense season of Summer Service. In addition to the week-long groups we hosted from Ohio, Kentucky, and Arizona, we offered our Kid's Discovery Club and Summer Lunch for 7 weeks. Our summer interns have transitioned from their time with us, and we just ended a much-needed resting period in most areas with the exception of The Timothy House where the staff there feel a bit overwhelmed at the numbers of adults and children we are serving and the large volume of calls and pre-admit meetings we are having.

We write this month to share a few reflections from our own Buddy Ballard on the relationships he formed with several young men who stayed at The Timothy House:

Good Works exists to connect people from all walks of life with people struggling in poverty so that the kingdom of God can be experienced. We focus a lot on the fatherless, the widow, and the stranger. I would like to talk about my experience with the fatherless. Many children grow up in the foster care system with many different foster families, never really having a lifelong family for support. The Timothy House receives many of these "orphaned" young adults. After they turn 18 or due to a long life of instability in family structure, they struggle to make it on their own after foster care. Several years back we had three young men who had all lived together at a local residential facility. Daren, Jason, and Chad. The Timothy House gave these guys some structure and a place while in transition. These guys shared many common experiences together, from struggling with addiction, to not feeling like they belonged anywhere. They became very close, like brothers, and some of the Good Works staff invited them to Celebrate Recovery and offered Life's Healing Choices classes, which some of the staff had attended. These guys found a place to belong together in community. They began keeping each other accountable and growing together. It's amazing really to see God at work in those men. Today all three of these guys are in different places. Jason is married and has been blessed with a family of his own. He is in the process of building his own home for his family and is doing well. Chad was once led to believe he wasn't good enough to keep a job or work, and lacked good financial management. He struggled a lot with anger. But he has been employed with various jobs for about two years and has kept a place to live and continues in his recovery family. Daren moved away to help his Pastor start a new church in New York. He was adopted into a family that has and still accepts him. He has a good job and lets us know how he is doing on occasion. All of these guys are still in my life today in one way or another.

We met Buddy first as a resident of the Timothy House more than ten years ago. After he moved into his own apartment with his daughter, he returned to volunteer and contributed his skills as a mason to the construction of the Hope Center, and his own strength as a recovery leader to residents of the Timothy House. Today, Buddy leads Good Works' Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiatives. He is in his 5th year on the full-time staff.

Our goal is not to fix people but to love people. We had many ups and downs with these young men who Buddy wrote about. Relapses, anger, and dishonesty caused us to evict each of them at least once. *Together*, we found patience and sometimes even eagerness to move them back in and work with them again. We hung in there as they became honest people. This "work of love" often requires the fruit of long-suffering. It is one thing to love people at their point of vulnerability and another to keep on loving them when they act with anger or deceit. For us, the brokenness we see in people requires us to seek both wisdom and discernment for how to best love each person. We have our own human limitations. Sometimes the person we are seeking to help and love pushes us beyond our limits emotionally, and we feel threatened. Enduring this when we can is suffering-love. Many times, we pour our lives into someone only to see them return to the very destructive situation they were seeking to be free from. When this happens, we grieve, and we learn to grieve *together*. This too is suffering love.

Loving our own families requires one aspect of our intentionality; loving strangers requires something different. We want our compassion to be at the front end of our welcome, alongside of mercy and empathy. Many times, we experience a deep satisfaction that our efforts and the sacrifices we choose to make are good, and helpful, and simply the right thing to do. But there are times when strangers act in ways that disturb or confuse us, and we need to figure out how to proceed. We seek to create an environment of trust so that everyone feels safe, and for the most part we see our efforts as both fruitful and wise. The work of love that we do so intentionally at Good Works must be done in community, where we learn to work closely together, to trust and listen to one another, and where we “watch each others’ backs” every day. God has been faithful to us for 38+ years. We ask for your continued prayers and encouragement. We remain confident (as the Psalmist writes in 27:3) that we will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

IN THE NEWS

- Volunteers are coming to do site and concrete work on Sign of Hope prior to the ceremony set for September 28th. We remain committed to moving ahead with this project knowing that we still need about \$15,000.00 to reach our financial goal. We are looking for skilled volunteers interested in helping us build this house this fall and next spring. Contact Paul at 740.594.3336 or through email at email@good-works.net if you want to help or want more information.
- Good Works provided car #182 to a participant in the Transformation Station in August. The ceremony was very special because the person who received the car was someone we have known her entire life. This was our last car and we are not taking anyone new into the program until we receive more cars. Can you pass the word on about our need for cars?
- *Many* people experiencing homelessness have contacted us needing a place to live this summer. The staff at the Timothy House are doing their best to identify who we can grant shelter to, with the expectation that they would be able to be “safe, clean, and stable,” which is both the objective of the Timothy House, and a standard for people who we are able to work with.

IN CLOSING, I want to share that we are striving for excellence – all of us – in the way we love our neighbors. We remain learners and while we love sacrificially, it is also with the recognition that when we enter into people’s lives during their time of great struggle, we are entering into a privileged space. It is God who is at work in us, able to provide patience, resources, hope, and unity. Thank you for joining us in this work of taking reasonable risks, and offering help to many different kinds of people.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

Sign of HOPE, 2019



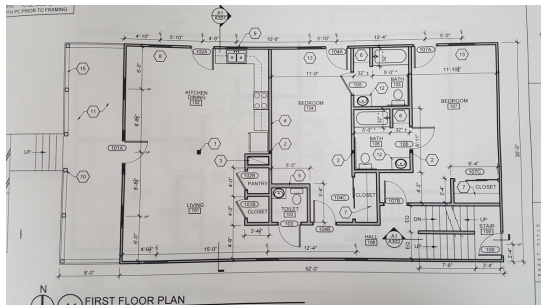
100 Central Avenue before excavating began



Good Works Staff and Interns September 2019



September 2019 photo of 100 Central Avenue



Drawing of the first floor of Sign of HOPE