



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 from all of your friends at Good Works!

June 2019

As many of you may already know, we spend a lot of time carefully considering our mission, and ministry, and the relationships we have been trusted with. We are aware that many of the people we are learning to love and care for have experienced a high degree of vulnerability and brokenness. We seek wisdom every day, and as a community desire to build up, support, encourage, and bring healing to those who come to us for help.

This month, I would like you to hear from our co-worker Paul Richard. Paul is the Director of Operations with Good Works and oversees several of our initiatives.

At the center of everything we do is the formation of relationships.

It really is not enough to provide a roof and a bed to someone at the Timothy House, though we are grateful to all those who contribute to make that possible. While providing shelter is vital, we desire the opportunity for the formation of relationships that can be transformative to everyone involved.

Providing a hot, nutritious meal is essential at Friday Night Life. We provide over 21,000 meals a year through various initiatives, requiring a large amount of food. This is good, and we are grateful for all the food provided. But a meal can also nurture community, which nourishes the soul of a person. Relationships are formed over people coming together to satisfy a basic human need for food, and thus something transformative takes place.

We have many volunteers come to work alongside us as we build ramps, mow lawns, replace rotting floors, and plant gardens through Neighbors Helping Neighbors. We do these kinds of projects for people throughout the year, and the gratitude on the neighbor's face and in their words is very evident. This kind of help can be profound, and we are grateful for all the volunteers who accomplish these tasks. But that is not all that we are seeking to do. At the center of this initiative is the development of nurturing relationships with people who are often isolated due to age and disability. Many times volunteers just *visit* while the project is taking place. And sometimes the person going to volunteer discovers that *they* are the neighbor who needed the help of a transforming relationship!

All the vehicles that have been provided to Good Works for The Transformation Station are a source of overwhelming gratitude to me. These are provided to people needing transportation, and this is so beneficial. But what is really happening here is the formation of relationships between people because of the TS volunteer being present with us as they come each week. To be able to come to the end of their volunteer time, and for our staff to be able to tell them, "These are the good and true things I know about you..." and affirm them for what we have learned from them and about them is transformative.

Each initiative of Good Works helps people in some practical way. But what has a lasting impact are the loving relationships that are formed through the initiative. So, we thank you not only for providing the gifts, but for making something so much greater possible—the development of life transforming relationships.

Paul Richard came to Good Works in January of 2000. He has served as the Director of Operations for many years. Paul and his wife Lyn have two adult children and have lived in Athens for 22 years.

IN THE NEWS...

- We are preparing to launch our 22nd year of Summer Service, and are expecting 7 week-long short-term mission teams (we call them Work Retreats) beginning in mid-June. Summer Service is intense. In addition to hosting groups in the Hannah House, we will also be leading the 12th year of Summer Kids Discovery Club and Summer Lunch! We are still seeking gift cards to help us with some of the costs of our Summer Lunch.
- We would welcome volunteers (age 16 and over) to help one day a week in supervision and creation of activities for children at Kids' Discovery Club. We also need volunteers to help prepare lunch, eat with community members, and help clean up (June 17-August 2). Email or call us to apply.
- Training for Life is our class at The Timothy House that enables those who live there to learn computer skills and use the Internet. We have been offering TFL at the TH for 15 years!
- Sign of HOPE, our new initiative to be built on Athens West Side is on schedule for a groundbreaking in September. Details to follow. As of today we are \$20,000 away from reaching our financial goal. Thank you to everyone who has contributed and participated in this vision!
- Appalachian Immersion, our residential internship, begins in September. Maybe you know someone who would benefit from a season serving alongside us. Read more about our internships under "get involved" on our website.
- Friday Night Life started year # 27 this spring. We are so thankful for this precious community, which continues to flourish. FNL is very inter-generational. Right now, we are seeking wisdom to care for the large number of local teens who are coming each week. Do you know of a group who would welcome the opportunity to sponsor a FNL meal this year?
- 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. Join us!
- The Transformation Station continues to provide washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, non-emergency food, and cars. Our local newspaper (The Athens News) recently wrote an article on the TS. In May, we provided car #179.

What we do at Good Works emerges from who we are. As we grow in love, we become more aware that it is truly a privilege for us to spend significant time *being* with those who come to us for help. Thank you for supporting us as we represent "the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living" (Psalm 27:13).

Love is a verb,

Keith Wasserman



This is the future site of Sign of Hope



Friday Night Life on the Good Works Property