

Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 39 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 with JOY and gratitude!

August 2020

This is a hard season for many of us.

I often begin my letters to you with heart-felt gratitude because this is the way I feel about all of you who love and support us. I have you in my heart. I also have come to believe that gratitude is a *way of life* for me; indeed, the lens through which I seek to view life and the "sustaining grace" of my every-day journey.

The summer of 2020 has been difficult and unusual for all of us here at Good Works. We had 7 week-long groups scheduled, plans for our Kid's Discovery Club, lots of Neighbors Helping Neighbors friends to serve and much more. But the current health concerns have forced us to change and re-think and re-do. I know that this is the case in many of our lives, but here at Good Works, we are struggling with how to love our neighbors right now.

Darlene has been on "the front lines" of a very intense schedule of putting together a public meal for adults and children almost every day. Nick and Caitlyn have been structuring our new initiative called Crossroads for a few local teens. Many from our staff have been overseeing five Kingdom Interns in a 7-week summer initiative we established many years ago to invite local teens into a deeper relationship with God and service. We continue to feel very grateful that we all have had the privilege of caring for, helping and encouraging so many people.

Navigating Covid-19

The challenges of health and safety for everyone is the focus of my every-day life right now. About five weeks into Summer Service the virus dramatically increased in Athens County and we decided to shift our plans again. Summer Lunch moved to a "take-home" meal only, so we prepared it and brought it to The Plains Community Park to give out each day. We had been picking up people from Athens and driving them to (and from) The Plains each day, so we decided we would simply bring the lunch meals to these friends instead. We slowed down the Transformation Station again and strengthened all of our protocols for entering our buildings. Friday Night Life has continued every week with different groups sponsoring the meal. We continue to take a lot of precautions to make sure people remain healthy and feel safe. We are operating The Timothy House every day, although the resident population is much lower.

IN THE NEWS

- Through Neighbor Helping Neighbors this summer our Interns and staff had the opportunity to serve several older adults who live alone and who struggle with issues related to aging and disability. We were able to replace the decking on a ramp for one of our neighbors who had fallen. We also helped clean out her shed which was damaged by flooding. At several other neighbor's homes, we were able to do a lot of yardwork and assisted with the cleaning up of different areas of their properties. Because of our health cautions, we decided we did not want to do any work inside people's homes at this time. We worked to help clean up and develop some of the trails for another neighbor who did not have access to them because of the limitations of his wheel chair. We used our power

washer to clean and then stain another neighbor's deck, and also helped to seal the roof on a trailer which was leaking. We were able to fulfill our vision of "making the widow's heart sing".

- Sign of HOPE, our new building, is moving along slowly. We had planned for significant progress this summer since we had so many volunteers scheduled, but plans had to be changed. The foundation is mostly complete now and we hope to begin framing soon.
- We welcomed two new staff in July, Jeremy and Kim Hudelson! They moved to Athens from Richmond, Indiana. Jeremy will serve with Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Kim will serve in the arena of Community Life, overseeing the Hannah House and the guests, interns and the community life there.
- Planning for fall 2020 feels unclear. We had Work Retreat groups scheduled to come and serve with us, but this feels uncertain right now. We still have many neighbors asking us for help.
- We are still hoping to plan our new fund-raiser called **DAY IN THE LIFE**. This is the event we developed to replace the WALK. This event is still scheduled for December 5, but we may need to adjust it to be a "virtual" event depending on where things are at that time. (www.goodworksdayinthelife.net). The goal is to raise as many "days" to fund the Timothy House in 2021 as possible.
- So much of what we have become at Good Works has been infused and shaped by volunteers. Many of our volunteers have had to stop participating for now and this has put a lot of pressure on the staff to step into the gaps. We are doing our best to discern what we can do right now.
- Our current needs are listed on the Good Works website. If you are able to assist with any of these needs, let us know. Also, we would welcome groups to do a food drive for Good Works, especially for the food pantry which benefits Transformation Station volunteers.

IN CLOSING, I would again give thanks for all of the kindness we have received and experienced. We read the letters you send at our weekly staff gatherings, so if you are inclined to send a note of encouragement, we will share it.

Love is a verb

Keith Wasserman



The Kingdom Interns assisted Darlene with preparing Summer Lunch all summer



All of our 8 interns worked together to assist with different Good Works projects all summer



Isabella Daley, Kelly Carter and Sophie Mather served with Good Works in Summer Service this year.