

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)

September 2020

Greetings with JOY and gratitude!

The fall season is upon us. Leaves are falling here already. We all seem to be in continual limbo with regard to the health crisis, and I am finding it to be quite a struggle to find words right now. Nevertheless, I persevere and give thanks!

We are doing well. The staff and their families are healthy. We have continued to care for adults and children (albeit with many cautions and new protocols) who are struggling with poverty, homelessness and isolation. THE VISION of Good Works remains strong: to love, and for each of us to *grow* in love – for our neighbors, one another, ourselves and for God (Luke 10:27). We seek to “connect” people from all walks of life with people who live in the difficult hardships of poverty, so that the kingdom of God can be experienced!

There are many “moving parts” at Good Works and to be honest, it feels hard to oversee everything right now. Our primary focus continues to be the day-to-day operations of The Timothy House, Friday Night Life, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Sign of HOPE, and The Transformation Station. We are trying to be attentive to the growing requests for help we receive from our neighbors, especially those who are now widows, widowers, and those who struggle with a disability and issues related to aging. The need is greater than our capacity.

We are doing the best we can right now under the circumstances. For this we give thanks!

The community of HOPE is primarily a learning community. We are all learners and we continually encourage one another to remain teachable, available to others, and faithful to one another. Guarding and strengthening our integrity continues to be one avenue to faithfulness. For me, one of the most meaningful and exciting aspects of what God has trusted us with is creating and sustaining an environment where staff, volunteers and recipients can grow, keep growing and find life-giving relationships built on trust. Secondly, it continues to be my passion to help everyone find pathways to use their abilities and unique gifts to love and serve others, and to eventually learn how to carry leadership responsibilities. And so, we press on!

IN THE NEWS

- Our work on Sign of HOPE has slowed due to several factors. But we are persevering!
- We are not yet able to receive overnight Work Retreat Groups this fall due to COVID. However, we are welcoming families to come and serve both as overnight guests and for the day. We are also welcoming volunteers to come on Saturdays this fall to serve at Sign of HOPE and also with Neighbors Helping Neighbors. We have many neighbors who need us to assist them at their homes, primarily with outside work.
- Friday Night Life (now in year #28) has continued every week. The number of those coming is a bit smaller, but the experience of community, good conversations and HOPE

remains the same. We are seeking groups to sponsor one FNL this fall. Know of a small group that could provide 50-60 prepared meals once this fall?

- Good Works is getting ready to provide car #186 through the Transformation Station. If you would like to attend a celebration event, let us know and we will tell you when it is scheduled.
- WE all feel so very grateful for the opportunity we had to host 8 interns during the summer of 2020. The Kingdom Interns (all teens) participated for 7 weeks and the Summer Interns lived on the property for 9 weeks. It was a very joyful and refreshing season!!
- We are making adjustments to our new fund-raising event **DAY IN THE LIFE** scheduled for December 5! Our goal is to raise revenue to cover as many “days” as possible for the Timothy House in 2021. Our HOPE is that each of you reading this might consider inviting family and friends to help you supply funding for 1 day in 2021, which is \$500.00. More information will follow next month. www.goodworksdayinthelife.net
- Come and visit us this fall! We are welcoming guests for day visits. We are also able to host small groups for a day who want to visit and learn more about Good Works, and also encourage us. We are happy to arrange a time when you contact us!
- Good Works newsletters are all located on our website under News and Updates. We have attached several photos on each newsletter. Please take a look!
- We are planning two Spiritual Formation Retreats this fall on the Good Works trails. October 3 and November 21 (Saturdays) from 9:00 am to noon. Contact us for more information.

IN CLOSING, I want to share that this month I have been thinking about what it means to complete 40 years with Good Works on December 31st, 2020. I continue to be amazed and grateful for the love and grace and kindness which have sustained us all of these years! Thank you, each of you, for extending your support and encouragement to us. You are truly “holding up our arms.”

Love is a verb



Keith Wasserman



Epworth UMC in Toledo came to Good Works for an afternoon to film an interview with Keith. The church is working with Good Works to raise funds for Day in The Life.



This photo of Sign of HOPE was taken in August. Buddy Ballard is our site supervisor and foreman overseeing the project and the volunteers who serve there. Buddy stayed at The Good Works Timothy House as a resident with his daughter about 10 years ago and has been on the Good Works staff for six years now.