

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)*



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Greetings with gratitude!

Do you have times in your life when you notice or see something that you don't think others recognize or perceive? Can you identify in yourself that desire to point out something you think is significant? Or, maybe because you love someone, you look at the world through *their* lens and see things you want to point out to others because you are motivated by compassion.

I often feel like I am seeing things about our vulnerable neighbors that I desire and hope others would see. Sometimes it is only a glimpse into understanding the "why" behind the "what" of their homeless situation. At times, I just grieve. At other times, I weep. I grieve because I am seeing the vulnerability of people, how they are caught in the cross-fire of no place to live, very little money or income, poor health (both mental and physical), inadequate education, few employment opportunities (especially now) and the lack of a support system. Many of us turn to some form of "relief" when we are distressed by even one of these problems, but the people we love and serve through Good Works have experienced a collision course, with many of these things impacting them at the same time. Many of the people we love and serve also get caught in addictions and sometimes encounter the criminal justice system, often because of bad choices they made frequently influenced by their circumstances. I share all of this because it is one small part of our struggle to understand and love our neighbors. I continue to *feel* compassion. I am guided by the words of scripture: "Do justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8).

This month I want to talk about the Good Works Timothy House and how we are caring for people without homes here in SE Ohio. We began providing a home to what we originally called “displaced persons” in January 1981. In 1984, we moved Good Works from the basement of our home on Elliott Street to Central Avenue naming the house The Timothy House many years later. In 2014, we shifted the process of how people enter the TH and stopped taking people on an emergency basis. The opioid epidemic was at a peak and we had to slow the process of how someone stays with us to ensure we were able to maintain a safe, clean and stable place for adults and children. This was a good decision. The house is much more predictable for everyone, but especially for those who are in recovery. Phone interviews now are followed up by an invitation for a face-to-face meeting to determine if we can provide shelter. In August 2020, we developed an additional process in order to help two groups of people that we have experienced a lot of anxiety serving: (1) Adults who are not attentive nor cautious with regard to COVID 19 and who are what

we consider high risk for our staff to serve, and (2) Those who fail a drug test but are willing to work with us in some form of accountability with regard to their recovery. We established what we call a Limited Schedule which allows these residents to stay overnight but initially limits their access to the house (and to other residents). The staff have indicated that this is a lot more work, but we are persevering.

BECAUSE of COVID 19, we have asked our volunteers to stop coming to the Timothy House at this time. The risks (and uncertainties) continue to be very high and we still feel very cautious. This was the right decision but has put a lot of pressure on our staff. We are feeling it, especially as we serve families with very young children who require a lot more supervision.

DAY IN THE LIFE

The Good Works WALK was a 17-year annual event which was educational, community building, and provided revenue for The Timothy House. We ended the WALK in 2019 with the vision to recreate another event in 2020 which would be similar, but focus on new and different aspects of learning about and caring for people struggling with homelessness, hunger and poverty in rural Ohio. We are calling this new event “Day In The Life.” We had scheduled this event for December 5th, 2020. However, because of the situation with COVID 19, we do not think it is wise to host an ‘on-site’ event this year as we had hoped. Instead, we are inviting and asking each of you (and others) to help organize a small group of friends and family to raise 1 day of funding for the Timothy House for 2021 which is about \$500.00.

Would you invite a few friends and family members to participate? Could you pass the word through groups you are involved with so that they too can help provide shelter to adults and children? As you celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas this year, would you invite your family to participate in supporting one day of funding for the Timothy House? Checks can be made out to Good Works, marked “Day in the Life” and sent before December 31. If you'd like, pick a date in 2021 that best honors your family or a

friend (a birthday or anniversary for example). Tell us the date and we will put it on our calendar and send a card to anyone you would like us to in order to honor or acknowledge them on that date. If you prefer, you can give on-line through our Day In The Life website which is goodworksdlayinthelife.net

The Timothy House continues to be the only home for people without a home in 8 Southeast Ohio Counties. When we started Good Works, we were the only home in 14 counties. Over the years, (almost 40 years) only a few counties have established shelters. We continue to stay open and persevere with heart-felt love to welcome both adults and children while we provide a safe, temporary home along with food, care and community.

IN THE NEWS

- We are looking for a small group of volunteers who would be willing to do a food drive for Good Works this year. We provide “take-home” food every Friday Night to participants in Friday Night Life and are looking for additional food to share.
- Keith and Darlene have continued to provide shelter at their home for unique situations that the Timothy House is unable to serve.
- Friday Night Life continues each week. We are doing a lot of loving, listening and extending kindness. This feels good. We are grateful. Do you know of a group who could step up and sponsor this year? Food can be prepared at homes and brought to us.
- Sign of HOPE was somewhat disrupted by an unexpected requirement from our city to re-draw and to re-approve a retaining wall next to the house. This also caused some unexpected additional expense and has delayed our intention to start framing this fall.

In closing I want to share that I have been staying overnight at the Timothy House several nights each week. Like the other night shift staff, I go in around 8:45 pm and stay to around 7:45 am. While I am feeling the weariness of these long days, I am also seeing up-close the daily struggle of those who experience homelessness. Some are looking for work, others have found work, but must work all night. Still others are caring for their children and can't work right now. Please offer prayers for us as we seek to remain strong, faithful and courageous!

Love is a verb



Keith Wasserman