

# Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope



PO Box 4, Athens, OH 45701  
Phone: 740-594-3339  
Email: [email@good-works.net](mailto:email@good-works.net)  
Web: [www.good-works.net](http://www.good-works.net)

*Celebrating 40 Years!*

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)*



New Year's 2021

Greetings from all of us who form the *Community of HOPE* called Good Works!

This is our last newsletter for 2020. I write again with JOY and gratitude! WE are well. We hope you are well, that everyone in your family has the strength to navigate this very difficult season with gratitude! We all have so much to be thankful for.

WE are thankful for each of you who love and support us and have prayed for us and have followed the ministry of Good Works this year. We are also thankful especially during this season for the gift of one another. We feel very grateful that we get to work alongside wise men and women who practice kindness, patience and generosity; people who truly love one another. I am especially thankful because we guard each other's integrity, practice a commitment to excellence in what we do together, and share life with one another with sincerity and humility. This makes our "every-day-life" together good; very good, and enables a deep sense of unity, fruitfulness and momentum in our efforts to love our neighbors.

Humility is the door through which I believe we must enter every relationship, *especially* with those who are needy and vulnerable. Pride is dirt in the "pipeline" of grace that negatively impacts our relationships. God gives grace to those who practice humility, and this shows up in the formation of tender-hearted and wise people. Many of the people we are loving and serving through Good Works have experienced a lot of hardship and brokenness this year. Oftentimes, the pain they experience overshadows their ability to navigate their relationships in healthy ways. Of course, we see pride and arrogance but also a lot of brokenness and pain, along with unresolved resentment and unforgiveness. AND SO, we continue to love, to *learn* how to love. We continue to LOVE because we *are* loved. We are able to persevere in love because we are sustained by God's love, love from one another and YOU! It is not my intention to oversimplify everything, but this is really what I have come to believe is what enables us to carry on as we turn the corner and celebrate 40 years!

Since this is our final newsletter of 2020. I wanted to give you several updates.

## IN THE NEWS

- SIGN OF HOPE: 2020 had so many unexpected “curves”. From so few volunteers due to COVID to an unexpected expense related to our city’s decision to change something which they had already approved. We decided to stop work on Sign of HOPE (100 Central Avenue) in November and to close things down until early 2021. We did our best. We did what we could do in spite of all of the many challenges and limitations. Our plan is to begin framing the new house in early spring. If you know someone interested in volunteering with us, encourage them to contact us in January!
- COMING SOON.... The book I’ve been telling you about by Keith Wasserman and Christine Pohl and published by Eerdmans of Grand Rapids Michigan will be available in mid 2021. To our surprise, the publisher decided to title the book Good Works, Hospitality and Faithful Discipleship. A LOT OF WORK has gone into this project. Much gratitude to Christine Pohl and also to Darlene Wasserman.
- Our dear friend and co-worker Sherilyn Weinkauff is currently in recovery from a malignant brain tumor. Doctors discovered the tumor in early October and rushed her to surgery to remove it. She is now at home and in a season of recovery. Sherilyn has been on staff with Good Works since 1996 and is the longest serving staff person next to Keith. She joined us full-time only a few months after she was a resident at The Timothy House with her two children. If you’d like to send her a note of encouragement, send it to Good Works and we will get it to her.
- BECAUSE of the sponsoring groups each week, Friday Night Life has continued every Friday to provide a hot and nutritious meal. We do our work with a lot of caution, care and with a focus on safety. We moved from the Good Works property to the Plains UMC Church in October. Our partnership with the people of The Plains UMC has been steady for 20 years! Groups are preparing the meal ahead of time and we are providing sit down (spaced apart) or take-away dinners. We need and are seeking small groups to sponsor 1 meal in 2021. Email us for more information.
- We had hoped to tell you we provided car #186 to a participant in the Transformation Station, but circumstances and sickness have delayed this celebration until early next year. We are so grateful for all of the cars and appliances we received this year!
- We are seeking interns for the Appalachian Immersion Internship (January-May) and the Summer Service Internship (June 13-August 14). Interns receive a financial stipend, live on the Good Works property and work alongside staff and volunteers in a wide range of opportunities to love, listen and care for our neighbors here in rural Ohio.
- We are especially seeking someone who has a love for God and gardening to join us in 2021. We want to re-start our agricultural initiatives, and do it in a way that honors the Good Works philosophy and our vision to care for people struggling with poverty.
- If you have not seen it, please take the time to read our foundational essay called VISION of HOPE located on our website. It is long, but will offer you some perspective of the vision and practices of our community.
- We are in the early stages of planning to host Work Retreat Groups in 2021. Contact us if you’d like to explore bringing a group for a weekend or week-long service opportunity.
- Through our Saturday Service initiative last fall, we were able to serve several seniors (mostly widows) at their homes with practical (outside) service. Our vision remains “I made the widow’s heart sing”!
- You can expect a receipt for your 2020 giving before January 31, 2021. If you need it sooner, please call or email us.
- DAY IN THE LIFE, is our new annual fund raiser now through December 31. We will let you know early next year how many “days” in the life of the Timothy House have been funded. It’s not too late to support one day or one-half day for 2021. [www.goodworksdayinthelife.net](http://www.goodworksdayinthelife.net)

In closing this month, I want to pause, and take a breath. We are all a little weary but remain very grateful. On behalf of our community (staff, board members, volunteers and supporters) THANK YOU for walking with us, thank you for loving us!

And love, love is still a verb!



Keith Wasserman