

A LETTER FROM THE GOOD WORKS TIMOTHY HOUSE



Dear neighbors,

The Good Works staff wanted to write you today to express our desire to be good neighbors here on the west end of Athens.

We thought it would be helpful for you to understand something about The Good Works TIMOTHY HOUSE so that we can have a good relationship. It is certainly our desire to have good, clear communication with our neighbors. The brochure this letter is enclosed in explains some of our history and current outreach programs. Our shelter for people without homes, The

Timothy House can hold up to 15 people at one time. We have good working relationships with Athens' social services agencies, religious communities and Police. In addition to providing shelter on Central Avenue, we also operate several other outreach and service programs out of our Luhrig Road property, which is about two miles from here. You can read more about the rest of Good Works in the *Community of Hope* brochure.

As you share this neighborhood with the people to whom we are extending hospitality, please we feel it's important to make you aware of a few things:

- What we do to help people who become homeless flows out of our lives. We do this *because* we are Christians.
- We do not take “walk—ons” at THE TIMOTHY HOUSE. We have never published our address and we only accept people for shelter who have called and been approved by the staff first. We do this both to protect our neighborhood from people “hanging around” and also to prepare our staff and volunteers to welcome each new resident. If someone does come to the door, we will usually give him or her 50 cents and send them to a pay telephone. We are *not* asking you to let them use your phone. We may deny them shelter if they cause problems for you, bother you, or if they are inconsiderate or rude to any of our neighbors.
- We take the fact that you live here all year very seriously. Since we are allowing almost 200 people to stay in THE TIMOTHY HOUSE each year, we feel a strong commitment to respect our neighbors and our neighborhood. Most of the folks who stay here are very kind and considerate of those around them, but others can be ungrateful and at times very difficult to deal with. Therefore, we instruct our residents not to loiter in the neighborhood. In other words, they may not “hang out” on other properties in the neighborhood while they live at The Timothy House. As a condition of their stay with us and in sensitivity to you, we require our residents to either be on our property or out of the neighborhood. If they violate this rule or if they cause problems for you, we tell them that it could affect their stay with us. In addition, we request that our residents do not visit you at your house. If you would like to visit with anyone staying at the Timothy House, please visit them there.
- We do not allow anyone to stay at THE TIMOTHY HOUSE if they are under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs or if they have a mental illness that causes them to act out in a way that creates a danger or risk to others. Our mission is to provide a safe, clean and stable place for people to stay temporarily while they work on the issues in their lives that caused them to become homeless.
- Single adults who do not have children staying with them must leave each morning by 10:00 a.m. and not return until 5:15 p.m. (unless they are cooking dinner that evening). Parents with children may stay all day. Children under 12 must be in bed by 9:00 p.m. and the house bedtime is 11:30 pm. We hope you will be sensitive to the fact that we often have children going to sleep and that loud music after 11:00 pm makes it difficult for anyone to sleep, especially in the spring and fall months when the windows are often kept open all night.

- We try to keep a “low profile.” We ask all of our residents who listen to music to wear headphones. We ask our residents to keep their voices down while on our porch so as to not to disturb our immediate neighbors. We ask them to be sensitive to you and the fact that while they live here temporarily, you live here all the time. If our residents are loud, insensitive or rude, please call us and let us know.
- Most of the people who stay with us are working on helping themselves. Most are employed and many are required to work at late hours. Our house curfew is 10:00 p.m. each night but when someone works late, we do allow them to return to the Timothy House after work.
- Guests are permitted at The Timothy House and we welcome you to visit. Just let us know if you are on the property visiting. If you are interested, we would enjoy the opportunity to meet you, have you join us for dinner (M-Th) and provide you a tour.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- We welcome volunteers to assist us as we provide a COMMUNITY OF HOPE for our friends without homes. If you would like to learn about our volunteer opportunities, please visit our web page and click on Volunteer Opportunities (www.good-works.net) and then contact us to arrange a time for a visit and we will provide you with an application and more information.
- Some of the folks who stay with us are in recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. If you can be sensitive to this, it will make an impact upon them for GOOD. If you use alcohol in your life, we hope that you will be sensitive to those people for whom alcohol and other drugs have created major devastation in their lives. We hope you will work together with us to help them succeed in their recovery.
- We want our neighborhood to look good and be safe. We are concerned with your safety and with ours as well. If you see something that concerns you, investigate it and/or contact us. Let's work together to “watch” our neighborhood for one another. We are making an effort to keep our property clean and well cared for. Together, we can make our neighborhood a beautiful place for all of us to live.
- If you have an observation, concern or problem, do not hesitate to call us and share it with us. All we ask is that you tell us who you are when you call. We operate 24 hours daily.

Finally, while Good Works has been around since my wife and I started the program in our home on Elliott Street during my senior year at O.U. in 1981, I am aware that we have a long way to go until we do it right every time. If you have any concerns about our residents, policies, or Good Works in general, or would just like to know more about how we do things, feel free to call me at 594-9000. I am very interested in meeting with you personally and I am glad to learn from you as well. If you'd like, you can also e-mail me at goodworks@good-works.net

Sincerely,



Keith Wasserman, Founder & Executive Director
GOOD WORKS, INC. P.O. Box 4 / Athens, Ohio 45701



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