

Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 40 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)

March, 2021

HOPEFUL New Year's greetings from all of us who form The Community of HOPE!

We anticipate good things for our community and those we are loving and serving this year! Spring is upon us and we are filled with JOY and energy. We choose to embrace 2021 with gratitude!

SO MUCH of what Good Works has become over these 40 years is related to and dependent upon the *community* of hope, those who serve alongside us, our volunteers. Since the mid 1980s, Good Works has created and sustained many different opportunities for people from all walks of life to come alongside and love our neighbors *with* us. Our mission, *"to connect people from all walks of life with people who struggle with poverty, so that the kingdom of God can be experienced"* has been impacted over the last year as a result of not having as many volunteers. In 2019 we had over 1,100 volunteers. In 2020, let's just say it was a lot less. A LOT of what we do is to facilitate opportunities for others to love *their* neighbors, and this gives us a lot of JOY! Those who serve with us not only extend authentic friendship and hope to our neighbors through love and service, but also infuse the staff and interns with encouragement, energy, and perspective. Good Works volunteers step in to do things often not possible for many on the staff. So much of what we have become has been shaped by those who share their time, energy and love. We feel so grateful for the gifts of so many ordinary yet extraordinary people who have a willing spirit, ready to step in and step up to serve. **2021 is a time for rebuilding.** Please pray with us and join us as we seek to innovate and re-create ways to love and serve people who struggle with so many different issues here in our area, most of which are related to poverty. (Proverbs 14:31 & Proverb 19:17)



IN THE NEWS...

- We are slowly moving ahead with *plans* to welcome back and welcome new volunteers in April. Friday Night Life moves from The Plains UMC back to the Good Works property on April 2. The following day is our first Saturday Service this year. Buddy Ballard along with Paul Richard (the Director of Operations) are making plans to resume building our new home (Sign of HOPE).
- We *are* welcoming Work Retreat Groups this spring, summer and fall. Contact us if you would like to come and serve. We are taking all necessary cautions and pre-cautions. We are especially seeking volunteers who want to use their skills to help us build Sign of HOPE.
- DAY IN THE LIFE was very fruitful. **We feel so grateful** to each person and family that contributed to support 152 days of the Timothy House for 2021. We are preparing some communication to each person and family who donated to Day in the Life.
- Friday Night Life has continued to provide a hot and nutritious meal every week. We are so thankful for the groups who have sponsored the meal, and also to the Good Works staff who have stepped in many weeks to cook when we didn't have sponsors.

- The Transformation Station will soon provide car #186. Thank you to those who have donated cars and to all of you who for passing the word about this innovative initiative! This is the 16th year of the TS!
- Our Good Works Gardens initiative will be restarted in March. We welcome volunteers to join us! Our plan is to establish gardens at the homes of those we serve in Athens county through Neighbors Helping Neighbors.
- We have welcomed summer interns into a 9-week discipleship experience for more than 20 years. Maybe you know someone who wants to grow in their love for God and people who you can encourage to explore this summer opportunity? Inspire them to email us.
- We are praying for someone to come along us and work with our summer Kids Discovery Club for 9 weeks summer. Know someone who believes God has called them to work with kids?
- Update on Sherilyn. As many of you know, our co-worker and friend had surgery in October to remove a cancerous tumor in her brain. She is continuing to receive treatment and has been able to work a few hours each week. These remain hard and difficult days for her. If you want to send a note of encouragement, send it to Good Works and we will make sure she receives it! Sherilyn has worked behind the scenes for 25 years in what I call “the engine room” of Good Works doing things that were often not noticed but were essential to our on-going fruitful ministry.

HOW do you see people? Are you like me and wrestle how to see beyond what I see? Here are three ways I believe we must consider when trying to see people with love and compassion. (1) Acknowledge to ourselves and others that we are not objective yet we want to be. (2) Keep asking/seeking/praying: How does God see people? I find scripture to be helpful here. There are many verses, but I start with how Jesus saw the multitudes in Matthew 10:38. (3) Listen to compassionate people you know. Gain different perspectives of how to love people wounded by life and broken relationships; people who are hard to love. Don't underestimate the impact of small acts of kindness.

IN CLOSING I want to share that I pray every day that I could keep growing into a person who is able to see people this way: made in God's image with dignity, beauty and purpose. For my part, I want to lead a community committed to learning how to love in word and in deed. Words matter. Deeds matter. Love matters. Jesus looked upon people with compassion. I want to seek to live my life so that whenever possible, I too can err to the side of compassion.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman