

# 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)*

April 2021

Spring greetings from the community of Good Works!

We are well. God's grace is sufficient for all of our limitations. We are still very grateful.

This month we are launching Good Works Gardens. We have already resumed our work at Sign of HOPE. We celebrated the JOY of providing car #186 to a family in March. Friday Night Life is slowly "coming back" (even though we never stopped serving) as people are feeling more comfortable gathering again. We are preparing for several summer interns and we are taking care of the Good Works properties getting things "up to speed" with regard to maintenance.

As many of you may already know, Good Works has five different internship experiences. Appalachian Immersion is the name of the internship we have sponsored for more than 25 years. During this season, I want you to hear from Sophie Mather. She writes:

When I applied for my first internship with Good Works, I was looking for a good experience, an opportunity to serve, and a place where I could learn. I found a community. I am able to learn and serve within the community, but the community means much more than that to me. Recently, I've been thinking a lot about wholeness and togetherness, which seem to be closely related. These are beautiful things that I have gradually been understanding throughout my time here. I see this here because the Good Works community loves and provides freedom to love.

Being here, I have been guided through building mutual and safe relationships with the people I interact with every day. Good Works involves several contexts through which connection can take place. Friday Night Life, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and the Timothy House are a few examples. Through eating together, laughing together, mixing mortar together, carrying firewood together, or looking at the beauty of the stars together, I connect with those around me every day. I have always had a desire in my life to participate in friendships that span a range of ages, personalities, and life experiences. In this community, these kinds of friendships develop naturally. I have learned so much from my ninety-year-old friends, from my friends who come from large cities to work with us here in a rural setting, and from my friends who went to the same high school I did but had a completely different experience there due to a difference in socioeconomic background.

These relationships are helping me to see the potential for wholeness in relationship. Most significantly, I feel safe within this community to confront the things within me that are resistant to the wholeness and togetherness that comes through community. This is a continual process of healing. As I think about the training I receive from this internship and where it might lead me in the future, I know I want to join with others to build communities where healing relationship can be experienced.

We first met Sophie when she expressed a desire to explore The Good Works Appalachian Immersion Internship as a gap year between high school and college. That was 2018. She has come to love and learn with us on four different occasions, each for several months to live on the property and serve in a wide range of experiences. During this season, she works several days a week with the Timothy House staff, several days with the Hannah House team working on the property and with Sign of HOPE. She is also the person who will be leading our garden initiatives this year.

When anyone considers a formal connection with Good Works, we encourage them to ask these Four Questions before they start an internship or staff position. I hope you find these helpful. I find them very transferable to anyone who is considering a commitment to any organization. (1) Can I learn something from the people in this organization or community? (2) Are these *the kind of people* I believe can learn something from me? (3) Is this organization or community as concerned about my growth and development as it is the people they reach out to serve? (4) Can I also experience healing here too? I urge everyone who is considering a deeper connection with Good Works to adopt this as their lens before they make a commitment, and I encourage them to “interview us” when they visit as a first step in their journey. For my part, I want to continue to lead us in the practices which will sustain us as we carry out our mission to love God and love people.

## IN THE NEWS

- We are preparing for our 22<sup>nd</sup> year of Summer Service. As groups contact us to come and serve this year, we are setting up the protocols which we will need to keep everyone safe this year.
- Friday Night Life starts year # 29 this spring. It was the spring of 1993 when we first started inviting residents who were moving out of the Timothy House to come back for dinner on Friday Nights. What a long strange (and good) trip it's been! FNL is slowly coming back to ... life as people begin to feel more comfortable gathering again.
- Work continues on Sign of HOPE. This spring and summer are a significant time for building. Do you know people with construction skills you can encourage to volunteer with us?
- We are welcoming families, individuals and groups to come for a morning or afternoon outside visit. Please consider a short visit to meet a few of the staff and volunteers and to tour the properties and learn more about what is happening here. Contact us at [email@good-works.net](mailto:email@good-works.net) to get things started.

IN CLOSING this month, I want to share this: People often ask me what area or aspect of Good Works I like the most. Well... I still find joy in serving in many areas. In this season of my life, I find JOY in investing into the growth and development of our staff, interns and volunteers. There are over 300 former staff and interns who have served with Good Works over the past 40 years, and I find that while their formal connection with GW usually begins during their staff time, the long-term mentoring goes on for years and often becomes mutual. I feel very thankful for the opportunity to still be present in the lives of so many extraordinary people. I consider it a privilege and a gift!

Love is a verb,  
Keith Wasserman



Transformation Station car # 186



Buddy Ballard & Sign of HOPE

