

# 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)*

May 2021

Greetings from the community of HOPE, greetings with JOY and gratitude!

We are well. How are you doing? Maybe you would like to come and visit Good Works sometime this year? Come for a few hours or stay overnight. Come and join in and serve or come to visit, learn, hike the trails and encourage us.

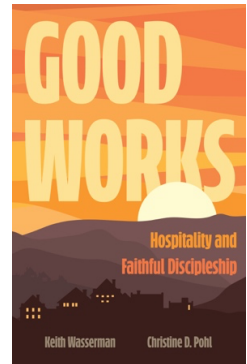
SHE doesn't like drawing attention to herself. She works quietly and without fanfare. Yet she has been a strong force creating stability and momentum "behind the scenes" with Good Works for over 40 years. I am talking about Darlene Wasserman. It was not until recently that she joined the GW staff. Prior to this, she traveled with Keith and volunteered her time as part of our lifestyle. We hosted a lot of guests (people without homes) in the 1980s. And we still host the overflow from The Timothy House when needed. Recently, in addition to overseeing Friday Night Life, she has stepped into some of the responsibilities that Sherilyn had in our administrative offices. This summer, Darlene will lead another year of overseeing (cooking) our Summer Lunch!

This month each of the staff are sharing short essays and teaching sessions they have developed on one of the four practices we have embedded into the community of HOPE: Promise Keeping, Truth Telling, Hospitality and Gratitude. Here is an excerpt from what Darlene shared:

How do I see Promise Keeping being lived out inside the Good Works community? I see it how we interact with one another, with our volunteers, with our participants and recipients, with our donors, and in the community of Athens and Southeastern Ohio, and ultimately with God. Acts of faithfulness and trustworthiness are part of promise keeping, which I define as *doing what you say you will do*, keeping your commitments. As each of us on staff fulfill our responsibilities and work with each other, and live out the various shared expectations like "being clear", we are keeping our promises to each other and to the community of Good Works as a whole. We are dependable, we know the other will be with us as we seek to do the difficult job of caring for our neighbors who are hurting and needy. We trust one another and know that we can talk things through if we have something that is an issue between us. It is an act of promise keeping to keep healthy lines of communication with one another. We are keeping our promise when we give volunteers an opportunity to touch lives, and to do so in a way that is structured, safe, with boundaries, and with guidance from those who may have more experience or knowledge. Volunteers and Interns can relax and enter fully into the experience of loving our neighbors because they trust that we will be with them, care for them, and care for the recipient. When we promise to bring people to do a task at the home of someone, we serve through Neighbors Helping Neighbors, we keep our word, show up when we are expected and complete the tasks in a way that honors those we are serving. We are promising to provide a good nutritious meal every Friday night (and we have done that for 29 years now) and people rely upon this promise. We promise to provide a safe, clean and stable place to stay for people who experience homelessness. And we do. Every time Good Works meets a felt need, we are keeping a promise to those receiving from us and to those who gave resources to us. People entrust their resources to us with the knowledge that we will use what they have given wisely, generously, and with good stewardship. When Good Works continues to care for people in our area who struggle with poverty, we are keeping a promise to our city and county to be here --- to care for those in need as we are able--- to help carry the load of those struggling with poverty here. When we have 40+ years of consistency, care, responsibility, dependability within the community we are being promise keepers.

## IN THE NEWS

- We are preparing for another season of Summer Service starting June 14. Interns will live in the Good Works Hannah House, host six different Work Retreat Groups, participate in the Friday Night Life Community and lead projects at the homes of our neighbors who struggle with poverty and issues related to aging and disabilities. We are planning and planting gardens again this year too!
- We are thankful for the cars which have recently been donated to The Transformation Station. It gives us a lot of JOY to welcome new participants into this Good Works initiative, work alongside them, learn from them and experience the kingdom of God together.
- Building Sign of HOPE, our new home for adults with a disability, has captured a lot of our attention. We are both challenged and grateful! We still need volunteers to help!
- Our Book: **Good Works, Hospitality and Faithful Discipleship** by Keith Wasserman and Christine Pohl, published by Eerdmans will be released in July.
- We are planning the next DAY IN THE LIFE event in Athens Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please consider coming. Like the Good Works Walk, we intend to create an experience for adults and children of all ages to better understand the situation and struggle of those who experience homelessness. More information to follow.
- On Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am, we are hosting a trail dedication event to honor John Knouse who was the catalyst behind the Good Works trails. John died in January and we intend to honor his work. You are invited to come and then hike the trails!



In closing, I want to tell you that I have found the process of rebuilding from 2020 and Covid 19 to be very difficult for me and for our community. There are many different reasons for this and they tempt me towards discouragement. I know things will look different moving past COVID, I am just having a hard time seeing exactly what that means right now.

Love is a verb,

Keith Wasserman

Darlene Wasserman, May 2021



Sign of HOPE, May 2, 2021

