

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)*

September, 2021

Greetings with JOY and gratitude from the community of HOPE,

WE have come through a hard, but very good and joyful summer. ALL of us on staff give thanks for our Summer Interns, Kingdom Interns (teens), and the many volunteers who joined us this summer. We learned more about loving and serving many neighbors at their homes, worked on Sign of HOPE, provided our Summer Lunch and Kids Activities, and served people without homes through the Good Works Timothy House.

IN THE NEWS

- SIGN OF HOPE is under roof! The house is framed; and doors and windows are being installed thanks to many volunteers this summer! We are seeking a licensed plumber and electrician to volunteer with us this fall. Know someone you can encourage to contact us for more information?
- We are so thankful for the Work Retreat Groups who volunteered with us this summer, and also for the groups who have scheduled to come this fall, and next year. We will continue to host groups of volunteers to serve with us through Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Sign of HOPE, and Friday Night Life! This fall we will again sponsor "Saturday Service" where anyone (with some advanced notice) can come and serve alongside us on a Saturday.
- Through the Transformation Station, Good Works provided car #187 and #188 in July. There are photos of both celebrations on our website. We continue to give thanks for the 188 families who have donated cars!! Please encourage people you know to donate their vehicles.
- The Good Works staff gathers every Friday afternoon for a time of affirmation, encouragement, singing, and an hour of staff development. We spent most of the summer reading the book Good Works, Hospitality and Faithful Discipleship. We spent the last two Friday afternoons of Summer Service listening to our Kingdom and Summer Interns' presentations and reflections on their experiences with Good Works. It was rich. It was good. Their sharing strengthened our hearts. We all continue to feel grateful for the privilege of having interns.
- We are seeking Interns to live and serve with us this year. Maybe you know someone who wants to grow in their love for God and people. More information is on our website under Internships.
- Because of Sophie, our Appalachian Immersion Intern this year, we were able to cultivate the garden on the Good Works property, and four gardens in the community with those we serve through Neighbors Helping Neighbors. We had very good and fruitful gardens this year.



- We continue to find joy in hosting people who come to stay in the Carter Cabin (our solitude retreat cabin) and those who stay in the Country Bed and Breakfast!
- There are several volunteer opportunities available to serve with us this fall. Visit the Volunteer Opportunities section of our website to learn more.
- The News and Updates section on our website has new photos and updates each week. You can also find photos and updates each week on our Facebook page.
- Our second annual DAY IN THE LIFE giving season began September 1st and ends December 31st. We are inviting your family and friends to support the Good Works Timothy House for 2022 by sponsoring one day (or more) with \$500.00. We are **so very thankful** to each of you who participated in 2020 by providing funding for 155 days of shelter this year!! More information to follow and on the DAY IN THE LIFE website: goodworksdaysinthelife.net

GOOD WORKS TIMOTHY HOUSE

Because Good Works was growing and expanding, we named the Timothy House (TH) in 1999 soon after we purchased the Luhrig road property. The house was named after the person named "Timothy" in the New Testament and a person in my family. We still aspire to be an example in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity (I Timothy 4:12). The work of loving the stranger (foreigner, alien, sojourner) has always been difficult, and I feel like we have received a special grace for a long time to persevere in love. But... we are in a very difficult season now. We are all struggling to "keep our hand to the plow". There is a lot of "behind the scenes" work done before we receive someone into the TH. The phone interviews feel longer. The stories of people seeking shelter seem much more complex. With COVID, the risks are even harder in terms of keeping everyone safe. And we feel stretched. With integrity as our guide, we are seeking to be faithful to do what we can for each person who contacts us. Unfortunately, we often fall short of what others expect (demand?) from us. There is a growing desperation among people without a home and we are feeling it.

The book Good Works, Hospitality and Faithful Discipleship discusses not only what we do, but some of the thinking behind our work produced by faith. We share how we view worship through song, sacrifice and service. We talk about leadership, and the discovery that leadership is lonely, that ministry is fragile, and real fruit (the kind that remains) takes years. There is a section on developing friendships and how the process begins with associating (Romans 12:16), goes through serving, loving, and ends with friendship (I Thessalonians 2:8). The final chapter, How Are Good Works Good, focuses on the value of love and service, both for those served and for those of us doing good works. All proceeds from the book go to help support leadership development at Good Works.

IN CLOSING, I continue to feel thankful for everyone who supports us, prays for us, visits and sends us words of kindness and love. We need you. Darlene and I will celebrate our 40th year of marriage on September 26. We were married at Lake Snowden outside of Athens in 1981. We met in a campus fellowship at OU in 1977. We were both only 19. I'd like to say that she had no idea what she was getting into with me or with Good Works, but neither did I. I have often said that God gave us the gift of naiveté at the very start.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman