

# 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)*

**December, 2021**

Greetings with JOY and gratitude from the community of HOPE,

Warm hearted winter greetings to all of you! This is our last newsletter of 2021. We are about to start year #41 on January 1<sup>st</sup>! Happy Birthday Good Works! During the fall of 1980, we remodeled the basement of our home on Elliott Street in Athens to prepare a place for 'the displaced'. This was the only language we had at that time. We opened up on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1981 and immediately started welcoming adults and children who had nowhere to live. I would later learn that the very idea of preparing a place (or making room) has everything to do with the biblical vision of hospitality! We had vision, and energy, and zeal, and love, and we were full of compassion. But we had no idea what we were really doing. Looking back, I think we had faith and God honored our faith. I just feel grateful for the goodness of the LORD, the kindness of friends and strangers, and all of the wonderful partners who have joined with us in this adventure of love over all these years!

**THE TRANSFORMATION STATION** came along many years later. We created the idea in 2002, built the facility in 2003, and launched the TS in 2004. The TS is really just an idea with feet. The idea is built on the premise that most people don't want handouts, especially when they can work and share their abilities to help others. What many people desire is a purpose where they can "do good" and we provide that. We invite people into community and clothe them with dignity by inviting them to use their skills and abilities to help others. As resources are donated to Good Works we have continued to provide food, appliances, bicycles, furniture and vehicles. In October we provided car #191. We are seeking cars or trucks, so please pass the word for us, will you?

**SIGN OF HOPE** is under roof. We will be working inside this winter finishing drywall, plumbing, floor coverings, and lots of other things. The VISION for Sign of HOPE is to intentionally create a space: to care for adults with physical vulnerabilities who are in a housing crisis, to provide help for people who experience homelessness and have pets, to care for adults with a wide range of social difficulties who are not able to stay in congregant facilities and share bedroom space. In keeping with our mission, we have designed space to welcome smaller groups for meals, music and community. We will have a large front porch next to a community kitchen and a small living room. In the basement, we are building a space for several washers and dryers to provide assistance to our neighbors.

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIFE** will start year #30 next spring. Because of the groups who sponsor the meal, (about 50 each year), we have been able to provide a nutritious meal, and with it a safe place to build friendship and community. Good Works partners with The Plains UMC during the colder months and we return to the Good Works property (on Luhrig Road) in the spring.

**NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS** is our way of loving primarily older adults who are widows, widowers or who struggle with issues related to aging or disabilities. We have been sending small groups of volunteers to the homes of folks in Athens County since the late 1990s. While COVID has slowed this initiative down (especially since we have had less Work Retreats this year), we are still persevering as we demonstrate the good news of God's love to people who experience vulnerability and loss. We still find JOY in serving, and in organizing volunteers to serve this way.

We are welcoming **WORK RETREAT** groups to come in the spring and summer of 2022. If you know of a group who wants to come alongside and serve with us, encourage them to contact us.

**THE TIMOTHY HOUSE** has provided a safe, clean and stable place for families and single adults who experience homelessness for many years. We obtained this Good Works facility in 1984 and built an addition on it in 1996, offering more space for families who experience homelessness. The staff and volunteers who serve there are amazing. I feel so thankful for each person who shares their time and life with the residents who stay there. Now through December, we are asking/encouraging anyone and everyone to help us raise as many days of funding as possible for 2022 through Day In The Life. Learn more at [goodworksdaysinthelife.net](http://goodworksdaysinthelife.net)

### **MORE NEWS...**

- Everyone who has financially supported Good Works in 2021 will receive a receipt by or before January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. If you would like a receipt sooner, contact us.
- WE are hoping for and seeking Appalachian Immersion Interns to join us in January. Interns live in the Good Works Hannah House and are provided with room and board, and a monthly stipend as they work alongside us. Please encourage those you know who love God, want to grow in love and serve people; and who are open and teachable to contact us.
- As you can see, we have inserted a form to offer options related to giving to Good Works. Thank you for taking the time to read this.
- The book: [Good Works, Hospitality and Faithful Discipleship](#) is available on-line through Eerdmans who is the publisher. This book will offer you a broader perspective of our vision and values. All proceeds from this book go to Good Works for leadership development.
- The Community of HOPE is composed of so many wonderful, caring and inspiring volunteers who serve in more than 14 different areas of Good Works. Maybe you know someone who might consider serving alongside us in 2022. Our website has lots of information under Volunteer Opportunities.

IN CLOSING, I want to give thanks for the blessing of experiencing another year of God's faithfulness, along with ***your*** encouragement and friendship. We are healthy and grateful, though a bit weary. We feel loved and supported and we are especially encouraged by those who send us notes and letters to build us up, offer us perspective and show us kindness. Thank you!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman



**The Carter Cabin**, our solitude retreat cabin is available at no cost to anyone who desires a time of solitude. Built in 1999, this cabin has a bed, writing table and wood stove. Come for a morning, afternoon or overnight!



**The Good Works Trails** are available for anyone to walk or hike on. There are flat trails on one side Factory creek and trails with hills across the bridge. The trails are clearly marked. We also developed a tree-identification project and currently have 37 species of trees identified. Just tell us you are on the property before you hike.



**Neighbors Helping Neighbors** is our way of loving and serving older citizens (primarily widows) who live in rural Athens County. Volunteer teams are sent out (Work Retreats) to the homes of those we are loving, learning from and serving. We continue to feel very thankful for all of the volunteers who come alongside us to serve each year!





**FRIDAY NIGHT LIFE** will start year #30 in April 2022. FNL provides a nutritious and tasty meal provided by sponsoring groups each week. We also have community building activities, and provide “take home food”.



**SUMMER SERVICE 2021.** We are very thankful for the 8 interns who worked with us as we served Summer Lunch, worked with Transformation Station Volunteers, built Sign of HOPE and served at Friday Night Life!