

Good Works, Inc. – A Community of Hope



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Celebrating 41 Years!

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, 2022

Greetings with JOY and gratitude from the community of HOPE,

Spring 2022 is close! Yea! We write with HOPE and gratitude! WE are celebrating 41 years of being a community of HOPE with and for our neighbors here in rural SE Ohio. We give thanks and offer praise to God!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN)

The original name of this GW initiative (which began in the 1990s) was called Samaritan Projects. Over the years we have served hundreds of neighbors (primarily widows) with labor-intensive love and service at their homes. About 15 years ago we shifted our language because we became increasingly uncomfortable with the idea that people could be seen as projects. Our mistake. The new name denotes our vision to use language which honors our neighbors as we *"make the widow's heart sing"* (Job 29:12-13), and clothe people with dignity. We simply want to be helpful, especially with those whose combined economic difficulties, relational and emotional loss, and season of life create hardship. WE SEE the vulnerability of those we serve. And so... last year we built several ramps to assist people who have a disability to help them enter and exit their homes. Lois was going through dialysis and we were able to really help her with things to improve the quality of her life! Some projects took a week or longer, but we had a group filled with perseverance! We painted the inside of the home of Betty Jo, one of our neighbors, and we did this with help from two Week of Service Volunteers. We repaired and rebuilt several porches.... all with the help of Work Retreat participants who came for weekends and week-long service trips. While our staff does the front-end work by visiting and arranging the projects, we do not go to serve *unless* we have volunteers.



Last fall through Saturday Service we were encouraged by many volunteers from Ohio University and the Athens community! One of the largest projects we did was building a 28-foot ramp for a woman who had great difficulty leaving her home for medical treatment. But, the most important aspect of what we do is communicating love. And now these neighbors have become our friends. We see their vulnerability and we feel compassion. We believe in dignity, so we make every effort to honor each person as we serve them. When we visit Sharon we always leave encouraged. She has cold water for us, tells us how grateful she is, offers us a hug and reminds us that she loves us.

We make an effort to learn the names and histories of those we serve, and learn from their perspective of Appalachian culture through their life-experiences. Indeed, we come not only to give but also to receive. This value of mutuality builds trust. In the end, we thank God for the opportunity to both demonstrate and proclaim the love Christ has put in our hearts and the many ways God has changed *our* lives!

IN THE NEWS...

- Friday Night Life will begin year #30 this Spring. We have been meeting at The Plains UMC this winter. We continue to be thankful for this partnership of more than 20 years! FNL moves in early April back to the Good Works property for a more 'picnic style' public meal each week. What is amazing to me is that almost fifty groups sponsor the meal each year. We give thanks!
- Work continues on Sign of HOPE. We paused for several weeks this winter and have begun to resume the inside work of plumbing, drywall, and insulation. **We are welcoming volunteers!**
- This month we will welcome several new weekend and week-long Work Retreat groups who will be visiting to serve alongside us through Neighbors Helping Neighbors. We will resume Saturday Service for individuals and small groups who want to volunteer with us.
- **Summer and year-long Internships:** We are seeking men and women to apply to our Summer 2022 internship opportunity (June 12 – August 13). Interns live in the GW Hannah House and grow in their faith as they lead volunteers to serve through Neighbors Helping Neighbors, The Transformation Station, Friday Night Life, Summer Lunch, Kids Club and Good Works Gardens. Maybe you know someone you can encourage to contact us to learn more.
- We are hopeful and prayerful that we will find leadership for our Summer Discovery Kids Club and also for Good Works Gardens this summer. Will you join with us in prayer?
- WE are so thankful for those who contributed to and participated in DAY IN THE LIFE for 2022. Giving this year will provide **152** days and nights of financial support for the Timothy House!
- If you have not yet seen or read the book GOOD WORKS, HOSPITALITY AND FAITHFUL DISCIPLESHIP, I want to encourage you to read it. Not only does it tell a lot of the Good Works story, but we talk about worship, integrity, friendship, leadership and why good works are good.
- Can you pass the word about our need for cars or trucks? We provide them through the Transformation Station. We also need a truck for our work with Neighbors Helping Neighbors.
- Spring and Summer would be a great time for you to visit Good Works. Come and walk the trails, visit Friday Night Life, stay in the Carter Cabin (or our Country Bed and Breakfast), or join in with us for one of our Friday staff gatherings. Come and stay in the Hannah House as our guest!

IN CLOSING, I want to say that people often ask me which aspect of Good Works I find I gravitate to and enjoy. The Timothy House (purchased in 1984 only 4 years after we started on Elliott Street) continues to find a special place in my heart. I like talking to strangers and making people *feel welcome* as we practice hospitality. This past winter has been hard for all of us on staff, very hard for many reasons, only one of which is COVID. There are many people we have been unable to serve and this just wears on us emotionally. Maybe you understand. Nevertheless, I continue to find lots of JOY learning, loving and serving those who do stay with us. Thanks for your continued support, letters of encouragement and loving-kindness!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

