

Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 41 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)



July, 2022

Summertime greetings with JOY and gratitude!

This month, I want to provide you with some updates and news from Good Works.

In June, we welcomed 4 summer interns and added several other part-time staff, so that our Summer Initiatives will be adequately covered. The weight on the full-time staff feels heavy, so I'm happy (and grateful) that we can welcome some new short-term part-time staff. We are now in second generation. This summer we have two part-time staff who are the children of current and former GW staff.

SUMMER SERVICE began in mid-June. After an intense week of orientation – Paul Richard is absolutely amazing as he organizes everything for Summer Service, – we launched Summer Kids Discovery Club for children K-6th grade on June 20th. Under the leadership of one of our new full-time staff, Morgan Lanier, we are hosting another summer-camp for area children. We also launched another year of Summer Lunch led by Darlene Wasserman. The Lunch and Discovery Club are both held Monday – Thursday through August 4th. If you'd like to send us gift cards to help with Summer Lunch (or want to see our needs list), we welcome your help!

We launched another summer of the Good Works **Kingdom Internship** for local teens ages 13-17. These interns tag along with staff and Work Retreat Teams as we serve neighbors in rural Ohio at their homes through Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and work on the Good Works properties including Sign of HOPE. They also support the prep-work for Summer Lunch. On Friday, they meet with me for a time of scripture study and reflection before they join the community for our weekly Friday afternoon gathering. Then, they stay for Friday Night Life! The staff has been meeting on Friday afternoons for many years, starting with a time of affirmation for one another followed by updates. We also read letters sent to us at these gatherings and then spend about an hour in different educational activities.

Prior to COVID, Good Works hosted 25-30 different **Work Retreat Groups (Worship Teams)** each year. Groups come from all over the US, stay in the dorms on the Good Works property, and serve each day in different aspects of our ministry with a focus on serving widows and adults who struggle with a disability. We desire for each group participant to get to the end of their time with us and have two “aha” moments: (1) “We can do this where we live”. We want the work/service our volunteers do to be reproduceable. (2) We desire that each person coming on the Work Retreat experiences deeper trust and deeper relationships with those they came with.

SIGN OF HOPE continues to move along. We are planning to complete the front porch, lay flooring and install kitchen cabinets and other fixtures this summer in preparation for a dedication day this fall.

THE TIMOTHY HOUSE continues to serve adults and children who experience homelessness here in rural Ohio. This is the oldest and longest initiative of Good Works, starting in 1981 in my basement and moving to the current location on Central Avenue in 1984. This year has been very hard for all of us who serve there. If you would like to know more, I’m happy to say more. We continue to do what we can for those who call and come to stay, but it feels like the obstacles and limitations are very large.

We continue to believe in **hospitality**. We host guests in the Good Works Hannah House, The Carter Cabin (for those who want a time of solitude), and through our Country Bed and Breakfast. Welcoming people is something we all find joy in.

The **Transformation Station** will soon provide car #193! We enjoy working with these volunteers! We see and experience encouraging things in and through those who come alongside us, and move from the old identity of “needy” to the new identity of volunteer.

We do not have a **garden** this year. We wanted to have a garden on our property and also gardens at the homes of those we serve through Neighbors Helping Neighbors, but we simply did not have the leadership. This is a disappointment and we are learning to live with and navigate disappointments.

In closing I want say this: Together, we are growing in community and growing in love. Someone once said, “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing”. As people enter the Good Works community as residents, participants, interns, volunteers, supporters, or neighbors we want to instill in them that we are all on a journey together learning how to love. Good Works is so deeply engaged in so many initiatives – there are a lot of moving parts -- but in all of these things, if we fail at love, we fail at life. And so, with a teachable and yielded spirit, we live our days as learners seeking to have tender hearts, so that in the end, we *experience* the love of God and the kingdom of God!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

Sign of Hope June 2022

