

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)*

June, 2022

June greetings with JOY and gratitude!

Hello friends! We write again with gratitude for each of you and your continued investment into our work of love! We are about to embark on the largest and most significant Summer Service Program since 2019. We are expecting 4 Summer interns, and we are planning to host six week-long Work Retreat Groups (we still have 1 week open). Summer Lunch, led by Darlene Wasserman, is our daily public meal for the community. We have provided a summer lunch for kids and adults for many years. Our Summer Kids Discovery Club for kids K-6th grade will be directed this year by one of our new full-time staff, Morgan Lanier. June 20th is our "start date" for all of these initiatives, including our Kingdom Internship for teens ages 14-17 who want to learn about loving God and serving people! Sophie Mather who has done several internships with Good Works will be back this summer to serve alongside the Timothy House staff. This year, we also have a "first": two of our Summer Interns this year had previously participated as teenagers in our Kingdom Internship several years ago.

IN THE NEWS

- We are stepping out once again to provide a hot, sit-down, public lunch (M-TH) at The Plains UMC to what we expect to be around 40-60 adults and children each day. As food prices rise, people we know often struggle with "too much month left over at the end of their income". We welcome your support this summer in the form of gift cards so that we can purchase fresh foods. Also, we welcome the donation of the following food items: ground beef, chicken, canned chicken/tuna, shredded cheese, jasmine rice, canned "cream of" soups, unbleached white flour, vegetable oil, and tomato sauce. We also welcome volunteers to serve once a week. Email us for more information.
- Sign of HOPE is making good progress. We are so thankful for all of the different individual volunteers and volunteer groups who assisted Good Works in building this house! We are planning a dedication and Open House sometime this fall. If you would like to take a tour sooner, just let us know!
- The Timothy House welcomed several new volunteers in April and May. WE feel grateful.
- As many of you know, Friday Night Life started year #30 in April. We now meet every Friday from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm on the Good Works property. We seek to provide a healthy and nutritious meal for our neighbors who struggle with food insecurity and hunger. Would you consider organizing a group of 5-7 friends to sponsor a meal at FNL once this year?
- This September we will again launch another fund-raiser for DAY IN THE LIFE, which will be an opportunity for individuals and families to sponsor ONE day (\$500.00) of The Timothy House for 2023. Last year we received enough support to cover 163 days of funding!

THIS SUMMER we are planning once again to send small teams of volunteers to the homes of those we love and care about who are widows, widowers or adults who struggle with the challenge of limited income and a disability. We KNOW that those who serve with us come as learners and often discover something about themselves as they serve. We will send teams to New Marshfield, Albany, Coolville, Nelsonville, and many other small towns and villages in Athens County. We want those who serve alongside us as volunteers to discover the beauty, values, history, needs and people of rural Appalachia! This Good Works initiative started in the 1990s and is now called Neighbors Helping Neighbors!

THE TELEPHONE

As most of you know, we do our best to answer all of the phone calls which come to Good Works each day. Some calls are about shelter at the Timothy House, some calls are from people wanting to donate or volunteer, some want to get on the list for the Transformation Station. We receive a lot of calls at all three locations. We know we are doing our best, but we do fall short. Sometimes, the number of calls and the complexity of needs feels overwhelming. We do want to take the time to listen well, be present, helpful and speak in a way that shows respect to each person calling. It is important to me that we pay attention to our tone of voice and make an effort to speak slowly and clearly. A few of us serve on the “front lines” of answering and returning calls. Ultimately, answering the phone is about loving people. Many of the conversations we have are long, unique, and some are life-giving. Some of the people we meet by phone feel like precious gifts to us. We are grateful.



THE TIMOTHY HOUSE

We have been providing shelter to hundreds of adults and children from eight southeast Ohio counties in this Good Works initiative since 1984. The house receives a lot of “wear and tear”, but we do our best to sustain a safe, clean and stable place as people address the issues which have caused them to experience homelessness. We had a young couple move in some time ago, both struggling with addiction recovery with only a short amount of “clean time”. Their stay started off really rough. The woman in the relationship mostly did well—there was a lot riding on her stay, as she needed to prove to her family members that she was stable enough for them to give her son back to her. But the man struggled a lot more. It’s not uncommon for people to come here with hang-ups about anyone in authority; and while we do our best to prayerfully carry the authority we have with wisdom and grace, we’re not perfect. And people often rebel regardless of how well we’re doing, because that has become part of their identity. He did resist a lot of what we asked him to do. He didn’t do his chores, he broke several house rules, and even showed up at the house noticeably high on one occasion. He vocalized his general dissent loudly, creating a volatile atmosphere in the house. We poured out act of grace after grace, trying to get through to him that we only want what’s best for him. His constant fighting was not beneficial to him or to the Timothy House community. Eventually, we had to ask him to leave. When we provided him his notice to move out, we told him that he could reapply the following day for shelter, which he did. Unfortunately, when he reapplied, we just didn’t see any proof that there would be any change if we brought him back, so we said no. These are always very difficult decisions for us. A week later he contacted us, and when we did a pre-admit meeting with him, we saw a man who had changed his attitude. It was clear to us that he took some responsibility for his behavior and reconsidered how he had been responding to the kindness he had received. He vocalized to us that he had come to realize that he was ‘biting the hand that was feeding him’. We moved him back in. He was a very different person. He followed all the rules, offered to help out above and beyond what he was required to do, and even stepped in to talk to other residents and calm them down when they got worked up over something. It feels rare that we get such an explicit example of transformation at the Timothy House.

IN CLOSING, I want to invite those of you who are able to come visit Good Works this summer or fall. Come and walk the trails on the Good Works property, join us for Friday Night Life, volunteer for a day with Neighbors Helping Neighbors, meet one of our volunteers with the Transformation Station, or join us for dinner at The Timothy House. We are also happy to show you Sign of HOPE too!

Love is a verb,