



Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 41 Years!

PO Box 4, Athens, OH 45701
Phone: 740-594-3339
Email: email@good-works.net
Web: www.good-works.net

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, 2022

Greetings with gratitude from all of us in the Good Works Community!

FALL is coming soon! This month, I want to give you some perspective of what goes on *behind the scenes* in a few different areas of Good Works. Our work of preparation is another expression of our heart of worship, and often results in fruitfulness!

For the community of Good Works, what we do arises out of who we are. We desire that our lives reflect an offering of gratitude. I think this is most clearly seen in the rhythms the community has created to nurture this attitude or mindset. These rhythms have a variety of expressions, but I would like to share one that has been especially significant. As most of you know, Good Works has three teams: The Timothy House, The Hannah House and the Admin team. For the Hannah House team the rhythm of our morning gathering for Scripture reading, reflection/discussion, mutual support and prayer happens every day with staff and interns. This is an internal nurturing of the life of God among us. Very few people see these times and there are days when it is just two or three people coming together. These small gatherings often become experiences of the kingdom of God, and they prepare us for whatever may be coming in the day ahead. But these times are not just for staff and interns. There is always an open invitation for anyone to participate in this morning gathering — Transformation Station Volunteers, Good Works Volunteers, Work Retreat Volunteers, Week of Service Volunteers, Retreat Cabin guests — all are welcome to participate in this time that has been a key formational experience for the community over many, many years. - **Paul Richard has been the Director of Operations since 2000.**

The needs of Seniors in Athens County (especially widows, widowers and those with a disability) are ever-present to us. We try to do what we can to help as we provide care, support and community. We ask that these residents of Athens County give us a call if they need assistance with something at their home. After they call us, we send them an application for Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN). After they complete and return the application, we evaluate the application and see if we have the resources (people, power, time and skills) to meet the need of the neighbor. I go out for a site visit to spend time with the neighbor and learn more about them and about the project. Good Works' vision is to build a relationship and get-to-know our neighbors, in addition to completing a project. I evaluate if the neighbor is able to help meet their own need, and then we have a conversation about the project as we get to know one another. As Work Retreat groups, community volunteers, Transformation Station volunteers, and others come to Good Works to serve alongside us, we arrange a time to visit and serve the neighbor. I make several phone calls back and forth with them, and trips to local hardware stores (often with various team members) to ensure we can obtain the resources we need to do the job. When the day comes to visit and do the project, there is a lot of planning for gathering the right tools for the job. We load up in our trucks and GO. — **Jeremy Hudelson has been working with Neighbors Helping Neighbors for several years.**

I spend a lot of my time doing the "behind-the-scenes" work for the Timothy House (TH). I do tours with prospective volunteers, work on the schedules for our volunteers and nightshift staff, conduct telephone interviews with prospective residents, and consult with my coworkers who also do telephone interviews. We do a lot of consultation. I talk with the staff from local agencies in an effort to make sure things are working out for the residents' good. One thing I've been working on recently is updating our policy. The TH has lots of policies, ranging from how we transition each shift from one staff to another, to our policy on unprescribed drugs and alcohol, to how we protect some of the more vulnerable people who come to us seeking shelter. We see one of the key aspects of our group identity as image-bearers of God to be learners, and so we are constantly evaluating how we're doing things and adjusting as we go, often in small increments, and rarely in big shifts. Updating our policy was daunting at first. But I have come to see this as an act of faith. I may have been the only staff

member scheduled to work full-time at the Timothy House for most of this year, but I am acting *in faith* that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers into His field (Matt. 9:35-38), and they will need an updated policy binder. So much of what we do at Good Works is more “caught” than “taught,” because it is not always easy to put the things we do for people into words. --Garrett Smith has been involved with Good Works first as a volunteer and later as a full-time staff over the past 4 years.

Hospitality is intentional. As the person who oversees Community Life on the Good Works property in The Hannah House, I do a lot of planning for guests, interns and volunteers. As I learn about guests coming, I begin to think about what we can offer them; space to sleep, eat, and how to help them feel at home. I want to make sure we have clean, comfortable spaces ready to go. When we have volunteers on the Good Works property, I make sure we still have clean, home like spaces ready to welcome them. We try to have coffee in the mornings and there is always plenty of snacks and even lunch. I value our time with volunteers around lunch. I try to make sure we have a balance of options for people to choose from and we all gather in our outside spaces, on the porch or the picnic shelter to enjoy each other and the meal. I enjoy making The Hannah House my home, and making my home available to so many people to enjoy as well. — Kim Hudelson and her husband Jeremy joined the Good Works staff in 2020. Kim oversees “Community Life” on the Good Works property.

IN THE NEWS

- We had hoped to host a dedication for Sign of HOPE this fall but the building will not be ready. We have had several volunteer groups come this spring and summer and things are slowly moving along. We have several groups scheduled for this fall, but we are not ready for a dedication yet. Stay tuned.
- Appalachian Immersion is our residential internship. Interns serve full-time alongside the GW staff, live in the Hannah House, and receive a monthly stipend. Know someone you can encourage to explore this?
- This month (now through December 31) starts the third-year of our campaign for **DAY IN THE LIFE**, which is the primary fund-raiser for the Good Works Timothy House. Last year donations to DITL provided \$80,000.00 (160 days of care, community, food and shelter) towards the cost of operating the TH (about ½ of our budget there). We are asking those who are able to provide one or more days (\$500.00) or one-half day of funding for 2023. Thank you! Remember to mark your gift DITL. goodworksdayinthelife.net
- Can you help us communicate this? *Good Works in Athens, Ohio is seeking working used vehicles to provide to individuals and families who volunteer time to receive them through an initiative called The Transformation Station. Good Works has provided 193 vehicles so far.*
- This fall season is a great time to come and visit. Come! We host guests on the Good Works property in the Hannah House, Country Bed & Breakfast, or at The Carter Cabin!

IN CLOSING, I simply want to ask for prayer and say THANK YOU once again. We continue to find JOY in both what we are doing on behalf of people in need, and also by working alongside each other!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

PS- WE are looking for a volunteer to serve once a week and prepare a lunch meal for our Transformation Station Volunteers, Good Works Volunteers and staff. We host these lunches on Wednesday and Thursday. Know someone who would find JOY in cooking and serving for a few hours? Encourage them to contact us!

