

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)*

October 2022

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

FALL has arrived here in Southeast Ohio and WE are so grateful! This month, we want to *again* offer some perspective of some of the things which go on behind the scenes here at Good Works.

The Good Works Timothy House (TH) is a very busy place. Our desire is to create and sustain a safe, clean and temporary home for adults and children who experience homelessness. We serve 8 counties here in Southeast Ohio. It feels like we are doing A LOT more telephone interviews these days. This is the first step when someone wants to apply for shelter. The phone interview can take 30+ minutes. We attempt to build trust as we ask what some consider difficult questions. The delicate balance between too much structure and enough safety for the staff, volunteers and other residents continues to be ever-present. After the phone interview, several staff consult and determine if the person (or persons) meets our basic threshold for staying at the TH. Years ago, we established a commitment to assist anyone willing to work on their recovery, but a zero tolerance for anyone using unprescribed drugs. Some of those who contact us have a complex legal or mental health history; some may have stayed with us before, so we must slow down the process in order to build the kind of foundation where people succeed. We work in community with one another and do the best we can to consult with one another as we set up a pre-admit interview. While we try to do this the same day, it is not often possible. We stopped offering emergency shelter several years ago, so the time it takes to get into the TH can be longer now. Our pre-admission interviews take place Monday – Thursday in the afternoons. Sometimes, depending on if the person is a previous resident and they had a difficult stay with us, we request that they bring an advocate, someone we can work with as we work with them. It is important that we develop strong relationships with people in our community who are working to help those who come to stay at the TH. **Keith Wasserman is the Founder and Executive Director of Good Works.**

The Transformation Station (TS) : This initiative is well known in the community and is usually spread by word of mouth. We receive material gifts such as appliances and vehicles and we invite people into a volunteer opportunity in order to obtain these gifts. From time to time, we also announce this initiative at Friday Night Life and to the residents of the Timothy House. When someone calls we do a Transformation Station telephone interview in order to collect contact information, explain how the initiative works, and find out from the person applying what questions or concerns they have. This is often our first introduction into this relationship with this person. Even though we are collecting information, we are also listening to the story behind the call. Here are a few things we consider while signing someone up for the TS: (1) Are they dealing with any health issues? (2) Do they have a current Driver's License? (if they are going to volunteer for a vehicle) (3) Do they have transportation to get to our site? (4) Do they have a disability that limits them in some way? Questions like these enable us to offer

information that they will need to help them to be ready to go when it is their time to volunteer. It is always a temptation to operate in crisis mode because the needs are so great. This initiative however, is focused on not only meeting a need, but also establishing a long-term relationship with each individual. Something that is really huge is reminding them that they are not only receiving a material gift through this act of volunteering, but they are equally as much helping *their* neighbors. We do take precautions and sometimes the process takes a little longer for individuals to actually begin volunteering, but this is necessary to help keep all of our vulnerable populations safe. . – **Terri Woodson oversees the Good Works Transformation Station. She has been serving on staff since 1997. More than 900 people have participated in the TS since it began.**

The Kingdom Internship: We have welcomed local teens into a summer internship for many years. As part of our preparation, we review applications, conduct interviews and lay a good foundation for their success. Before the teens arrived, I met with other staff to talk about how we could support them while they were working with us through Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Summer Lunch, Discovery Club and in other areas. Before and after they arrived, I had phone and email communication with their parents about the schedule, expectations, logistics of arrival and departure times, and ways that we could all support the teens in the internship. Each Friday we had a Bible study with the Kingdom Interns, and I reviewed the Bible study materials for a few of these weeks in order to clarify the language of our instructions and questions for the interns. We all wanted to do what we could to ensure that the interns had a smooth and rewarding experience in the community. **Sophie Mather worked full time with Good Works in the summer of 2022 serving at The Timothy House and also co-leading the Kingdom Internship. Prior to this Sophie participated in several Appalachian Immersion Internships.**

IN THE NEWS

- Friday Night Life (now in year #30) moves from the Good Works property (outside) back to The Plains UMC this month. We are seeking sponsors willing to provide a meal for 50-60 adults and children.
- Good Works Transformation Station provided car #194 in September. We give thanks that this arena of Good Works has been so fruitful. Please keep passing the word on our need for vehicles!
- The Good Works Timothy House has seen a substantial escalation in the number of calls we are receiving and the number of people we are serving. The past few months have been very challenging for all of us!
- **DAY IN THE LIFE.** Now through December 31, we are asking our friends and supporters to provide funding for 1 day in the life of the Timothy House for 2023. Funds marked DITL provide for staffing cost, utilities, insurance, food/supplies, maintenance and more. THANK YOU for considering this. The enclosed flier explains DITL in more detail. Please mark your calendar. We are planning an Open House at Good Works Timothy House on Saturday December 3. Please come.

IN CLOSING this month, I want to share that I am extremely grateful for God's faithfulness all of these years. I often tell people that I was 22 when I started Good Works and I turned 64 in February. My heart still leans into abiding (John 15:8). I know God invited me into this work, and I still feel it is a gift and privilege to lead this community. I am doing my best to adjust my pace (to slow down) and I pray every day for the wisdom to navigate the many challenges of leadership. I so deeply value and appreciate your support, encouragement, letters and love. Darlene and I celebrated our 41st anniversary in September, and we are grateful to work alongside one another in this beautiful vineyard called Good Works!

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman