



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)*

December 2022

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

As most of you know, on January 1st 2023 we will start year #43. I give thanks. We give thanks. I still remember remodeling and then opening up the basement of our home in January 1981 to adults and children who had no place to sleep. The word "homeless" had not yet come into the American vocabulary, so we used the term "displaced persons". I started (with help from my roommates and college friends) about 9 months before Darlene and I were married. I was living with four men in our Elliott Street home, and it was my senior year at Ohio University. We operated Good Works there welcoming the stranger until the end of 1984, when we moved everything to Central Avenue. We have intentionally provided care, compassion and community for people experiencing homelessness through the Timothy House ever since. We have touched a lot of lives over these years. We know that loving our neighbors through service, sacrifice and suffering; through tender love and tough love, is the right thing to do. We are still learning to devote ourselves to doing what is good! (See Titus 3:8 & 14)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

As we close out the last month of 2022, we want to share a few 'snapshots' into a few of the relationships we have formed over time. The stories are true. The names have been changed. I am calling this "Where are they now".

Very soon after Rick stayed at Good Works he followed a path to recovery. It was hard work, because he also struggled with mental and emotional distress. His journey towards recovery resulted in getting a truck and starting his own small business. Soon Rick had regular clients whom he served in the summer with lawn care and in the winter with snow removal. While he continued to struggle, he pushed himself and stayed connected with community resources and support. Rick was eventually able to get a bank loan and purchase his own home. During all these years we stayed in touch, met off and on for coffee, conversation, and we would often pray together. At one point, we were walking partners on the bike path once a week. Periodically, Rick would come to Friday Night Life. Rick developed some severe medical problems and passed away last year. I felt grateful that I could participate in his memorial service. I felt grateful for the gift of knowing him.

I saw Joe at one of our local grocery stores again today. I see him almost every time I go there, because he is a greeter. He always has a smile. I told him that it was good to see him and that he brightens my day. Joe left the GW Timothy House more than 10 years ago soon after he got a job at McDonalds and was able to save money for rent and utilities. I would see him there when I came in for coffee and he would greet me with a smile. One day I ask him what they were paying him after working there for almost 10 years. He told me it was around \$8.00 an hour. In my mind, I said 'wow... after almost 10 years?!'. It wasn't long until Joe left there and began working at a local grocery store. Joe is one of many people whom I see from time to time working in the community and doing well years after they left The Timothy House.

Jennifer stayed with us at the Timothy House a few years ago. Her stay was tumultuous. She ultimately ended up leaving the house without a plan for housing, because she was tired of living with our structures. She now participates in the church community I am involved with, so I see her regularly. She spoke with me recently, asked me about how I was doing, and shared with me that she has been in her own place for about two years now. She said she is doing well, and though she had no income while she was living with us, she now has a source of income. I found joy when she told me she has been working on reconnecting with her granddaughter, and that they are going to meet up soon when the granddaughter comes to Athens to start Hocking College.

Kathy and her family stayed at Good Works many years ago. It was a very hard season for everyone in the family and there were many intense moments along the way. We all did the best we could to work through the difficulties they were experiencing over many months. Kathy and her family eventually transitioned from Good Works and found a place to live, and found more stability in their lives. Sometime after that, Kathy began the process of recovery and recovery education. I would see her from time to time around town and we would have short visits talking about the kids and eventually the grandkids. There remains a lot of love and respect between us. These days, Kathy is a counselor working with a recovery agency. She continues to be an inspiration to me every time I see her. More importantly, she is a strong support to a lot of people who are working on their recovery.

Steve came to stay at Good Works when he was 18. He was not doing well, struggling with addiction and broken relationships. He came and left several times before a particular friendship with someone he met through Good Works became transformational. Steve began to participate in a local church community, and soon was surrounded by a strong support system. During this season there was a lot of stability in Steve's life. He moved out and continued to participate in that community, living at the time with another person he met through Good Works. It was in that context that Steve met his wife. It was also during that time that Steve joined the Good Works staff working part-time. A short while later, Steve and his wife moved away from Athens. We have kept in touch over many years, many years of stability. Steve and his wife have two children now.

IN THE NEWS...

- A receipt for your 2022 giving to Good Works will be mailed before January 31, 2023. If you need a receipt sooner, please contact us.
- We have enclosed some information on how to give to Good Works on-line or electronically.
- This is the last month in 2022 when we are asking people to give towards DAY IN THE LIFE. We appreciate you considering this. www.goodworksdainthelife.net Please mark your gift DITL.

IN CLOSING, I want to tell you how thankful I am for each of you and for your encouragement and support. As we enter a new year, we pray that HOPE will fill each of you. These are very difficult times for all of us. May you be carried along by the love of God and may you too see "the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living." (Psalm 27:13)



Love is a verb,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kv'.