



Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 42 Years!

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*"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)*

February / March 2023



Greetings from the Good Works Community of HOPE!

As we begin our 43rd year together, we are confident of this: WE are fulfilling our mission to "connect people from all walks of life with people who struggle with poverty so that the Kingdom of God can be experienced". Here are a few things we are grateful for:

- For his birthday, one of our volunteers raised over \$3000.00 to provide funds for tools and supplies we need.
- One of our co-workers developed a beautiful friendship with one of our former residents after they moved out of The Timothy House.
- We continue to be so encouraged by all of the people who donate food to Good Works from weddings, funerals, birthday parties, and other events; those who shop for us, and those who do food drives for us.
- There will be another Good Works wedding this year. Another couple met through Good Works and are now engaged. This makes *many* marriages which have been born here.
- Several interns have come on staff in the past year after finishing their internship! WE are rejoicing!!
- We are grateful for the transforming relationship one of our interns had with one of the women we served through Neighbors Helping Neighbors!
- One of our former residents of The Timothy House contributes financially and regularly to Good Works. This feels very special to us!
- The large number of presenters who came to our Summer Discovery Club reminded us how much the community supports Good Works!
- Car donations. We received another car in December that will go to someone this year!
- Letters. Each letter or note we receive becomes medicine to us. We read them on Friday's.
- A family who had recently experienced homelessness came on a Work Retreat joining their church. This really inspired and encouraged us!
- The thoughtfulness and acts of kindness those we love and serve experienced through the holidays, felt amazing and encouraging to us!
- LOTS of people we love and serve are getting (and keeping) jobs!
- When the residents of The Timothy House talk about wanting to come back and volunteer after they get their own place, this encourages us!

IN THE NEWS

- The dedication event for Sign of HOPE is set for **Saturday April 15th at 10:00 am**. Please come! Right now, we are seeking a few volunteers who have specific skills to help with some of the more delicate finishing work. Contact us if you can help for a day or two.
- **Friday Night Life** is having a 30th Birthday Event on Friday, May 19 at 4:30 pm at the Good Works property! Please come! We are seeking small groups to sponsor one dinner this year.

- The Transformation Station has provided 195 vehicles since we began the program. We are so thankful to participate in the lives of those who volunteer to serve at the TS. Please encourage people you know to donate their car, truck or van to Good Works.
- **Work Retreat Groups.** We are welcoming week-long Work Retreats for the summer of 2023. We still have a few openings. Contact us through email to explore options, will you?
- Our special fund raiser –**DAY IN THE LIFE**– raised \$48,634.00 All funds go to support the day-to-day operations of The Good Works Timothy House!
- **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** is our initiative to lead small groups of volunteers to the homes of widows, widowers or adults struggling with disability or aging issues to provide practical help. We have been doing this for 25 years. As we enter the spring and summer of 2023, we are faced with the challenge of our limited capacity to lead those who want to volunteer with us. We are praying for someone who loves God and joyfully embraces our Vision of HOPE to join us as we provide care and community for our neighbors, both through ‘hands on’ service and through gardening.

THE GOOD WORKS TIMOTHY HOUSE has been providing care and community (shelter) for 42 consecutive years to adults and children who experience homelessness here in rural (SE) Ohio. These days we are having many conversations with people who feel disappointed when they hear of our limitations. They are seeking a warm and safe place to stay and come up against our limitations. While we feel like we are doing the best we can, oftentimes, the situations we are encountering feel overwhelming. Then, there is the urgency of people’s crisis which collide with our limitations. Oftentimes, we are not able to go through the process of the phone interview in their timetable. Most of the people who contact us for shelter are desperate and are hurting and may “feel” like they are getting the “run-a-round”. Sometimes, they have brought the situation upon themselves, and other times they are caught up in something beyond any choices they have made (or both). In either case, we try to begin with compassion, empathy and kindness. In some situations, these conversations turn into a test of our character, patience, and professionalism. After we finish the conversation, our emotions are shouting, and we need to debrief with our co-workers who understand us. In these situations, it is essential that we are there for one another to be good listeners, to express compassion and empathy to one another. This is the avenue of sustainability.

IN CLOSING I want to share this: WHAT DO YOU DO when people expect you to do things and help them, but you don’t have the capacity and you must say no? I’ll tell you what I do. I grieve. I get angry. I feel helpless. I feel like I am letting people down. But our human capacity is limited. Our community capacity is limited, and we can’t help everyone. We know that in our heads. We receive calls and requests almost every day and often must say no or not yet. To remain sustainable, we must find a pace and rhythm that all of us can live into together. And so, while we grieve that we can’t do more, we grieve *together* and are continually wrestling with our capacity to serve, and especially our capacity to love; for the needs we face far exceed our human abilities. Therefore, as the Psalmist says so beautifully, “we lift up our eyes to the LORD from where our help comes “ (Psalm 121).

Love is a still a verb,



Keith Wasserman