



Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 42 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)*

April 2023

Spring 2023 greeting from the Good Works Community of HOPE!

We write once again with JOY and gratitude! WE are so thankful for the many ways we feel uplifted and supported by so many of you.



As most of you know, the dedication of our new initiative Sign of HOPE is scheduled for Saturday, April 15th at 10:00 am at 100 Central Avenue. We broke ground for this house in September of 2019 thinking that like most of our building projects it would take 2 years. Because of COVID, we were not able to receive the number of volunteers we had planned on, and the house took much longer and was much more costly than we anticipated. But it is finished, and we are so very thankful! Please come!

FRIDAY NIGHT LIFE 30TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

We started Friday Night Life in the kitchen of The Good Works Timothy House in the spring of 1993, because we wanted to stay connected with the residents who were moving out. We had developed a godly affection for many of the people staying with us, and we wanted to find a way to stay in relationships in the hope that we could continue to be present in their lives in some way. I often say, while we welcome people into a temporary home, our vision and hope is to be in relationship with those we are growing to love for much longer than their stay with us. Well... they came and kept coming. We asked our friends at Central UMC if we could meet there, and within a few months 40+ people were coming every Friday Night. We later realized that we were the first weekly public meal in our area. We started with spaghetti, moved to donated pizza, and eventually asked local groups (mostly churches) to sponsor the dinner each week. FNL soon outgrew Central UMC and we took a big step of faith and moved to The Plains UMC in the year 2000. During the winter months we partner with the people of The Plains UMC, and then we move to the Good Works property in the warmer months. This has been our structure for many years. FNL moves back to the GW Property on April 7th and we will host the 30th birthday party for FNL on May 19th. Please come! If you'd like to help with this event, please let us know.

SUMMER SERVICE 2023

We are seeking and welcoming summer interns for another year of Summer Service. This summer we plan to host several week-long Work Retreats, and we are making plans to lead small groups to the homes of those we serve in rural Athens County through Neighbors Helping Neighbors. We also hope to offer our Summer Kids Discovery Club for K-6th grade and Summer Lunch. We will be seeking volunteers to join us in both areas. This Good Works initiative starts June 19th and goes through August 3rd.

IN THE NEWS

- **Work Retreat Groups.** We are welcoming week-long Work Retreats for the summer of 2023 and weekend groups for the fall of 2023. We still have a few openings. Contact us through email to explore options, will you?
- **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** is our initiative to lead small groups of volunteers to the homes of older adults struggling with the loss of a spouse, with a disability or aging issues. Our vision is to love our neighbors by providing practical help to them at their homes. We have been doing this for about 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 through 'hands on' service and gardening.
- **Country Bed and Breakfast** located on the Good Works property continues to provide guests who visit Athens with overnight accommodations at a reasonable price. Revenue from this initiative helps to cover our utility costs.
- WE still have HOPE that someone with a love for gardening, and a love for God, will come and work with us to begin plowing and planting at the **Good Works Garden**; and start gardens at the homes of those we serve through Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Know someone who loves gardening and wants to work at Good Works?
- **The Book** *Good Works: Hospitality and Faithful Discipleship* tells our story and provides some perspective of our history, vision and HOPE. If you'd like to purchase a copy, contact us.
- **Question:** What are your thoughts on our newsletters? We would like to know from you what you look forward to reading and what you'd like to read more about. Send an email or a note, will you?
- **Come** and visit, walk the trails on the Good Works property, and visit the Carter (solitude) Cabin for a morning, afternoon or overnight and tour Sign of HOPE!

IN CLOSING, I want to share this as our community embarks on yet another new initiative this month. I often feel like the guy written about in the gospel of Mark (chapter 2). He organized three others to bring their friend who was paralyzed to Jesus for healing. The line was long, and the sun was going down. He had to persuade three other people to do something he had never done, and they had never done. And that is what we do at Good Works. Through faith, creativity, and community, we take innovative steps to do things we've never done before, so that we can bring people to the place of hope, forgiveness, reconciliation, community, and healing.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman