

Sign of HOPE

Keith's Dedication Speech

April 15, 2023

Good morning and thank you for being here today. I feel so thankful that we can be together today. Some of you traveled some distance to be here on this momentous day. Thank you!

SO MANY different people from ALL walks of life
have come together to make this house possible.

WE pause to give thanks.

SOH, like all other GW projects is designed to fulfill the mission of GW – *to connect people from all walks of life with people who struggle with poverty (in all of its forms) so that the Kingdom of God may be experienced.*

History

We started this house in September of 2019 soon after we received what we thought would be enough funds to build this house. GW has operated with the philosophy of 'first raise the money, then build the building' and this has worked well. We have constructed 5 different structures since 1996. Today, GW is not in any debt.

- The idea for SOH was first developed “and tried out” in 2013. Keith and Darlene used the phrase Sign of HOPE to describe what we started in 2012 to welcome strangers into our home around the corner on Currier Street. We moved into the west side neighborhood to welcome people that the Timothy House (TH) could not serve because of lack of space. We did that for several years using the model of walking over at 10:00 pm to the TH and walking people back, settling them in through a back door in our home and giving them a brief orientation to our home. We set aside two bedrooms in our home to host guests. Their living space was separated from ours. People would leave before 8:00 am and return to the TH for breakfast until 10:00 am when the house closed for the day. And

we would walk over again each night they stayed with us. We did this for about 6 years. We never had any problems with those we hosted.

- It is this model that we will use initially when we start welcoming people here. As our staff grows, we will expand what we can do.

Thanks to OUR staff and especially to Merlin Ryan, Michael Adams Mike Shaub, Aaron Duncan, Kim Hudelson, Jeremy Hudelson and Terri Woodson with special thanks to Paul Richard who is not here today.

Buddy will not share his story and a little on how the building process went:

- I stayed at The Timothy House in 2009. I never would have thought that I would be building Good Works a new house in 2019. We broke ground in September of 2019
- Had the volunteer excavator's start (thank you Logan Apprenticeship Union)
- Our first Work Retreat (WR) group came from Pittsburg to help build the retaining wall.
- Through the process, we started an excavation and WR groups helped with the wall for the back and then....
- Thanks to community volunteers and friends, we were able to get the blocks in the basement laid right at the start.
- The pandemic hit and everything came to a stop. Then we had to shut down for almost a year
- In Spring 2021 our volunteers came and helped us lay the first floor joists
- Some of the recovery community came and helped us frame up the second floor
- Thanks to our Amish friends, the roof was put on in a day ...
- Through the winter we had a group from Columbus come and helped us do the drywall
- By spring of 2022, we had a several groups come and helped us to do the porch
- Kenneth from Habitat for Humanity organized a CEO volunteer group from non-profits in our community to complete the framing!
- to the finishing of the concrete to help with the walk way and handicapped parking space.
- Many people dropped their prices for work we could not get volunteers to do.
- Appalachian Renewable Power provided volunteers to install our solar.
- Dave Gayloff – Volunteer Electrician
- And many many others helped to bring this new Good Works facility to where it is today!

Keith:

The purpose of SOH

1. SOH was originally designed to serve people that the Timothy House has been unable to serve since we started GW in 1981. We will soon have a “lift” for anyone with a physical disability who is having a housing crisis and we intend to try to assist people with pets. And there are others who don't fit in to the structure of the TH
2. The front of this house is “third space” – we desire for shared meals, music -- this is community building space both for those we serve and for our neighbors here in the west end.

3. There are 4 washers and dryers in the basement and our vision is to welcome people who don't have laundry facilities available to them to come and wash their cloths in exchange for some "sweat equity" similar to what to do with the Good Works Transformation Station.
4. The upstairs of SOH will be staffed by live-in GW staff who will serve on the TH team.
5. At this point, we are not planning for hosting more than 3 unrelated people at one time which is the zoning code.

Keith

Conclusion: We will now offer this prayer of dedication as we unveil the sign here on the front of the house. Please take a tour thought the house, meet some of the GW staff, have some refreshments and visit.

A prayer of dedication & unveiling of the sign

Psalm 127:1 The Psalmist writes: "Unless the LORD builds the house, the laborers labor in vain" Dear LORD, thank you for providing the people and the resources to develop the physical structure to fulfil the vision you gave us to extend our community to care for more people who are vulnerable and need our help. We have done the planning and construction of this house. It is finished. And now, we dedicate this house to you. Use it for your glory. Use this new facility to reveal your kingdom– Thy Kingdom Come – on earth as it is in heaven. May those who enter here and stay here feel your presence and feel your love; and may their time in this house for whatever reason give them hope; the expectation and reassurance of a good future marked by healing and your loving presence in their lives. Indeed, may this house on this street become a sign of hope. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.