



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)*

May 2023

Greetings with gratitude!

WE are so grateful that Spring has arrived! The beauty of new life is bursting out all over, and especially on the Good Works property. We see green. We see redbud. We see wildflowers on the trails. We are grateful to be trusted with this beautiful land, trees and hiking trails.

The dedication of our new initiative Sign of HOPE took place on Saturday, April 15th. We are so very thankful to everyone who came to this very special event. We continue to be thankful to everyone who contributed and helped us build this house. Here is the prayer of dedication we offered:



This photo was taken at our April 15, 2023
Dedication of Sign of Hope

*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 care to and for 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 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.*

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) is our initiative to take volunteers to the homes of older adults who struggle with the loss of a spouse, economic hardship, and a limited support structure. Buddy Ballard, a former resident of the **Good Works Timothy House**, who has been on staff for 7 years, along with Jeremy Hudelson provide leadership to NHN with a lot of support from other Good Works staff and volunteers. As I write, we are preparing to serve several neighbors this spring and summer. We have many application requests right now. Alice is a neighbor in her 80s and we have been sending teams to assist her for many years with things around her home she is unable to do.

Richard uses a wheelchair and has many needs we can help him with. We have also been visiting him for many years. In many instances what we are doing is not very complex, but is very helpful to those who are not able to do those things. We are building long-term friendships based on love, service, and kindness. Buddy shared this, "Some time ago, I led a team to the home of Mary to help rebuild a retaining wall. The teens who joined me that week didn't have much experience with the kind of things she needed, but they did have experience with singing. All week long they sang on the project. At the end of the week, Mary (who had been unable to get out of bed all week) invited us into her home and the teens sang a beautiful version of the "Hallelujah" song. We all wept and sang as we experienced the fulfillment of Job's vision "I made the widow's heart sing".



The Good Works Timothy House provides care and Community to adults and children who experience homelessness in rural SE Ohio.

IN THE NEWS

- This summer I am excited to share that several of our interns from 2022 are returning to serve in Summer Service. We have several Work Retreat groups planned for the summer, and we intend to launch our Summer Kids Discovery Club and Summer Lunch for 7 weeks starting June 19th. We welcome volunteers to come alongside us! (1) We are also seeking volunteers to come and do a 1-time 30-minute presentation to our Discovery Club (K-6th grade) on a topic you enjoy talking about with children. (2) We are looking for volunteers who can make a once-a-week commitment to assist with Summer Lunch. As we plan for food, we seek and welcome gift cards from Kroger, Walmart, Aldi's and Piggly Wiggly. All our food is donated, so we welcome vegetables and fresh fruits too. Contact us by email to let us know your idea and learn more.
- Friday Night Life (FNL) returned to the Good Works property in April. We are grateful to be outside where we can play cornhole, volleyball, 9 square and basketball with those who come. The 30th Birthday of FNL will be celebrated on Friday, May 19th from 4:30 to 7:30. If you have ever come to FNL once during the past 30 years, please come! Good Works is providing the main course and we are asking everyone to bring a side dish.
- The Good Works Transformation Station (TS) provided a participant in the TS with our 196th car in April! We give thanks for each individual and family who has donated a car or truck!
- Did you know you can give to Good Works from our website? Click on Make a Donation.
- We were able to add another part-time staff to the Good Works Timothy House in April, and this will allow us to expand the hours the house is open.



WE are seeking a group who would volunteer to replace this deck sometime this year. We will provide the materials.

IN CLOSING this month, I want to share this: As we continue to take care of and care for people in their brokenness over many years, we are aware that we must try to understand *their* perspective – *seek to understand before being understood*. We all want to be understood (and heard) and this is often the best starting place for the foundation of love in any relationship. As we care for people at the point of their crisis, or recovery, or experience of loss, or feeling of hopelessness; we often pray our love would *abound more in both knowledge and depth of insight* (see Philippians 1:9-11). Sometimes we encounter situations where we feel uneasy and even suspicious of the story we are hearing. To discern what is right we try to slow things down, consult, and pray with the goal to do what is best. This is hard work. It is often the work of humility, especially in those times when we *feel* taken advantage of. We continually ask God for wisdom, so that above all we are communicating to each person that we are as a community seeking to love and instill hope.

Love is a verb,

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

Keith Wasserman