



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)*

August 2023

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

Albeit a bit exhausted, we made it through another delightful season of Summer Service. We hosted several Work Retreats (short-term mission teams) from South Carolina, North Carolina, and Ohio. We cared for many children through our Kids Discovery Club and provided hot nutritious meals to many adults and children through Summer Lunch (Thank you Darlene!!). We served many different seniors at their homes through Neighbors Helping Neighbors and provided care and community to adults and children through the GW Timothy House. Thank you to each of you (and to all of our volunteers) who encouraged and supported us this summer!

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

As most of you know, Good Works intentionally reaches out to seniors, primarily widows and widowers, who are in a season of life where they need assistance at their homes in rural Athens County. Our volunteer teams serve week-long in the summer, and weekends in the Fall and Spring. This summer, we were able to *"make the widows heart sing"* (Job 29:13) by serving many people at their homes. Our volunteer teams built a small deck that connects to a 30 ft ramp; stained a deck that gives an elderly neighbor backdoor access to her home; stabilized a deck that is part of a trailer; and replaced underpinning for a trailer. We also installed gutter guards, several screen doors, drywalled a bedroom closet, installed a window and a toilet. On one day some of our team help to paint a trailer. We also spent a day working to maintain some trails for a senior friend who uses a power wheelchair. And.... we did a lot of mowing. Maybe you are connected with a group who would like to come to serve with us this fall or next spring for a weekend or serve with us on a Saturday.

IN THE NEWS...

- To hear parent after parent after parent (and grandparents) tell us how much their children loved participating in the Kids Summer Discovery Club every day is a sweet sound in all our ears! THANK YOU, Morgan Lanier, for directing Discovery Club again this summer. THANK YOU, Ben Woodson, Luke Duncan, Austin Dellinger and Sophie Mather-Smith, for your leadership too!
- This summer, several participants in each Work Retreat had the opportunity to spend one evening at the GW Timothy House. We have been hearing both from them, and from our staff, that their visits have been very impactful and life-changing! Maybe you know someone who may want to volunteer once a week from 5 pm to 9 pm at the Good Works Timothy House this Fall?
- The Appalachian Immersion Internship starts a new season this Fall. Maybe you know someone who would benefit from a 4- or 9-month residential internship experience with Good Works?



Good Works Sign of HOPE has opened. We are welcoming people we are unable to serve at the Good Works Timothy House.

CHRISTINE POHL has been a dear friend and mentor to us since Keith met her at Asbury Theological Seminary in the Fall of 1989. Her books Making Room and Living into Community have shaped so much of our vision, values, and practices. Christine and Keith collaborated to write the book Good Works: Hospitality and Faithful Discipleship. Christine died on June 5th after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. There is a page honoring Christine on the Good Works **Updates** section of our website entitled “In Honor of Christine Pohl”. You can also see it here : <https://good-works.net/in-honor-of-christine-pohl>

DAY IN THE LIFE

On September 1st, we will launch another year when we invite everyone to support one day (or one -half day) of the Good Works Timothy House (GWTH) for 2024. Our goal during the months of September through December is to raise funds to cover as many days as possible in 2024. We estimate it costs \$500.00 a day to operate the GWTH. Gifts given in 2023 were \$56,106.00 and covered about 113 days of care and community. These funds cover the cost of staff, utilities, insurance, maintenance, supplies, and other things related to providing a safe, clean, temporary home. We continue to operate every day, and care for adults and children who experience homelessness in southeast Ohio. This updated website will launch September 1st (www.goodworksdaysinthelife) and we will set aside September through December 2023 to raise these funds. A special event is being planned for Saturday, December 3 in Athens (similar to the Good Works WALK). We will share more about this in our next newsletter. We hope you will consider coming!

DO FOR. DO WITH. BE WITH.

We have learned over many years that there are three different ways to love, build, and sustain relationships with people who struggle with poverty or exclusion. The easiest way (and sometimes the most helpful) is to **do things for** people. But, to build a relationship we must create and sustain ways to **do things with** those we are helping; to invite them to come alongside us as we do things together for others. What has your community invented to build relationships with those in need by inviting them to join you in serving others? Finally, we value and practice the simple act of **being with** someone. This often involves simply visiting, listening, and sharing of ourselves, and sharing time together. Through kindness, empathy, and compassion we remind them of their value as a person made in the image of God.

IN CLOSING this month, I want to share this: In response to the question “where have you experienced the Kingdom of God” my co-workers shared this: (1) The little children coming to us! (2) Through people in recovery and mothers on Hospice we can pray with (3) In our daily reflections with our groups who visit on what they have done during the day – God moments (4) Through seeing the connection of personal breakthroughs with breakthroughs in community (5) In seeing the growth and ways God is working in our volunteers (6) The transformation of our TS volunteers to on-going volunteers. (7) Watching people from when I first meet them, to when they come to community, start settling in and become comfortable. (8) When former residents of the TH reapply and tell us about the peace, support, and personal growth they experienced when they stayed at the TH.



As some of you may already know, we have developed a small laundromat in the basement of SOH so that we can reach out and serve people experiencing economic hardship who use laundromats. Our intention is to build community, build relationships and help people with a practical need.

From our hearts to your home,

Love is a verb,

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

Keith Wasserman