



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)*

September 2023

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

We are moving from Summer to Fall and this month we are transitioning from Summer Service and preparing for the Fall season. And.... we are filled with gratitude, lots of gratitude!!

SOME HISTORY

Darlene and I will celebrate our 42nd anniversary on September 26. I started Good Works in January of 1981, and we were married the following September. Darlene moved in, and together we learned how to welcome adults and children experiencing a housing crisis into our remodeled basement. We did that for almost 4 years until Good Works purchased the house on Central Avenue, which we now call The Timothy House. During the early days, we would open the shelter at 7:00 pm and people could stay until 9:00 am. We had a mini fridge and a hot pot. Some dinners were provided by the college student households in the neighborhood we were associated with. We learned so much during those early years, especially about ourselves. It was in this 'crucible' that we invented the structure and laid the foundation that still serves us to this day.

BEHIND THE SCENES

As you can imagine, a lot goes on behind the scenes to give rise to our fruitfulness. Terri Woodson diligently works to prepare each Transformation Station (TS) volunteer to go through the program through phone calls, written communication, and interviews. Kim Hudelson oversees all the Work Retreat groups who come for weekends in the Fall and Spring and week-long in the summer. She works with each group prior to arriving to insure good communication and clear expectations. Aaron Duncan oversees all the technology, including all our email and website arenas. A LOT of what we do is dependent on communication. Garrett Smith oversees the day-to-day operations of the GW Timothy House, and (along with his team) the process of how each person comes to stay with us, how they are cared for, and how they transition out. Jeremy Hudelson and Buddy Ballard oversee the process of establishing relationships with each Neighbor (Neighbors Helping Neighbors) by visiting them after we receive their application. They clarify what we can do to assist them and prepare them for the volunteers who will visit their home. And there is more. Preparation is such an essential part of how and why we are having a good and lasting impact in people's lives.



Good Works staff, Summer of 2023

IN THE NEWS...

- Please plan to participate with us on Saturday, December 2nd for our first "on site" DAY IN THE LIFE (DITL). The event begins at 10:00 am. It is "family friendly" and intended to be educational and inspirational. It may be cold so plan to bundle up! It is a walk, (like the GW WALK) where we create an educational experience for adults and children of all ages to learn more about people who struggle with poverty and homelessness here in rural SE Ohio. You can contribute to DITL now through December 31st with a gift of any amount. Please mark your gift DITL. www.goodworksdayinthelife.net

- WE are welcoming individual volunteers and small groups to come alongside us as we visit the homes (and serve) our neighbors (Neighbors Helping Neighbors) every Saturday this Fall starting September 16th. Contact us for more information. Let us know you are interested in advance. Groups require a little more scheduling.
- Good Works provided car #198 in early August to another participant in the Transformation Station! This initiative works because people donate their cars. There are currently 38 people on the waiting list to get a car.
- We plan to launch another year of Good Works Gardens. We will plant a large garden on the GW property and smaller gardens next Spring at the homes of those we serve through NHN. This Fall, we are seeking volunteers to join us on Saturdays as we prepare our gardens for 2024.
- We are seeking a volunteer who likes to cook who is willing to serve once a week this Fall to prepare a meal for TS volunteers and staff on the Good Works property in the Hannah House. You?
- The Fall season is a great time to come and visit! Walk the trails, experience the Carter Solitude Cabin (it is free), be our guest in the Hannah House, visit Friday Night Life and see Sign of HOPE!
- We welcome new volunteers to come alongside us as we learn to love and serve others. Here is the link to the Volunteer Opportunities section of the Good Works website: <https://good-works.net/volunteer-opportunities/>

LONELINESS

Loneliness is something we all must learn how to navigate. Seasons of loneliness are a normal part of our life journey. Long term loneliness deforms us, impacts our identity, and pushes us towards depression. In Genesis 2:18 we read that “it is not good for human beings to be alone”. At Good Works, we care for and invest ourselves into many people whose lives have been shaped by long periods of loneliness. For some, they have lost the memories of the good times they experienced in community. Their hearts are broken, and sometimes hardened. For some, they have learned (often out of fear) to resist change. Others have found denial to be a daily part of their coping mechanism. The community of Good Works intentionally reaches out to and attempts to build community with people who are struggling with isolation, exclusion, and loneliness. So many times, we feel ‘looked down upon’ because we struggle with loneliness as if there is something wrong with us. We all need community, and with it the life-giving nurture and accountability which enables us to see a place for ourselves; and a broader purpose in our lives which then fuels meaning. Yes, people need us to reach out to them and love them. But maybe more importantly, we need to extend ourselves into the lives of others because something good happens in us that anchors our mental and emotional health, sustains us, and fuels our motivation to love. And that is one reason I do good works.

IN CLOSING this month, I want to share this: WE are transformed by serving others. We need to serve others as much (or more so) than others need us to serve. Yes, others are helped in wonderful and practical ways. Yes, people experience hope. But we grow, our perspective is enlarged, and we experience God’s goodness because we started with intentionality.

From our hearts to your home, love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman