



# Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

**Celebrating 42 Years!**

PO Box 4, Athens, OH 45701  
Phone: 740-594-3339  
Email: [email@good-works.net](mailto:email@good-works.net)  
Web: [www.good-works.net](http://www.good-works.net)

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)*

October 2023

**G**reetings with gratitude from all of us in the Good Works Community of HOPE!!

Fall feels like it came suddenly this year. We feel thankful for the beautiful colors and cooler temperatures. We also are thankful for you and your support, words of encouragement, and kindness.

## **MORE HISTORY: 40-30-20**

2024 will be a monumental year for Good Works. While we started in 1981 and 2024 reflects our 43rd year, it is the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the Good Works Timothy House (1984), the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the Good Works Luhrig Road property (1994), and the 20<sup>th</sup> year (2004) to celebrate the Transformation Station! We have so much to be thankful for, especially how these milestones serve as a catalyst for us to remember and reflect on all the lives we have impacted.

*Good Works exists to connect people from all walks of life with people who struggle with poverty so that the kingdom of God can be experienced.*

## **DAY IN THE LIFE**

The Good Works staff has been spending time developing a 3+ hour experience scheduled for Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> here in Athens. We are calling this event, "DAY IN THE LIFE". Please come! Everything starts at 10:00 am. Similar to the Good Works WALK (2003-2019), we are planning several walking experiences to share things we have learned about the needs and situations people who experience homelessness are faced with. During the months of September through December, we are inviting everyone we know to help us raise as many "days" in the life of the Good Works Timothy House for 2024 as possible. We estimate that each day requires around \$500.00. Please visit [www.goodworksdayinthelife.net](http://www.goodworksdayinthelife.net) for more information. If you feel inclined to support this initiative, please mark your gift DITL



## **IN THE NEWS...**

- Our new laundromat at Sign of HOPE, called **Loads of HOPE**, will launch soon. We are in the process of organizing volunteers who will host those who will come to do their laundry. This will be a free service Good Works will provide. Our intention is to create another context for some kind of mutuality or reciprocity. We have developed these 4 guiding principles over many years which will apply here: (1) Relationship not program (2) Trust = how can we build a high degree of trust (3) Meeting a particular need – here it is helping people with laundry and (4) How can those we serve give back in some way to us or to others. We are also in the process of establishing a children's play area right next to the laundromat in the basement. We are asking people to donate things for the children to play with. Maybe you have things in your closet or garage? A list is on our website under current needs.

- Friday Night Life continues to thrive because of the combination of different factors: the sponsors (we have 45 to 50 different groups who sponsor the dinner each year), the volunteers, our staff and those who come who have become a part of this safe and healthy community. I truly believe that while people often come for the food, they stay because they feel loved, safe, listened to, respected, understood; and, because they find healthy friendships and ways to give to others. Are you connected to a group who can “step up to the plate” and sponsor a meal for 50-60 adults and children in the next six months?
- This Fall, we are guiding volunteers every week and weekend to the homes of those we serve through Neighbors Helping Neighbors. We also enjoy and appreciate our volunteers who serve at The GW Timothy House once a week. This part of the “community of hope” is a major encouragement both to the staff and to those we serve! While some of our volunteers have only joined us recently, others have been serving for several years, and a few for more than 10 years!
- We are planning now for the Summer of 2024 when we will offer children (K-6<sup>th</sup> grade) our daily Discovery Kids Club and Summer Lunch. Groups are encouraged to come for a week to serve with us as we visit and serve at the homes of our Neighbors. We are launching a new season of Good Works Gardens next Spring, and we are planning to offer another Summer of our Teen Agricultural Internship. We are seeking interns for Summer Service 2024 to join us for 9 weeks (June 9 to August 10). Maybe you know someone you can encourage to apply.
- We recently updated our article “Why do people experience homelessness” on our website. Take a look: <https://good-works.net/why-do-people-become-homeless-2/>
- WE are seeking invitations for our staff to come and share the story and mission of Good Works in church services (and at small groups), with civic organizations or university (and high school) classes.

**THE TRANSFORMATION STATION (TS)** is about to provide cars 199 and 200 soon. This initiative has had a significant impact upon so many people. The TS also provides appliances, bicycles, and non-emergency food. When somebody new starts in the TS, we intentionally lay a good foundation. In this season, one of our former TS recipients (who continued to volunteer after he received his vehicle) mentors some of the new participants and shows them “the ropes”. He talks about why we do things the way we do. He wants to help *them* get their car. He has taken ownership. We experience a lot of joy every time we see him. We know he is finding ways to “give back” in a manner that enables others to find their place and use their abilities to help others. I sense that being in our community has really been helpful and encouraging to him. Can you help us communicate our need for cars and appliances, and what we do to help families here in SE Ohio?

**IN CLOSING**, we give thanks. Some of you know that we endeavor to embrace four basic practices at Good Works: Gratitude, Truth-telling, Hospitality, and Promise Keeping. These are the “studs in the wall” which hold up the structure and enable us to BE a community of HOPE. We do our best to embrace many shared practices which enable us to build community with one another, our volunteers, and those we love and serve. These practices flow from the book *LIVING INTO COMMUNITY* by Christine Pohl. We have found this book to be so very helpful in *sustaining* our vision, our hope, and our mission.

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



Keith Wasserman