



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)*

November 2023

DAY IN THE LIFE is scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd at 10:00 am
starting at the West State Street Park in Athens. www.goodworksdayinthelife.net
for all the details! Please come!

greetings with gratitude from all of us in the Good Works Community of HOPE!!

THANKSGIVING

I want to start this newsletter with a few words of gratitude. As many of you know, gratitude is one of the four "studs in the wall" (so to speak) which hold up the ministry God has trusted us with.

.... For the kind and generous people we get to meet through all of the groups who come to serve.

.... For the partnerships we have with Ohio University classes and students.

.... For all the donated vehicles driven by people who participated in the Transformation Station.

.... For all the financial gifts given to Good Works, and how they sustain our vision and mission.

.... For every volunteer who serves in about 20 different volunteer opportunities, and especially for every volunteer who helped build and complete Sign of HOPE.

WE talked with a few current volunteers at the GW Timothy House (TH) recently. They shared:

I really like all the different kinds of people who come through the TH. I feel like I have made meaningful friendships, and I am sad (but happy for them) when they leave. I also really like working with other volunteers and the GW Staff. After dinner we get to do something together, like cards and games. Dinner is like a family experience, and I look forward to that feeling. For me, when I found the TH (spring 2022), it was during a period where I didn't have a group of people that I felt connected to. Coming here every Thursday night is like being with family for me. — Isabel

I was embarking on a 12-step program and wanted to express that program by being of service in some way. That was 2017. My first position was Training for Life — helping residents acquire or sharpen basic computer skills, work on-line, create a resume, or look for housing. I found that to be very rewarding work. Some of the people who come here are at very low parts of their lives. I can be supportive. Cooking or chatting, I am here to be of service, so that when people have a bad day, I can make their life a tiny less bad. Every person I've co-volunteered with, I really like. I am astonished by the young people who come here and volunteer their time. They learn early that a flourishing life involves service and giving. —Andrew

I had free time and wanted to make sure I was honoring God with my time. I heard about GW through another volunteer. I feel like I've gotten to see God work in and through my life. I've met people here and it has been humbling. I have gained a lot of perspective. I don't always feel like coming (I've volunteered for the 5 pm to 9 pm shift on Monday's for over a year), but getting to see God's healing work and getting to see the effect being here has had on the residents is good. I've had lots of good conversations with people which give them more hope during their hard time. — Kay

HEALING comes to us through many avenues. We pray for physical, emotional, and spiritual healing (which often involves forgiveness) for one another and for those who participate in the Good Works Community. Leaders create environments through which healing can flow. For example, we intentionally create an atmosphere where people feel safe, and where people feel heard. When people feel safe and heard they are more likely to feel understood and respected. This environment is intentional, especially as we care for people who are vulnerable, and who carry fear or apprehension. Hurt people hurt people, but healed people heal people. I pray for healing in my life every day. Indeed, I desire for our community to be an agent of healing both in our structures, and through our lives.

HISTORY: THE GOOD WORKS TIMOTHY HOUSE

Good Works began in 1981. In 1984 (through what we consider a miracle) Good Works was able to purchase the property on the west side of Athens which we named The Timothy House in the late 1990s. This home now has 4 bedrooms and can accommodate up to 15 people at one time. We have a “special use” permit from the city and serve families including children and single adults. Every night during the week (with help from our volunteers) we provide a hot, sit-down dinner where we offer each person an opportunity to share something they are thankful for. It is always a gift for me to have dinner and listen to what people share. We have part-time staff who oversee the safety of the house and work from 9:00 pm to 8:00 am each night. Each day the GW staff are present to sustain a safe environment and take people through the process of phone interviews, pre-admit meetings and weekly meetings. Volunteers come every day in the morning, evening and on weekends. Together we form a community of HOPE.



IN THE NEWS...

- We provided car #199 on October 26 to another participant in the Transformation Station. We do need working vehicles. Every donated truck, van or car impacts as many as 4 families here in SE Ohio. Vehicle #200 will be provided in November!
- Friday Night Life moved to The Plains UMC and will stay there every week through April 2024. We are having a rich and beautiful experience with everyone who comes. We are seeking groups of 5-10 volunteers to sponsor a FNL meal in 2024.
- We have received several different Work Retreats this Fall from Toledo, Columbus Ohio, and New York. What a gift these groups are to us. Maybe you know of a group who might want to explore a week-long service trip with Good Works in 2024?
- Have you read Vision of HOPE on our website? If not, please do. This essay, written over 30+ years, clearly explains our vision and what we hope for in the work we do.
- **DAY IN THE LIFE:** Saturday, December 2nd from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm is the time we have set aside to create an educational experience (like the Good Works WALK) to focus on some of the issues/challenges people who experience homelessness face. We start at the West State Street Park and ball fields located at 398 West State Street (at the very end of West State Street) in Athens! Dress warm and come prepared to learn on a 1+ mile walk and adventure!

IN CLOSING, I want to say something about the staff and volunteers who serve at the GW Timothy House. We have a group of very dedicated men and women who give not only their time, but their hearts towards serving and loving the people who come to us at the point of their need and vulnerability. Over many years, we have been very fortunate to work alongside very kind and teachable people who surround the residents with loving-kindness and a generous spirit. Both staff and volunteers work hard at creating and sustaining a safe, clean, and temporary home for the children and adults who stay with us. I celebrate the goodness of God in sending all those who serve in this arena of Good Works!

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith'.

Keith Wasserman