



2024

Dear Neighbors,

Greetings from the staff of Good Works! We are writing you today to express our desire to be good neighbors here on the west end of Athens.

We thought it would be helpful to describe and explain a few things about the Good Works TIMOTHY HOUSE. Our home for people without homes, the Timothy House, can host up to 15 people at a time. It is our desire to have good, clear communication with our neighbors. We have good working relationships with Athens' social services agencies, religious communities, and the police. In addition to providing shelter on Central Avenue, we also operate several other initiatives out of our Good Works Property on Luhrig Road, which is about two miles from The Timothy House.

As you share this neighborhood with the people to whom we are extending hospitality, we feel it's important to make you aware of a few things:

- What we do to love and help people who experience homelessness flows out of our lives. We do this *because* we follow Jesus.
- The mission of The Timothy House is to provide a safe, clean, stable, home-like place for people to stay temporarily while they identify, own, and work on the issues that led them to experience homelessness. We do not allow anyone to stay at the Timothy House if they are using any alcohol, marijuana or non-prescribed medication or if they act in a way that creates a danger or risk to others.
- We don't publish our address. We only accept people for shelter who call us first and then complete a face-to-face interview. If someone does come to the door for shelter, we will ask them to call us from their cell phone or give them directions to a public phone and offer them enough money to make a phone call. Many people who come to the door these days have cell phones. We ask them to take a walk out of the neighborhood to call us. We are not asking you to let them use your phone. Your safety is a priority. We may not work with people if we discover they have been inconsiderate or rude to any of our neighbors.
- We take the fact that you live here all year very seriously. Since we are allowing 100-150 adults and children to stay in the Good Works Timothy House each year, we feel a strong commitment to respect our neighbors and our neighborhood. Therefore, we instruct our residents not to loiter in the neighborhood. As a condition of their stay with us and in sensitivity to you, we require our residents to either be on our property or out of the neighborhood. In other words, they may not "hang out" on other properties in the neighborhood during the time they are staying with us. This has been our practice since 1984 when we first began providing shelter in this neighborhood. Violating this rule may affect someone's stay with us. In addition, we request that our residents do not visit you at your house unless you knew them before they came to Good Works. If you would like to visit with anyone staying at the Timothy House, please visit them there.
- In 2024, Good Works opened Sign of HOPE at 100 Central Avenue to provide temporary shelter to adults with a physical disability who cannot climb steps and those with service animals. All requests for this Good Works initiative must go through the Timothy House.
- Also in 2024, Good Works opened Loads of HOPE, a free laundromat located inside Sign of HOPE which operates once a week.

### **SOME OF OUR STRUCTURE**

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- Residents who do not have children staying with them must leave each morning by 10:00 a.m. and not return until 5:15 p.m. (unless they are cooking dinner that evening). The House will often remain open during extremely bad weather, and people who are feeling sick are not asked to leave during the day.

Parents with children may request to stay for *some* of the day. Children under 12 must be in bed by 9:00 p.m. and everyone living in the house must be in bed by 11:30 pm.

- The people who stay at The Timothy House come to us from a wide range of different situations that have led to the situation of their homelessness. Most of the people who stay with us are working on helping themselves. Many are employed and are required to work late hours. Our house curfew is 10:00 p.m. each night, but when people work late we allow them to return to the Timothy House after work.
- We try to keep a "low profile." We ask all of our residents who listen to music to wear headphones and to keep their voices down while on our porch so as not to disturb our immediate neighbors. We ask them to be sensitive to the fact that while they live here temporarily, you live here all the time. If our residents are loud, insensitive or rude, please call us and let us know.
- Guests are permitted at the Timothy House, and we welcome you to visit the house. We would enjoy the opportunity to meet you, and if you are interested, have you join us for dinner (M-TH), and provide you with a tour.
- To learn more about our structure, visit <https://good-works.net/the-timothy-house/>

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

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- The primary focus of Good Works is to create a COMMUNITY OF HOPE as we care for widows, children struggling with poverty, and people without homes. We welcome volunteers to participate with us as we love and care for our neighbors who are vulnerable. If you would like to learn about how to get involved, please visit our website ([www.good-works.net](http://www.good-works.net)), and click on "Volunteer Opportunities" and then contact us to arrange a time for a visit. We will provide you with an application and more information when you visit us.
- Some of the people who stay with us are in recovery from broken relationships, addiction and issues related to their health. If you can be sensitive to this, it will have a positive impact. We hope you will work together with us to help them succeed in their recovery.
- We want our neighborhood to look good and be safe. We are concerned with your safety and with ours as well. If you see something that concerns you and believe it may relate to our residents, contact us. Let's work together to "watch" our neighborhood for one another. Together, we can continue to make this neighborhood a safe and beautiful place for all of us to live.
- If you have an observation, concern or problem, do not hesitate to call us and share it with us. All we ask is that you tell us who you are when you call.

Finally, while Good Works has been around since my wife and I started the program in our home on Elliott Street during my senior year at O.U. in 1981, I am aware that we have a long way to go until we do it right every time. If you have any concerns about our residents, policies, or Good Works in general, or would just like to know more about how we do things, feel free to contact me. I welcome the opportunity to meet and visit with you. You can reach me through my cell phone at 740.541.0816. If you prefer, you can also contact me at [email@good-works.net](mailto:email@good-works.net)

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman  
Founder & Executive Director

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