



Good Works, Inc. | A Community of HOPE

A LETTER FROM THE GOOD WORKS TIMOTHY HOUSE

2025

www.good-works.net

Dear Neighbors,

Greetings from the **community** 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 and Sign of HOPE. The Timothy House can host up to 15 people at a time. Sign of HOPE exists to help us to serve people whom The Timothy House is not able to serve. It is our desire to have good, clear communication with our neighbors. 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 West Side Neighborhood.

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 faith. We do this because we follow Jesus. There are no expectations of any religious meetings.
- We do not provide emergency shelter. This means there is a two-step process before someone can stay with us. This begins with a phone interview. The second step is a face-to-face meeting with the staff. At the face-to-face meeting, we do require a drug test in most cases. We provided emergency shelter for 33 consecutive years and stopped in 2014 for several reasons.
- The objective of The Timothy House is to provide a safe, clean, and stable-place for people to stay temporarily while our residents 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 to others.
- We only accept people for shelter who call us first and then complete a face-to-face interview. If someone comes to the door for shelter, we will ask them to call us from their cell phone or give them directions to a public phone. 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 important to us. 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+ 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 or emotional support animals. All requests for this Good Works initiative must go through The Timothy House. We also host a free laundromat called Loads of HOPE twice per week at Sign of HOPE.

SOME OF OUR STRUCTURE

- Residents who do not have children staying with them must leave each morning by 10:00am and not return until 5:15pm (unless they are cooking dinner that evening or have a meeting with staff). 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 is asked to be in bed by 11:30. We allow only one person on the porch to smoke after 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 verify that they 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, welcome you to join us for dinner.
- We work to have good working relationships with Athens' social services agencies, religious communities, and law enforcement.
- To learn more about our structure, visit <https://good-works.net/the-timothy-house/>

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- 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), and click on "Volunteer Opportunities" and then contact us to arrange a time for a visit and tour. 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 at 740.594.3333. 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.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman
Founder & Executive Director

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