

# Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope



PO Box 4, Athens, OH 45701  
Phone: 740-594-3339  
Email: [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@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)*

## Celebrating 29 Years!

March 2009

There is something about food, about the sharing of meals, that sparks something deep within us. Round tables. Family, "pass-the-spaghetti," style dinner. Laughing together. Shared conversations over shared cooking. There is something in there. Something that tells us we all belong.

Greetings from Good Works! Greetings from a community creating contexts—places—where people from all walks of life might gather together with their neighbors who are struggling with poverty. Greetings from a people trying to create environments of hope, love and mutuality where our friends struggling with poverty might be affirmed, encouraged and dignified and where people from *all* walks of life might come together so that the Kingdom of God might be experienced.

This *is* the mission of Good Works, and one place we see this vision acted out every week is at our community meal we call Friday Night Life. In making a place where people from all walks of life might gather together, it is our hope that something deeper might be discovered than food. I think this often happens. Let me share a reflection from one of our volunteers:

*At first, I was intimidated by the idea of walking up to a stranger and starting a conversation with him or her, because I tend to be shy in new situations and with new people. However, I was very pleasantly surprised by how approachable almost all of the people were. Many of those who attend Friday Night Life are eager to open up to someone who is willing to listen. The people I have met have shared with me stories about their families, struggles at work or with finding work, health issues, and even problems with drugs, alcohol or incarceration. Some of them live alone and may not have very many people to talk to. That is why having a community to belong to, such as Good Works, is so important for their social and emotional well-being.*

*One woman I met opened up to me about her psychological struggles. She explained to me how transformational her stay at the Timothy House had been, and how the people at Good Works coached her through many obstacles she had not been able to overcome, such as finding an apartment and a job. Another night I sat next to a married couple. The husband shared with me how difficult it can be to get enough hours at work to pay for food and repair their car, necessities I take for granted every day.*

*One of the best parts of this experience has been the opportunity to interact with people outside of the "campus bubble." I have met community members from all different ages and socio-economic classes that I would not normally be exposed to. It has been great talking to many individuals week after week, and I would even consider some of them my new friends. It would be way too difficult to remove myself from these friendships and this community, so I will probably continue to be involved with Friday Night Life. --Kim Brewster (Kim is a regular volunteer at Friday Night Life)*

This is a place where we might come together in the breaking of bread and experience the goodness of each other—too often kept apart. In this process of sharing our lives and bread with our neighbors struggling with poverty, there is a deep realization that it is I who am poor in so many ways that I can so easily cover up. And, ultimately, it is a foretaste of a Great Banquet to come... ~Cory Blackwell

## IN THE NEWS...

- Many from our community gathered together on Saturday afternoon March 7<sup>th</sup> for the groundbreaking ceremony of the HOPE CENTER. You can read Keith's speech on our webpage under "WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW." We are seeking volunteers to help construct this new facility this spring, summer and fall. For more information, contact Paul Richard at 740.594.3336.
- We are planning another year of Summer Service and are now in the process of interviewing prospective summer interns to support our Summer Kids Discovery Club (last year, the turnout was beyond our expectations), Summer Lunch and help with our full summer of visiting short-term mission teams. We have also added the component of the new community garden and several outreach gardens at the homes of our friends who are widows. This summer, we hope to hire three local teens as interns to work in this arena too.
- We are planning several outdoor concerts at the amphitheatre and stage this spring and summer. If you'd like to know what is being planned, let us know and we will alert you to up-coming events.
- Our first Work Retreat groups (short-term mission teams) are arriving! We have groups coming almost every weekend in the fall and spring and every week in the summer. We hosts groups from all over the region and country. These groups stay in our Hannah House and engage in the worship of service to the widow, fatherless and strangers of our community. You can read more about this program on our webpage under "Short-Term Mission Teams."
- The Transformation Station is continuing to meet the needs of our neighbors while clothing them with dignity and providing them an avenue through which they can serve *their* neighbors struggling with poverty. By volunteering to serve widows, low-income families and our friends with disabilities at their homes, our neighbors struggling with poverty continue to receive vehicles. This program is completely reliant on people donating cars to us. Do you know anyone who might be willing to donate a car to the Transformation Station?
- BY FAITH, we intend to expand our Senior Care visitation opportunity this year so that more volunteers can build relationships with seniors, particularly widows at their homes.
- 18 local Pastors signed a pastoral letter to the city of Athens in December asking the city to look into some of the structural issues regarding the zoning problems with expanding the Timothy House to serve more people. We are hopeful and are waiting for a response.

And as always, we are grateful for how your support makes opportunities like these possible. Thank you for allowing us to create such contexts. Thank you for giving so many of our neighbors the chance to participate both in the healing and helping of others and in a healing community which facilitates a positive and powerful change in their lives.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman

## CURRENT NEEDS

Regular coffee, paper towels, facial tissues, toilet paper, dish soap, liquid floor cleaning soap, liquid laundry detergents, spray disinfectant, hand sanitizer, 30-gallon trash bags, deodorant, food handling gloves, all sizes of zip lock bags, dryer sheets, bleach, hand and body lotion, soap, deodorant, shampoo, large cloth grocery bags, bed pillows.