



Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

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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 29:12-17).*

Celebrating 27 years!

Greetings from Good Works—a community of HOPE!

December 2007

It is my, Cory Blackwell's, honor to write you this month, as our Executive Director Keith Wasserman is away for the month in order to visit other organizations and learn from what they are doing. I came on staff last summer to provide additional leadership as Good Works expands.

So, as November passes and December gathers around us, we realize that it is that time again—a time to be thankful...Thankfulness seems to be an absolute necessity in life to keep us from growing hardened by the difficult circumstances that surround us. This is one of the things that working among those struggling with poverty and homelessness has taught me: "Give thanks with a grateful heart." And I am thankful to be a part of such a ministry and outreach, and we are continually looking for and announcing those stories of HOPE and encouragement that are the fruits of this work...



I had been at Good Works for just a matter of minutes when "Chris," sitting on a couch next to me in the shelter, began crying uncontrollably and telling me he wanted to kill himself—welcome to Athens. He later regained himself, no thanks to this deer in the headlights, and remained a resident of the Timothy House emergency shelter for some weeks. Chris kept telling me of his plan to get his license, buy a semi, and become a truck driver. I encouraged him in this dream but wondered how he would ever do it—struggling with alcohol, homelessness, poverty, and depression as he was. My three-week internship in January ended without knowing what would ever become of my new friend.

Chris called Good Works a couple of weeks ago just to say hi. He had been passing through the area on one of his trucking routes, eight months sober, much less depressed, and wanted to stop and see us. At the Timothy House, we attempt to create a space where people struggling with poverty and homelessness can work on the issues that brought them there. Chris took us up on it, and he is one in a cloud of witnesses that proclaim a good work in their lives. So, we are thankful. We are thankful to have the opportunity to have brushed shoulders with Chris and to benefit from the edification that comes from hearing and being a part of his story.

And we are thankful for those of YOU who make stories like these possible. We may create a space, but it is giving people like you who give us the *opportunity* to create these spaces. Without gifts such as yours, we would truly be unable to do the work that we do: your gifts sustain us. So, THANK YOU.

IN THE NEWS: A friend of Good Works has graciously provided Christmas meals to 33 of our Samaritan Project neighbors, most of whom are widows. We will be distributing these gifts to their homes in the coming weeks.... The 6th annual **Walk for the Homeless** is fast approaching. Please come, and bring friends!! Registration is at 8:30 am with the Walk beginning at 9:00 am. Our financial goal is to raise \$40,000.00 for The Timothy House. Our educational vision is two-fold: (1) develop a special walk to help kids (K-9th grade) understand the issues of rural poverty and homelessness (Kids Walk) and identify some of the “myths” people have about the poor and the wealthy (Myth Walk). For more information on the January 19th event, visit either www.good-works.net or www.walkforthehomeless.net or call me (Cory) at 740-594-3339. You can download sponsor forms and posters there as well as view our new WALK video. If you’d like to bring a group to the Walk and come in the night before, you are welcome to stay at the Hannah House...**The Athens News** published Keith’s lengthy editorial about the city’s decision to deny Good Works permission to develop a shelter for families next door to The Timothy House. You can read it at our web site under WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW. It is called The Athens Zoning Board Decision.... We have several weeks/weekends open for **short-term mission** teams this spring and summer. Contact Paul Richard (740.594.3336) or e-mail us for more information about bringing a group to serve with us...Our **computer training** class (Training for Life) is going well with many residents from The Timothy House getting computer training each week...**We are seeking** interns for our year-long residential internship (Appalachian Immersion) as well as our Summer Service 2008 program. Know someone you think might value the training and experience? Have them contact us! We are also accepting applications for WEEK OF SERVICE – a one-week service experience in leadership focused on loving and serving the poor for anyone age 16 or older... **Friday Night Life Health** education program sponsored a special “store” for people who earned participation points by attending our health education classes. The store is intended to provide a way for parents to obtain gifts for their children at Christmas.... Lord willing, we are going to have a **spring concert series** at the new amphitheater that will benefit several local non-profit organizations. More on that in January...

CURRENT NEEDS: We need a new refrigerator and durable washing machine for The Timothy House. We also need new pillows and twin mattresses, a riding mower, 4 by 6 door mats, copy paper, a guitar, bunk beds, new picnic tables, a new vacuum cleaner and used or new gas chainsaws. We are still seeking working cars/trucks/vans to provide to people in poverty through the Transformation Station and a volunteer who knows how to lay carpet. Also visit our ongoing needs list on our website under “on-going needs.”

Once more, and as always, thank you for the encouragement of your gifts, time, words and selves. YOU sustain US with what you do! We want to encourage you to plan a trip to Good Works this next year. We are happy to provide accommodations in The Hannah House and include you in some of our activities during your visit. We welcome individuals, families and groups for an afternoon or an overnight.

Peace,
Cory Blackwell



PS – If you have not visited our web page recently, please visit and watch the new WALK FOR THE HOMELESS videos. You can also learn more about our staff in the WHO WE ARE section. This will give you a better sense of who I am as well.