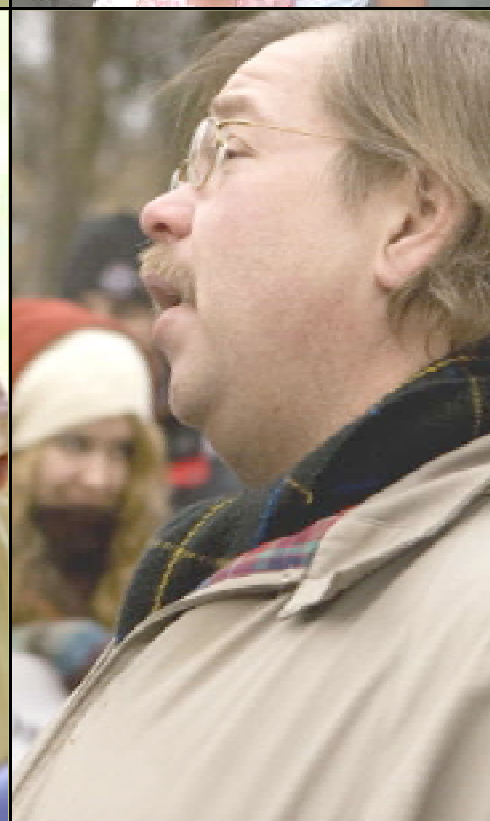
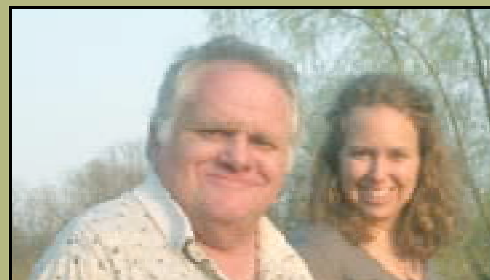




# GOOD WORKS

Since 1981



A Community of Hope  
Celebrating 31 years!

[www.good-works.net](http://www.good-works.net)  
[goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net)



**M**y name is Keith Wasserman. In January 1981, I started Good Works to provide shelter for people who are homeless in the basement of my home; to take in those who had nowhere to sleep. I had become a Christian a few years earlier, and as my worldview changed, my strong desire was to help people who were displaced, hurting, hungry and falling between the cracks of social service and community networks. My wife Darlene and I operated this shelter out of our home as volunteers for almost 4 years. We both worked other jobs during the early years of Good Works and opened the shelter each night to welcome men, women and children off the streets. By the end of our third year (1984), we had formed a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and were able to move the shelter (now called the Timothy House) from our home to its current location on Central Avenue in Athens.

We are now in our 32<sup>nd</sup> year of learning how to love and serve our neighbors who are struggling with poverty in rural southeast Ohio. The Timothy House continues to be the ONLY shelter for the rural homeless in Athens, Vinton, Hocking, Meigs, Perry, Morgan, Washington, Gallia and Jackson Counties. More than 500 different people call the Good Works Timothy House for shelter each year. We provide approximately 4,000 nights of shelter to between 150 to 225 men, women and children annual-



ly. In addition, Good Works now provides about 20,000 meals each year to people who are hungry through the help of community donations.

In 1994, Good Works, Inc. purchased the Luhrig Road property, which now includes the Hannah House, the Transformation Station, our Administrative Offices (which includes our Good Gifts store and Bed & Breakfast), our Solitude Retreat Cabin and the Hope Center. This 35-acre property is where we host our Work Retreats, our weekly community meal called Friday Night Life (during the warmer months of the year) and where offices for Senior Friends, Summer Kids' Discovery Club, Neighbors Helping Neighbors (formerly Samaritan Projects) and Hope and Possibilities are located.

Today, Good Works shines as a testimony of what a community can do when we work together to help one another and love our neighbors. Good

Works is sustained by what we call A COMMUNITY OF HOPE – staff, volunteers and supporters who provide the resources we need to carry out and sustain our vision. Last year, more than 1,100 different volunteers served with Good Works.

As you read through this brochure, would you consider joining us, working together with us, and sustaining us as we bring hope to people who often feel lonely, forgotten and excluded?

We are doing everything we know to provide food, shelter and care for the growing number of people struggling with poverty and homelessness in Southeast Ohio. We are working as hard as we can to find the dollars we need to sustain our staff, supplies and program. While about 12 percent of the funds we need to operate Good Works come from year-to-year grants, the majority of our funds come from individuals who believe in our integrity and our mission. Indeed, we rely upon the kindness and generosity of people like you to provide the resources we need to care for people who are vulnerable and needy.

Love is a verb,

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

Keith Wasserman  
Founder and Executive Director

*PS- There are many ways you can participate in the Community of Hope. If you would like to visit either of the two Good Works locations, please contact us by email or telephone. We will gladly make time to visit with you, show you what we are doing and talk about the many different ways we are trying to love people who struggle with homelessness and poverty in rural Appalachia. We are also willing to come and speak to churches and community groups about how others can join us in this great work of loving our neighbors. To arrange for a presentation, call me at 740.594.9000. To learn more about our 30 plus volunteer opportunities and ways you can help bring HOPE and the experience of the love of God to our friends who struggle with poverty and homelessness, visit our website at [www.good-works.net](http://www.good-works.net) or call us at 740.594.3339.*

## **2 What we do emerges from who we are**

# A Unique Context

by Andrea Horsch

Appalachia is, by definition, poor. We are rich in beauty and natural resources, but experience a deep poverty of meaningful work and opportunities. Many in our region go hungry. At Good Works, we are right in the middle of the very poorest part of the state. In a place where injustice, extractive industry, and absentee landowners have created and perpetuated this poverty, we believe that love, investment, and seeking to equip are steps towards healing for both our people and the land of Appalachia.

This is a unique context—this place and people we are called to love. For some staff and volunteers, the Appalachian region of Ohio is home and the people we are coming alongside have been neighbors all our lives. But most people who connect with Good Works as a place of service come to this area as outsiders. In many ways, in order to carry out the ministry of hospitality in this area, they must first receive hospitality from the people who call this place home.

And it is a beautiful home indeed.

So very many of the people of this area are discouraged and have given up hope of better times. But as a community we can remind our neighbors that God is concerned with “ruined cities,” and “places long devastated.” We can declare in action and words that the work of the Lord is good, and that he is at work here, redeeming and rebuilding.

— Andrea serves as the Director of Caregiving for the Timothy House.

***The Spirit of the sovereign Lord is upon me because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.***

— Luke 4:18



# The Vision of Good Works

**W**e believe that what we do emerges from who we are. All of the initiatives described in this brochure are inextricably linked to our identity as a Christian community: a body of people seeking to follow Jesus. We desire to receive the love of Jesus so deeply into our lives that it propels us to love God fully and love our neighbors fully. We love God by personally growing in our obedience to Christ, and by being a faithful, worshipping community. We love others by caring for and instilling hope in those who are

homeless, children who are experiencing the risks of poverty, and older adults who need physical assistance and support. We see this as a contemporary expression of the biblical vision to love the stranger, care for the fatherless and defend the widow (see Deuteronomy 10:18, Psalm 68:5-6, Matthew 25:31-46 and James 1:26-27). As we extend ourselves in sacrificial love, we seek to provide avenues for the larger community to partner with us. Together, we can discover hope with people who feel lonely, excluded and helpless.



*Good Works exists to connect people from all walks of life with people in poverty so that the kingdom of God can be experienced.*

**O**ur vision is to create a COMMUNITY OF HOPE with people who are struggling with homelessness and poverty in rural Appalachia. We desire for each person to experience God's love, identify their faith, and develop hope: the ability to see beyond their circumstances, crises and emotions with the moral strength to persevere into the future of possibilities. We are developing and sustaining diverse contexts in which people in need can experience welcome, connect with a caring community, access opportunities for practical assistance, and find ways they can contribute their gifts to others.



**4** What we do emerges from who we are

## Hospitality

In each of our relationships and contexts of caring for people, we seek to practice the value of hospitality. For us, this means welcoming people not only into a place but into our lives. Nourishing physical environments form the basis for a deeper experience of welcome: a place and time in which people are attentive to each other and each person is valued regardless of their weaknesses. In the warmth of a community, individuals feel liberty to be themselves, discover their place, and become the person they were created to be.



*I made the widow's  
heart sing;  
I was a father  
to the fatherless;  
I took up the case  
of the stranger.*

—Job 29:12-17



# The Timothy House

## My Story

—by a former resident  
of the Timothy House

I came to Athens on a mission to help my daughter end her drug problems and heal while she was in rehab. I had no money, no car, no job... The only thing I had was faith and hope. When my bus arrived in Athens, I was armed with a tiny computer map showing me four places: the police station, the library, the Good Works Timothy House, and the Hannah House. I also had a large canvas knapsack, and two smaller bags. I remember I didn't get very far, and my bags weighed a ton.

But, after a few hours, I arrived at the Timothy House. Kari was my roommate and helped me to settle in. There were a lot of rules, but they actually comforted me. My life had been spiraling out of control for so long that the discipline felt good, like a warm blanket when you are

tired. We all had chores that changed weekly, and we all cooked at one time or another. We certainly didn't starve. We all had Caregivers that we met with weekly. They helped us set goals and get on track, and kept us focused. After some time, I moved into Life in Transition at the Hannah House. It was there that I dealt with so many old painful issues, laid some of them to rest, and began working through other things.

I can't explain all the blessings, healings and riches of understanding I received from the Timothy and Hannah House experiences or the deep respect and admiration for all the staff and volunteers of Good Works that I feel. These two years and nine months have been more restful than stressful. I feel so blessed to have gone through all these times, met so many people and heard their life stories.

The Timothy House is a community that offers shelter to people who are experiencing homelessness in the nine rural counties surrounding Athens, Ohio. Out of the love God puts in our lives, our objective is to provide a safe, clean, stable, temporary, home-like place for people to be while they work on the issues that led to their homelessness. Full-time staff members work together with an average of 60 volunteers to extend this home to between 150 and 225 people each year.

Yet, the Timothy House is so much more than a shelter; residents who live here become part of a community in which building trust and experiencing responsibility are core values. Through initiating respectful relationships with residents, staff members seek to aid each person in identifying the underlying problems that led to the situation he or she is in. We desire to help residents discover a starting place for change and empower them to take responsibility for the matters they can do something about. Compassion, tough love and accountability are important ingredients in this environment. But with hope and courage, we believe people can experience profound personal growth and take the next step in their journey.

*“I kept wondering before I came here what situation these people came upon that caused them to be homeless. But after meeting the people here, I realize that it is not important what situation anyone came from. What really matters is who these people are. And I really want to learn about who they are.”*

—Lela Zaranee  
(a former volunteer)



## A Family

by Billy Duraney

**W**e've all had our good days and bad days at the Timothy House, residents and staff alike.

Sometimes, somebody will drink your own personal milk. Or, nobody shows up for chore night on time and the house is a mess. Sometimes, there are about a hundred phone calls; the shelter is filling up; people's patience is wearing thin. Sometimes, the A/C stops working. But even the worst days at the Timothy House are better than the best days in a lot of other places. And the best days at the Timothy House are some of the best days we'll ever have.

The best days at the Timothy House are the ones when there are about seven people scattered on the front porch, even though there are only four chairs. There's usually a football being thrown in the yard. Even if some people are sitting at the picnic table, away from everyone else, you see them watching the kids with a smile. Then, the neighbors dress up in costumes even though it's nowhere near Halloween, and little Jimmy says, "Look at the clowns!" Everyone tries not to laugh too loud so the neighbors don't know you're looking at them.

Later, when you go in for dinner, Sherrie wonders how you've never had fried green tomatoes before. Once you try them, you wonder, "How have I never tried these before?" When everyone goes around and says what they're thankful for, about half the people say,



"the Timothy House," and little Jimmy says "God." Sometimes, everyone eats in silence, but it's good at least to know that everyone's there together.

As things quiet down for the night, you might find yourself listening to someone tell you about better days, when life wasn't so burdened. And maybe Steve will show you a picture of his kids and his eyes will light up. If you're patient, you may even hear a prayer being offered up to God—a prayer of thanksgiving and petition. It will likely be a prayer offered together.

A group of people living together and helping themselves is a collection. A group of people living together and helping each other is a community. And a group of people living together and loving each other is a family. The Timothy House can look like each one of these on any given day, but on the best days, the Timothy House is a family. And a family is what makes a house a home.

—Billy Duraney was a Summer Service intern

## Training for Life Computer Class

**H**eld at the Timothy House twice a week, this class offers residents and other community members training in basic computer skills. Our focus is to prepare participants to succeed in the increasingly technological world of employment and further education. Training for Life has enabled participants to update their resumes, apply for jobs, enroll in college, create

and use a budget, improve typing skills, access information online, and much more!

One participant says, "I enjoy Training for Life because of the one-on-one advantage you receive there. You can ask questions and get individualized help. The instructor will keep working with you no matter how long it takes."

## About Caregiving

**A**t the Timothy House, we are constantly asking one another, "What is the most loving thing we can do for this person at this time?" While it's true that we have warm beds and plenty of food, what sets the Timothy House apart is a commitment to love the neighbors we come alongside for a season.

The Timothy House cares for between 150 and 225 people each year. A staff member sits down with each of these people to hear their story and sincerely listen to their current fears and hopes for the future. Some come through just for a few days and then move along. Everyone who stays longer has one specific staff member who walks with them during their stay. These Caregivers provide a listening ear, accountability, support and direction—seeking always to speak the truth in love.

Many of the people we've entered into relationships with during the past year are on their own and doing well. Others struggle and some continue to remain stuck in homelessness. Even so, we encourage one another to remain hopeful that Christ can transform anyone's life and set people free from the injustices that hold them down in our corner of the state.

We have seen people liberated from addiction, abuse and loneliness. We have tried to be faithful to speak up for those who can't speak for themselves and celebrate when these ones find their own voice. Our joy is fullest when people we first met through the Timothy House remain in our community as volunteers, and most of all, dear friends.



# Good Works Luhrig Road Property

Purchased in 1994, this has become the main property of Good Works. Set on 35 acres of quiet, wooded land, it is an active hub for the work, learning and relationships of the Good Works community. The following pages will give descriptive color to our passion for hospitality and community development.

The Hannah House is a large, red brick building on the Luhrig Road property. Its physical structure represents a dynamic group of people: staff members who work on the first floor and a residential community that lives upstairs. Together, we hope to create a hospitable place for people from all walks of life. The residential household is formed of staff, summer and year-long interns, residents who are transitioning from homelessness, guests and volunteer groups. Those living in the Hannah House commit to the adventure of Christian community, and in time, reap the fruit of personal and spiritual growth. Through an opportunity called Life in Transition, the household invites people who have recently experienced homelessness to live with them. Our desire is to



*Hannah House*

offer a stable and nurturing environment in which each person, in relationship with others, can journey toward greater wholeness.

We are delighted to host

overnight stays for those who want to come and visit the Good Works community.

To get connected, contact us at [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net).

## Hope and Possibilities

Hope and Possibilities is an initiative that addresses the financial needs of those struggling with the crises of poverty. At the heart of Hope and Possibilities are the beliefs that assisting people face-to-face is almost always best, and connecting people to communities who care is a long-term solution to poverty.

Thus, we invite people to meet with us in person about their situa-

tion. After listening to and exploring their concern, we seek to connect them with area resources, particularly the practical support of local congregations. We offer relevant information and the spiritual support of listening and prayer. When possible, the staff serves to validate the person's need and serve as an advocate for them.

Hope and Possibilities also offers local church leaders a sounding board

as they discern how to assist people financially. In collaboration with church leadership, we seek to encourage a discerning process within congregations about taking their involvement with people in need to a deeper level. If your church would like to partner with us in Hope and Possibilities, please contact us at 740.541.0883 or [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net).

8 What we do emerges from who we are



## Transformation Station

Through the Transformation Station, we hope to release the potential for generosity, friendship and healing in the life of our community. Here is how it works: we invite people in need of material resources to come and volunteer with us, giving of their time and skills in service to others. In exchange, they receive participation points, which are used to obtain a thank you gift in the form of a food box, bicycle, appliance or vehicle. Thus, we are able to meet felt needs in our community, while recognizing the inherent gifts and dignity of our neighbors.

Donations to the Transformation Station, a car for example, become a double blessing to our neighbors in Athens County. The participant may help with home repair for an older adult with economic and physical limitations and in doing so, receive access to reliable transportation. For information regarding items we are seeking for the Transformation Station, see page 17. Pictured here are a few of the people who have received vehicles since the program's inception in 2004.



# Work Retreats (Short-term Missions)

For over 15 years, Good Works has welcomed groups who desire to put their faith into action by serving others in rural Appalachia. We host groups of youth, adults, or families with children for a week or weekend of service experiences. The name “Work Retreat” describes the intermingling of several of our priorities: practical service, reflection and relationship-building. By inviting volunteers to engage in caring actions

with our neighbors, we intend to foster a learning environment that inspires groups to create similar expressions of love in their own communities. Further, we take joy in how participants who share our faith can experience a deeper commitment to Jesus as they connect with and serve the people who Jesus loves.

Good Works places value on maintaining high levels of trust with the people we are seeking to

help. Thus, a group’s short-term experience rests on the foundation of long-term relationships we have with people in our community who are struggling. One context to form these relationships is Neighbors Helping Neighbors (formerly called Samaritan Projects), in which groups serve older adults at their homes. Volunteers also assist us in developing and maintaining Good Works properties. We typically host about 40 groups a year.

## How can we get involved?

If you are interested in planning a Work Retreat with us, visit our website at [www.good-works.net](http://www.good-works.net) and click on “Short-term Mission Teams.” You may also contact Paul Richard at 740.594.3336 or [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net).



# Summer Service

Each summer, Good Works invites 5 to 8 young adults to join the Good Works community through a 9-week paid internship focused on discipleship and leadership development. Living in the Hannah House, the interns host week-long Work Retreat groups, leading many aspects of their service and reflection. Work Retreat members do practical labor for older adults at their homes and spend time with residents staying at the Timothy House, our home for people experiencing homelessness.

For about 15 years, the summer time has also been filled with the delight and labor of loving children in our community! In partnership with The Plains United Methodist



Church, we lead a Summer Kids’ Discovery Club for children ages 5 to 12, some of whom experiencing the struggles and risks of poverty. Good Works staff, interns, and volunteers plan and lead an array of

fun, educational and faith-building activities for the kids, Monday through Friday. For several years, we have been able to conclude each day with a nutritious, hot lunch that is free and open to the community.

# Summer Kids' Discovery Club

## Mike and the Love of Children

— by Abigail Carter



Abigail, Sara and Kim Clark, also a Summer Intern, enjoying a moment at Kids' Discovery Club.

I will share with you one of the stories from my summer that transformed me.

I came to know Mike at the lunch we shared with community members each day after Kids' Discovery Club. Mike, a middle-aged man with a developmental disability, has some child-like characteristics. At first, I was taken aback by his openness about Jesus with every sentence he spoke. I was afraid to look tired for fear that he may look at me and say, "Be happy!" But as the summer went on, I came to see that Mike was genuine, and that he had a big, servant's heart. One day, Mike brought in a magnet to give to each child.

Lunch time had come, and I was sitting with him and more than a few rowdy kids. I was feeling particularly frazzled after struggling to discipline a boy named Jason that morning. No sooner did I start to dish out food for the kids than Mike began to cry. "Oh

no," I thought, "There is no way I can handle all these kids and Mike crying!"

Through his tears, Mike said that someone had stolen \$200 out of his car the night before, and he had been unable to stop crying since he found out. The only thing I could think to do was to ask if we could pray for him. So that is what we did. All of the kids eagerly bowed their heads as I prayed for comfort. Still, Mike continued crying. Six-year-old Tim piped up to ask if he had any insurance. I replied that he could not afford insurance. Mike continued to cry and told us that he was worried about paying his bills.

Then, Tim got up from his seat and placed his hand gently on Mike's shoulder. Jason scooted over next to Mike and said, "My Mamma is going to give me \$10, but I won't spend it. I will give it to you." I encouraged him that his idea was good, and inside, marveled at the unassuming kindness of these boys. Tim

and Jason then began to talk excitedly about what they could do to help Mike. Leaving the table to go to play time, they carried Mike's need to their respective adults.

After they left, Mike reminded me that he had brought magnets for the kids. I was moved that even in his sorrow, Mike still remembered his gifts. With our encouragement, he began to give them out, one to each kid. Near the end, light returned to Mike's eyes and he spoke in his familiar voice, "Be happy, everyone! Love Jesus!"

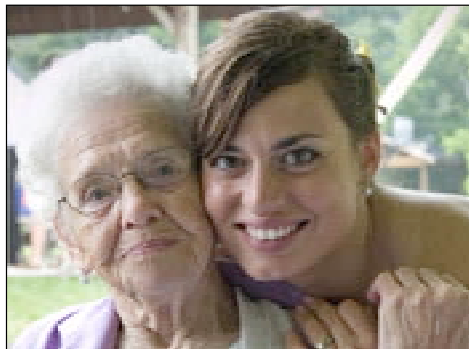
I continued to see goodness throughout this week as the community heard of Mike's need and gave him over \$150. As for the kids, they made sweet cards thanking Mike for the magnets. I was particularly glad to see that Jason and Mike developed a warm-hearted friendship, with Jason sitting next to Mike every chance he could.

On the last day of Kids' Discovery Club, each child received a Bible. Jason showed his Bible to Mike, and Mike wrote in it. Jason could not have been more proud to own a Bible, in part, due to Mike's influence. I am forever changed by the experiences of selfless goodness that I was able to experience this summer. My prayer is that this transformation goes so deep that my goodness is transforming for others as well.

*Abigail served as an intern for two years during Summer Service.*



# Senior Friends



Senior Friends facilitates friendships between older adults and volunteers, both of whom desire the joy of such a relationship. Many of the people we have the privilege of knowing through Senior Friends are widowed. The isolating experience of physical limitation combined with economic struggle calls for the presence of a supportive community. We seek to extend and receive lasting friendship with these precious ones! Hidden inside this investment of time is the opportunity to appreciate the wisdom and perspective found in the terrain of

their life experiences.

Many people do not realize that reaching out to seniors was the first experiment of love taken on by Good Works. Now, over 30 years later, we are still doing it! Amanda Carlyle, who has had the privilege of introducing the friendship matches between seniors and volunteers says, “It is a special privilege to witness these intergenerational relationships blossoming into meaningful friendships: many lives have been transformed by the simple act of becoming someone’s friend. I routinely count these rela-

tionships as enormous blessings that give me a glimpse of things I believe God finds delight in—love, warmth, hospitality and the sharing of lives.”

An older woman named Clair joined Senior Friends several years ago. She relates, “I’ve really enjoyed Becky and Amanda coming to my home and us sharing things together. They were so friendly and helpful, especially after the passing of my husband. It helped me to know that they cared and they shared my feelings and their feelings together with me.”

Tara Tomko, a former Appalachian Immersion intern with Good Works, describes her experience: “Senior Friends has given me chance to develop this newly-discovered gift: a connection to people, with a deep sense of caring and compassion. And I have a constant opportunity to use it! I am grateful for the wonderful women I have met—for their wisdom and their tea, Pepsi and stuffed animals. Most of all, I am grateful for their friendship, love and acceptance!”

## Hope Center



The Hope Center is located on a hillside just behind the Administrative Offices. This facility, recently completed through the work of over a hundred volunteers, provides Good Works with a beautiful gathering space for large groups, as well as an office for several staff. We are grateful for the potential this space creates for community building and education!



# Neighbors Helping Neighbors *(Formerly Samaritan Projects)*

Here in the Good Works community, we hope that people come away from Neighbors Helping Neighbors saying, “We could do this where we live!” We simply invite groups of volunteers to visit our neighbors in Athens County, spend time with them, and do labor-intensive projects at their homes.

We began helping our neighbors through practical service at their homes in the late 90’s. Since then, we have developed long-term relationships with many older adults, some of whom have physical disabilities. We are now connected with about 60 widows and families in this way. We count it a joy

to serve these friends and invite others to do this same. The projects range from basic tasks such as yard work or cleaning to more extensive jobs in which plumbing, electrical, carpentry and roofing skills are needed. One of our friends who we know through Neighbors Helping Neighbors shared these kind words with us:

“I wanted to again personally thank all those involved in seeing to it that I am safe with a new step ramp. Above all, I have to say thanks to those that are doing the work. They made me feel comfortable and safe to be with. Seeing the steps finished and using them has been a blessing.

They are beautiful to see, safe to use, and a real joy in my heart. Words cannot express how I feel right now. It’s been a long time alone, and I am scared of leaving home, that I might fall again. But never have I seen people like this, that seem to really care about my well-being—people that do not know me, yet they offer friendship and grace. This is God’s work for sure, and I am so thankful.”

*Often volunteers and our friends who are requesting help through Neighbors Helping Neighbors serve together. At right, a homeowner works with a volunteer to put in the railing on her own porch!*



The Solitude Retreat Cabin offers a quiet place for people to experience silence, rest, prayer and the beauty of nature. Located in a wooded section of the Good Works Luhrig Road property, guests can be still and listen to God’s voice. This respite is free of charge and open to anyone who wants a place of solitude.

To inquire further, contact us at [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net) or 740.594.3336.



***Solitude Retreat Cabin***



## Administrative Offices

This facility is where many people first connect with Good Works. Staff members are available to talk with individuals, churches and other groups about potential volunteer opportunities and partnerships with our community. Much of the behind-the-scenes administrative work that keeps the organization running happens here as well!



## Bed & Breakfast

The Country Bed and Breakfast offers private accommodations in a hotel-like room attached to our Administrative Offices. As a small business of Good Works, it provides job training experience and a supplemental income to participants in our transitional housing opportunity.

Located just two miles from Ohio University, our Bed and Breakfast is ideal for a visit to Athens! A stay includes an optional fresh breakfast, wireless internet, access to walking trails and a beautiful view. For additional information or to make a reservation, please call us at 740.594.3336.

## Good Gifts

Our fair-trade gift shop, Good Gifts, is also located in the Administrative Offices. Operated through Ten Thousand Villages, this small business markets beautiful items made by artisans in Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. Purchasing fair trade items enables our global neighbors to earn a just and vital income to sustain their communities.



## Amphitheater

The Amphitheater is often used by groups during Friday Night Life. It is a great way to share the performing arts with people who are struggling with poverty.

Friday Night Life is a community event designed to bring people from all walks of life together around things everyone enjoys: food and companionship! Every Friday evening, we gather with our friends. Some of these are struggling to make ends meet, and others volunteer to prepare a nutritious meal for everyone. Our hope is to affirm that each person is precious.

Beginning in 1993 as a way to stay in touch with residents who had moved out of the Timothy House, Friday Night Life has now grown into a long-term community of over 150 people who have built networks of trust in this context. We continue to promote this as a free, public meal to people in the area.

During the warmer months, we hold Friday Night Life outside, picnic style, on the Good Works Luhrig Road property. Our partners at The Plains United Methodist Church graciously allow us to use their building the rest of the year. Staff and volunteers organize a fun and educational “Kids’ Club” that begins after dinner, and adults are invited to participate in other



## Friday Night Life

activities. In the past, these have included health education programs, musical concerts, poetry groups and gardening.

Good Works invites groups of 7 to 14 people to “sponsor” Friday Night Life by preparing the meal and joining the community for the evening. For more information on this opportunity, please contact us at 740.594.3339 or [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net).

**Each year, Good Works provides an estimated 20,000 meals to people who are struggling with poverty and homelessness. This is all through the through the generous donations of our supporters. We are grateful!**

## Service Living



**OUR VISION IS TO EMPOWER STUDENTS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR PLACE WITHIN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.**

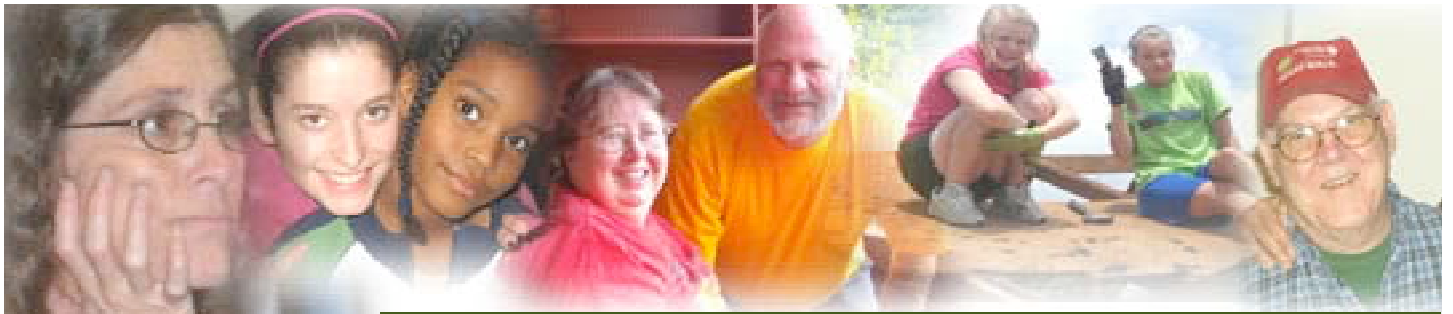
Service Living is a new Good Works initiative designed to immerse first-year Ohio University students in the broader Athens community through service-based relationships. In the midst of this immersion, we hope each participant discovers something of the history, beauty, values, needs and people of rural Appalachia. We hope to accompany students in the following progression: listening to the voice and

culture of their local community, learning with and from the people here, and lastly, taking thoughtful action to make this region a healthier place. We are energized to see students discover how their unique passions can inform their potential contribution in Athens County.

Participating students select a once-a-week service experience for the academic quarter. These opportunities range from spending time with



residents of the Timothy House to doing construction with an affordable housing program. The Service Living leaders also provide contexts for dialogue about the students’ experiences and their connection to the history and culture of greater Athens County. Service Living is a collaborative effort between Good Works, The Ohio University Department of Residential Housing, Ohio University students and local organizations.



# Volunteer Opportunities

Our vision to create a community of hope is completely dependent on others who are willing to share with us the joy and responsibility of caring for people who are struggling with homelessness and poverty. Good Works offers about 30 different opportunities for volunteers to love our neighbors in practical and relational ways.

To learn more, visit [www.good-works.net](http://www.good-works.net) and click on

“Volunteer Opportunities.” Then, contact one of our staff at 740.594.3339 or [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net) and they will guide you through the application process.

If you are interested in volunteering but are uncertain as to which opportunity to pick, feel free to call our Administrative Office at 740.594.3339 to talk with one of our staff. We would be happy to discuss current opportunities with you.



# Internship Opportunities

- **Appalachian Immersion** is a 9 to 12 month paid internship in which participants live in the Hannah House and serve full-time in several Good Works contexts.
- **Summer Service** is a 9-week paid internship focused on discipleship and leadership development. Interns host week-long Work Retreat groups and lead them in service and reflection.
- **Week of Service** offers individuals 16 years and older a week of diverse service experiences within the Good Works community. There is no cost for this opportunity.
- **Academic Internships** allow students to design a unique educational opportunity with us. Students can gain experience in areas such as social work, counseling, family studies and church ministry.

To learn more about internships with Good Works, visit [www.good-works.net](http://www.good-works.net) and click on “Internships.” A full description of each internship opportunity is available. For further inquiry or to begin the application process, contact us at 740.594.9000 or [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net).



# Donations to Good Works

We depend on the support of an extended community to provide us with material resources such as food, supplies and equipment. These enable us to help people in our community who are carrying the burden of poverty.

We update a needs list monthly, which is available on request by contacting us at 740.594.3339 or [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net). If you would like to donate an item that is not on our needs list, please call us at 740.594.3336.

### DONATING VEHICLES

Reliable transportation is a significant need for people in our community who are struggling with poverty. With affordable housing primarily outside the city of Athens and limited public transportation available, maintaining employment is very difficult without access to a vehicle.

Since 2004, Good Works has been providing used vehicles to people who are struggling with poverty through the Transformation Station. Participants volunteer their time to serve others, and in exchange receive a resource they need, such as a car. Good Works depends on the generosity of the larger community to provide the vehicles. Please consider this opportunity to give! Not only are you pro-

viding a resource to someone in need, you are also providing a volunteer to someone else who is struggling with poverty.

For more information about donating a vehicle, contact Paul Richard at 740.594.3336. We are only able to accept vehicles in working condition at this time.

**Want to help with something practical? Below is a list of some of our ongoing needs:**

### FOR THE TRANSFORMATION STATION

Vehicles, refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, stoves/ovens, freezers, air-conditioners and bicycles.

### FOOD

We accept all kinds of food donations, fresh or canned. We are not able to receive canned food that has passed its expiration date. We are especially concerned about the nutritional value of the food we are providing to our community.

We often need: fresh, frozen or canned fruits and vegetables, juice, milk, cheese, eggs, meats such as chicken, pork, beef, turkey, venison, fish, lunch meats and canned tuna and chicken, beans, soups, whole wheat flour, creamer, sugar and substitutes, vegetable oil and olive oil, whole wheat pasta, spaghetti sauce, drinks such as coffee, herbal tea, iced tea mix and hot chocolate.

### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Laundry detergent, dish soap (non-dish-washer only), liquid hand soap, household cleaners (floor, toilet and all-purpose) bleach, shampoo and conditioner (normal size), paper towels, toilet paper, zip-lock freezer bags, first aid supplies, Tylenol and multivitamins, postage stamps, phone calling cards, copy paper (all colors), compact-fluorescent light bulbs.

### SPECIAL NEEDS

Lawn mowers (riding or push), washing machines and dryers, refrigerators, sound equipment for our amphitheater, a generator, bike locks with keys, chain saws, a high capacity color laser printer.

### ON-GOING SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

We often need volunteers with painting, plumbing, electrical, mechanical and installation skills. If you are interested, please call us at 740.594.3336.

**All material donations are tax deductible!**

## PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO GOOD WORKS!

### OUR SOURCES OF SUPPORT:



- Grants - 12%
- Private Donors - 73%
- Businesses - 4%
- Churches - 9%
- Others/misc - 2%

The Good Works annual budget is about \$600,000. 73% of our funds come from private donors like you. Thank you for supporting us as we provide a home and caring community for people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

### Ways to give to Good Works:

1. Contribute online at [www.good-works.net](http://www.good-works.net) via the Network for Good. Click on "Make a donation." All online donations are secure and confidential.
2. Mail your gift to:  
Good Works, Inc. PO Box 4, Athens, Ohio 45701  
Please make your checks out to Good Works, Inc.

# Homeless by Choice?

By Keith Wasserman

In 1989, the eighth year of Good Works, I started spending several days every few years living among homeless people in different cities in the United States. I go to the streets to expand my understanding of homelessness and people who are homeless. In this “classroom,” I can re-evaluate how the Good Works community is serving people who are homeless and explore what we may need to change.

As a Christian, I believe that Christ incarnated himself into our world in order to be a bridge for men and women to have a relationship with their Maker. As followers of Christ, we too must incarnate ourselves into the world of those whom we care about in order to understand how they think and how they feel, so that we can really love and help them.

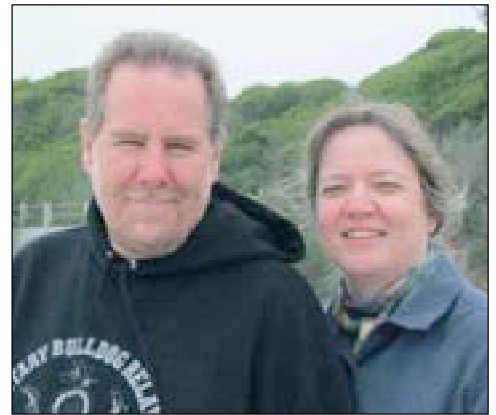
Here are a few of my experiences: In Lexington, Kentucky I learned about FEAR. I learned that spending the night with strangers in fear wears down the body’s natural defenses and makes one vulnerable to sickness and mental breakdown. I learned that fear often makes a person compromise their own moral and ethical standards to survive. I slept next to a man with a knife. I knew he had it because I watched him

threaten to stab another man earlier in the day. Fear changes one’s personality and life choices. Prolonged fear turns you into someone you don’t like and don’t want to be with.

In Charleston, West Virginia I learned that the system of sheltering people who are homeless caters to those in chronic, rather than crisis, situations. I felt people treated me as if I was an alcoholic or a drug addict. I did not have proper identification, and when I went to the Police Station to obtain the I.D. the shelter wanted, the police wouldn’t give me anything. I returned to the shelter and the staff implied that I was lying. I felt caught in the middle: misunderstood.

In Indianapolis, Indiana I learned that time is the enemy of the homeless. It seems like there is nothing to do and nowhere to go. Yes, you can work your tail off for eight hours at minimum wage, but you spend each day’s earned income to meet the needs of that day. I learned that it is very difficult to save money when you live on the streets. When you do earn money, you become a target for others to steal, exploit or beg from.

In Akron, Ohio I learned about the need for privacy. Privacy is a commodi-



ty purchased by those who have money. The less money one has, the less privacy one can obtain. People need privacy to maintain mental health. I remember feeling like there was no place to go where I could be alone, to be by myself. We were always around others who could potentially take advantage of us. This low-level stress combines with physical sickness to make a person behave strangely. No wonder some people who are homeless appear mentally ill.

I continue to be acutely aware of how these experiences have helped me to more fully understand that homeless people are real human beings, people who in many ways are not much different from myself. I learned that in order to understand and help people who are suffering, one must leave the comfort of one’s own security and reach out, perhaps incurring some personal risk and pain. As a Christian, I now more fully understand what Christ Jesus has done for me. I am grateful, and I want to continue to turn my gratitude into a godly activism.

## Neighboring 101

Who is my neighbor? What does it mean to be a good neighbor? Come join us as we explore these questions!

Neighboring 101 is a seasonal class focused on what it means to love and serve our neighbors who are in poverty. Facilitated and hosted by the Good Works community, we invite people from local congregations to dialogue, study and dream together. We typically meet over lunch at the Timothy House, gathering weekly for about two months in the fall or spring. Books we have studied include *Bridges out of Poverty* by Ruby Payne, *Churches that Make a Difference* by Ronald Sider and *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert.





## Contact Us

Email address: [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net)

Mailing address: PO Box 4, Athens, OH 45701

Website: [www.good-works.net](http://www.good-works.net)

**Administrative Offices: 740.594.3339**

Volunteer Opportunities  
Good Works Walk  
Good Gifts  
Friday Night Life  
Senior Friends  
Questions about Donations

**Timothy House: 740.594.3333**

Refer someone in need of shelter  
Volunteer Opportunities at  
the Timothy House

**Hope and Possibilities: 740.541.0883**

**Hannah House: 740.594.3336**

Country Bed and Breakfast  
Solitude Retreat Cabin  
Work Retreats  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
(Formerly Samaritan Projects)  
Transformation Station

**Keith Wasserman: 740.594.9000**

Arrange a Presentation  
Internship Inquiries  
Employment Inquiries

**Service Living: 740.856.1214**

# 11<sup>th</sup> Good Works Walk



## What is it?

The GOOD WORKS WALK is an annual event that provides educational experiences about the issues of homelessness and poverty in our area and generates funds for the Timothy House. The Timothy House provides the only shelter for people experiencing homelessness in 9 counties of rural Southeast Ohio.

## How will the money be used?

All funds raised by WALK participants help fund the Timothy House, which provides approximately 4,000 nights of shelter for between 150 and 225 people each year. Two-thirds of the funding needed to operate the Timothy House comes from private donations.

## How can I get involved?

1. Do the WALK!
2. Find 10 people who will sponsor you for \$10 each to raise a minimum of \$100. Our goal is that 500 people will walk together and help us raise \$50,000.
3. Be a WALK CHEERLEADER!  
Promote the WALK through your church or community organization. Invite your friends to do the WALK and find sponsors.

## For more information:

- Go to [www.walkforthehomeless.net](http://www.walkforthehomeless.net)
- Email us at [goodworks@good-works.net](mailto:goodworks@good-works.net)
- Call us at 740.594.3339

## WALK PACKETS for fundraising:

- Download one from [www.walkforthehomeless.net](http://www.walkforthehomeless.net)
- Pick one up at the Good Works Timothy House or the Good Works Luhrig Road property.

**Saturday, February 23, 2013**  
**8:30 am to 1:00 pm**

Begins and ends at the facility of  
First United Methodist Church  
2 South College St. , Athens



Photo by James Robeless

Good Works, Inc.  
—A Community of Hope  
P.O. Box 4  
Athens , Ohio 45701  
740.594.3339  
[www.good-works.net](http://www.good-works.net)  
[www.walkforthehomeless.net](http://www.walkforthehomeless.net)