

“Transformation” in the Transformation Station

The Transformation Station provides people in the community with the opportunity to volunteer with Good Works while accessing resources that they need. While others with financial resources can purchase these items, those with limited means can access similar resources by volunteering to help others in the community.

At Good Works our objective is to make these resources available to people who struggle with poverty – generational or situational – while at the same time helping others and helping themselves. But there is a much greater goal that we are striving for. It has to do with the continuum of success. As Keith has often said, on one side of the continuum we are successful when we are faithful to do what God has called us to do, and for us that is an act of worship. But on the other side of the continuum is a success that rises out of a person’s move from receiving assistance to someone who gives back to the community, not because they have to, but because they have recognized deep within themselves that that is how God has made them. They give because to be fully human and alive is to give to others. It is a beautiful thing to see this happen in someone’s life.

Several years ago, a woman volunteered with us through the Transformation Station. We will call her Susan. She volunteered to receive a vehicle. Susan did well, faithfully coming out to serve. She eventually received her vehicle, which she continues to use to transport her husband to medical appointments. But Susan did not end her involvement in the Good Works community. She began participating in Friday Night Life, bringing her children out to participate as well. She did not just come out to get a meal, but became a contributing member of the event. She then began helping out with the daily community meal we provided last summer.

Then one day her father contacted us, who wanted to volunteer for food. Getting a box a food is quite simple. Volunteer for a half a day and at the end of the time the volunteer gets a good size crate of food. Well George kept calling to get a box of food. Once he finished he would call again to sign up. While he came out to volunteer alongside his daughter, a reconciliation took place between them. It became evident that George was not coming out to get a food box, but because he wanted to be involved. He then asked to become a regular Good Works volunteer. He completed the application (with some personal struggles in the process) and became a weekly volunteer at the Timothy House. When I see him I ask him how his volunteer times at Timothy House are going. He enthusiastically replies, “Great!”

It is true that we do not see this happen very often. We have about 40-50 people who volunteer through the Transformation Station. We are so grateful for the help they provide to Good Works and to people in the community to receive these items that have been donated to us. But there is a very special joy that comes to us when someone takes that transformational step and says, “I just want to volunteer to help out.” Indeed, that is a very special gift and reward from God. It is a beautiful transformation.