

September 8, 2007

Athens Zoning Board of Appeals

RE: Good Works, Inc Homeless Shelter Appeal

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Good Works, Inc and their appeal to use the property located at 93-95 Central Avenue as a shelter for homeless families. When most people think of homelessness we conjure up visions of skid row alcoholics living in cardboard boxes under bridges and overpasses. Such is not the case in our area of Appalachia. There are many families and individuals who are good people that have fallen victim to hard times and/or lack of employment opportunities that find them homeless. Thus we find that there is a definite need for this type of transitional housing while families obtain the necessary resources to find permanent housing.

Good Works Inc. currently provides a shelter facility, but this makes for very difficult living conditions for families. Thus the need is certainly evident and Good Works proved track record identifies them as more than qualified to direct this type of work.

With that said, I offer both my personal support and that of the congregation I serve at the Middleport Church of Christ. Good Works Inc. not only serves the local needs of Athens County, but individuals in several surrounding counties as well. With the need being so apparent and Good Works proved history, it best serves all those involved to allow them to use this property for the above stated purpose.

Sincerely,

Al Hartson  
Middleport Church of Christ

To Whom It May Concern:

On this day when we remember the horrendous evil that befell us six years ago, we must ask ourselves, are we making this country better and safer. I can wholeheartedly state that Good Works has made and will continue to make the United States, the State of Ohio, and Athens County a better and safer place to live.

During the life of Good Works, they (the staff of Good Works) have provided shelter, food, jobs, and training to people who would have otherwise ended up on the streets or in prison. Either way, these individuals would end up becoming a burden to society. They would populate the streets for sleeping quarters, begging money from those who pass by. They would populate jails as a lack of resources (training, knowledge, transportation, money, etc.) could force them to choose to seek resources from other's good fortune.

Good Works fills both aspects of "giving a person a fish," to allow him/her to live for one more day, and "teaching a person to fish, so he/she can eat for a life time." Allowing Good Works to purchase and rezone 93-95 Central Avenue will allow them to expand both their giving and their teaching. It will allow them to increase their ability to bring people in off the streets. It will allow them to provide better quality shelter for families, 1) by separating them from single individuals who may not be the best influence, and 2) by allowing the families a little extra time to work through the bureaucracy to obtain housing, health care (for their children), food stamps, day care (so the parents can work), and all the other complexities that having children bring to an already tragic situation.

Personally, I have known Keith and the Good Works staff for seven years. I have spent two summers during those years working in various aspects of the organization. When people ask me about what anyone is doing to help the homeless situation, my response is, "I know of one place that is making a difference, not only in the lives of the individuals it serves, but in the lives of those who come to serve. That place is Good Works." I implore you, the zoning committee, to change the zoning for 93-95 Central to allow this organization, which is doing its part to make America, Ohio, and Athens a better and safer place to live, to expand its ability to serve the needs of those who would otherwise end up burdening society.

I would be there personally to show my support and read this letter, but I live in Lexington, KY and my child, wife, and myself all have a cold. If you desire to contact me, I can be reached on my cell phone. The number is (859) 338-7508. Please do not hesitate to call.

Thank you for your time,

Alfred Haase

September 5, 2007

Attn: Athens Zoning Board of Appeals

I am writing to strongly urge you to allow Good Works to purchase the house on 93-95 Central Avenue for the purpose of providing homeless families the transitional housing needed, My husband and I are full-time pastors in Jackson, OHIO and direct individuals and families to good works because they are the only shelter in southern Ohio. The growth and expansion of this ministry will not only help your community, but other area communities. Please consider the strength this ministry has provided for our area, and consider the selfless request being made. Thank you.

Amber Haines  
Jackson, OHIO

Athens Board of Zoning  
28 Curran St.  
Athens, OH 45701

Angie & Christopher Pyle  
805 Shannon Ave.  
Athens, OH 45701

August 14, 2007

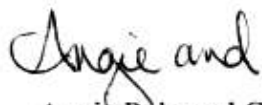
Dear Board of Zoning;

We are writing on behalf of Good Works, Inc.'s intent to purchase the duplex next to them on Central Ave. in order to create a transitional housing program for their residents. We believe this would be a great improvement to the already successful mission of Good Works, and would benefit the community substantially.

Chris and I have been involved with Good Works and friends with Keith Wasserman since 1990. We have seen first-hand the benefits this organization has had on numerous Athens residents, some of whom have become good friends and even employees of our business uptown. For years we have seen the need for Good Works to offer transitional housing for families, as their Hannah House facility on Luhrig Rd. is only suitable for singles in transition.

Please consider allowing Good Works to purchase the duplex on Central Ave and connect the emergency shelter to it in order to provide transitional housing for residents with children. Good Works is the only homeless shelter in southeastern Ohio and could serve the area counties even better with this expansion.

Sincerely,



Angie Pyle and Christopher Pyle



# *Three Rivers Housing Corporation*

*PO Box 2351  
Athens, Ohio 45701*

*Telephone 740.797.7139  
Fax 740.797.7230*

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11 September 2007

Keith Wasserman  
Good Works. Inc.  
P.O. Box 4  
Athens, Ohio 45701

Dear Keith,

Three Rivers Housing Corporation and I wish you the best of success in your endeavor to obtain approval for the use of the duplex located at 93-95 Central Avenue, Athens as transitional housing for families.

During the past fifteen years, Three Rivers has had experience with families who are homeless or have been homeless and have chosen to split up their families by sending children to various relatives and friends. Having a location available where such families could access assistance with their housing and financial needs while remaining intact would be of great benefit to the Athens community. It is so important to enable families to pull together in times of crisis and the location of this duplex seems perfect for such a purpose.

We hope to be able to work with you and your families as they progress to finding permanent housing. While I am unable to attend the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting this evening, my thoughts are with you.

Sincerely,



Barbara Conover  
Executive Director

To: The Athens Ohio Board of Zoning Appeals,

I strongly support the appeal by Good Works, Inc. for the approval to purchase the property at 93-95 Central Avenue, next to the current Timothy House in Athens, Ohio. For many years Good Works has been providing an invaluable service to the community by being a source of support for the homeless of our area. It appears that the current economic conditions both locally and nationally, will exacerbate the problem. It is important to allow this organization to meet its current needs, which have outgrown its capacity, and will not be alleviated in the foreseeable future.

In my 38 years in Athens, I have often been by the Timothy House, and never known of its existence until now. I would pass by it when I was running the hills of Athens, would visit friends in that neighborhood, and attend events and weddings at the Church on the corner. The point is that I never knew that it was housing the homeless, and it appeared as a normal residential unit in the area. Adding to its sphere should pose no problem in my opinion, and my wife and I strongly support its “good works.”

Sincerely yours,

Bob and Gerry Hikida  
15 Longview Heights Road  
Athens, Ohio

September 10, 2007

Athens Board of Zoning Appeals:

I am very much concerned about the controversy regarding Good Works' attempt to receive permission to expand its main facility into a duplex, giving rooms to homeless families. These families, at present, are required to stay in the same building with singles, which perhaps could cause problems for children in these families.

It's difficult enough to be homeless. Keith Wasserman has been a godsend to Athens with his assistance to people who are done on their luck temporarily. He offers a place to stay, meals, advice on life changes, and even medical assistance. It is worrisome, however, that families with children do not have the privacy and the comfort of knowing their children are not mixing with single people who might not be a good influence on them.

It's a shame that Athens doesn't have more than one homeless shelter. Shelter is the word I would use to describe the home Mr. Wasserman has provided for unfortunate people who need a helping hand. I ask that you consider his request to expand his facility.

Bobbie-Jo and Dale Harris  
5501 Angel Ridge Rd.  
Athens, OH 45701

September 7, 2007

Brooke Schroeder  
5520 Baker Rd.  
Athens, Ohio 45701

Athens Zoning Board of Appeals  
120 Dougherty Street  
Athens, Ohio 45701

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Good Works desire to purchase another home to aid the homeless in Athens County. Good Works has provided many years of support to all of us from the Athens area. I think it is wonderful that the staff and volunteers at Good Works see the necessity to keep our children safe and are willing to take on the burden of opening another home. If it were not for the caring people at Good Works, Athens County would not have a place to offer sanction to those currently down on their luck.

I have worked with children and their families for many years and believe it is in the best interest of those children to be separated from single adults. Some of the adults that are residing in the home are experiencing their own adult problems that the children should not be exposed to. These mothers and fathers have so many worries when they arrive at Good Works and the safety of their children should not be in question while they attempt to get their lives back on track.

I strongly believe this would be a wonderful gain for our community and I can only hope that if my family or your family were in need we would have a place like Good Works to turn to. While I am unable to attend the meeting, my thoughts and prayers are with you that you may make the right decision to help the families of Athens County.

Thank you for your time,

Brooke Schroeder

September 7, 2007

To: Keith Wasserman,

Please accept this email as my written support of your request to the zoning board to acquire 93-95 Central Avenue, Athens, for the purpose of providing transitional living for families. Our community has long needed this additional step in serving persons who find themselves in desperate circumstances. Additionally, the acquisition of this structure will assure that the needs of those families are met more appropriately. Please forward this correspondence to the zoning board to support your request. Helping families in this way can strengthen the families served and thereby strengthen our community. As an Athens resident who lives only five blocks from the shelter, I wish you the best in your endeavor.

Carol L. Cockrill  
P.O. Box 2343  
Athens, OH 45701



# Rural Women's Recovery Program

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A Residential Facility  
of Health Recovery Services, Inc.  
Joe Gay, Ph.D., LICDC, Executive Director

P.O. Box 724  
Athens, OH 45701

September 6, 2007

To: Athens Zoning Board of Appeals

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of support for Good Works in their effort to obtain the property at 93-9 5 Central Avenue as an option for transitional and shelter care for homeless families and adults in our region. Good Works has operated in an exemplary fashion throughout its 27-year presence in Athens and purchasing this property would give them the ability to address the needs of families who are currently homeless.

With so few housing opportunities for displaced persons in the region, support for this cause must not go overlooked. Certainly many homeless individuals who are not given a chance to work through the issues that contributed to their homelessness continue on trajectories that become even more dire and ultimately more expensive for our community. It is a sad commentary on a town so rich in educational and other assorted opportunities that the most basic and fundamental needs of children and their parents can often not be adequately met.

And so I would like to take the opportunity to encourage this project as it may make the difference in so many lives that desperately are in need of the support that Good Works can offer.

Thank You,

Cathy Chelak, MA Psy Asst., LICDC, ICCS  
Program Director

Athens Zoning Board of Appeals  
Box 4, Athens, Ohio 45701

Christine Dufault  
168 Central Street  
Manville, RI 02838  
September 10, 2007

Re: Property at 93-95 Central Avenue

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to support Good Works, Inc. in their efforts to attain the property at 93-95 Central Avenue.

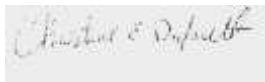
This past summer, I chaperoned a mission trip to Good Works, Inc. in Athens Ohio and I as I sit here, I struggle to find words strong enough to describe the experience we shared while working with Good Works. We had been on other mission trips, but none quite like this one. Throughout our stay we made some repairs to homes and helped with yard work, we did things that may have seemed simple to us, but without the help of Good Works would not have gotten done. Along the way we encountered people who had been stricken with extreme poverty, some of which had nearly lost all hope, until they saw us pull up in a familiar vehicle, not a fancy car or bright shiny truck, but a vehicle that gave them encouragement, because they recognized it as being from Good Works, Inc.

During our week at Good Works, we also got to meet some success stories. We stayed at Hannah House and met some people who were happy to give back to their community because Good Works had literally saved their lives. We visited the Timothy House and met a family who earlier in the day were not sure where they would lay their heads that night. And although they were more than thankful for the Timothy House that night, as a mother I cannot help but believe that those parents could not have gotten much rest that night knowing that their children were resting among adult strangers.

The point I am trying to make today is this; without Good Works, Inc. many men, women and families in the Athens area would be lost and alone. They have done many wonderful things for many people who just needed a chance to 'get their heads above water". But think of how many more families they can save if the afore mentioned property is made available to them.

I ask you today to vote in favor of Good Works, Inc. and their proposal.

Sincerely,



Christine E. Dufault  
Four Corners Community Chapel  
Cumberland RI 02864

To the Athens Zoning Board of Appeals:

I am writing this letter in support of Good Works acquiring the house at 93-95 Central Avenue for homeless families.

Good Works seems to do everything so well. On several occasions, I've visited their facilities and have spent considerable time with staff. I have been consistently impressed with their integrity and devotion to serving the homeless. They've persisted over the years in their idealism to love their residents.

I've worked with marginal people for years and understand how difficult it is to make a meaningful impact upon their lives. I feel that Good Works comes closer to treating their residents in a way that gives them the best chance of living responsible lives than any other comparable program I've seen.

I hope that you will grant Good Works the support they require to continue in the direction they have charted for themselves.

Sincerely,

Daniel Mann  
Professor of Theology  
New York School of the Bible  
(212) 975-0170 x23

To the Athens Zoning Board of Appeals Athens, County, Ohio

This letter is in regard to the appeal of the Good Works, Inc. to establish a home for the homeless, at 93-95 Central Ave.

I served as the Senior Pastor of the Kenney Memorial Wesleyan Church (now Christ Community Wesleyan) during the decade of the 70's. I was active in numerous community events, committees and boards. I was elected to the school board, then moved to Indiana before attending my first meeting.

During those years Keith Wasserman founded the Good Works organization. As you probably know, he not only was a student at Ohio University, but sensed a calling to remain in Athens and make a difference in the lives of those who were struggling to keep body and soul together.

I have been amazed at his investment of life and resources; his faith and perseverance; his innovative and loving spirit. And, he is making a difference, in the name of compassion and Christ, to one life and family after another. He is our Athens County version of Mother Teresa. We could use more like him and his wonderful staff of servants.

I suppose there may be some neighbors who will register concern, but I trust you will see the overarching benefits and saving graces that the residence on Central Avenue will provide. Keith and his people know how to do these things right, and with consideration for those living around such residences.

The community may someday realize the debt of gratitude that Good Works deserves. In the meantime, a positive response to their request, with your additional guidance, is likely sufficient for them.

Thanks for considering this appeal.

Sincerely,

David W. Holdren

7547 Prescott Lane  
Lake Worth, FL 33467  
September 5, 2007

Athens Zoning Board of Appeals  
8 East Washington St.  
Athens, Ohio 45701

Dear Athens Zoning Board of Appeals,

I am writing in reference to the request being made by Good Works, Inc. (GW). I support their efforts for use of the duplex property located next to the Timothy House on Central Ave. Good Works is a vital, respectful, and worthy ministry. I agree that this expansion will help them serve a vulnerable population even better.

I have been involved with GW since the fall of 1989 when the Timothy House was their only property. As this ministry has grown, approvals have been given, and plans have been completed more citizens (local as well as from surrounding counties) have benefited. Even though I am now living in Florida, I continue to support Good Works because of their faithfulness in serving and the many lives that have been changed for the better.

In closing, I hope that you will favorably consider this request. I look forward to the positive impact your decision will have on the City of Athens and those you serve.

Respectfully,

Dawn Smallcomb

Request for Help from Good Works September 8, 2007

Dear members of the Board of Zoning Appeals,

I'm writing to express my support for the proposal by Good Works to expand into the house next door to Timothy House. Their long record of service in our community is exemplary, and they fill an extremely important role in helping to support vulnerable members of our community.

Good Works has been a good neighbor in the West Side neighborhood, and their goals in providing shelter for families makes sense to me. I think that families undergoing the stress of homelessness should not have to cope with the additional stresses of living in close proximity with single adults. The additional space that could be made available could be very important to helping these families transition into a more stable situation. I hope you will support their request.

Thank you for your public service!

Best regards,  
Debbie Phillips

To The Athens Zoning Board:

I'm writing this letter in support of Good Works, to be granted permission to use 93-95 Central Avenue to provide Transitional Housing to homeless families.

My husband, Mark Spezza and myself have known Keith Wasserman for many years and are in support of his wonderful contribution to our community by providing a safe and supportive environment for the homeless. Although we do not currently live on the west side, we owned the home which Good Works is hoping to purchase at 93-95 Central Ave. We lived in the home in the 1980's when Good Works began running their shelter and sold it in 1990. We never had any problems with any of the people living at The Timothy House, nor with noise. We had more noise issues living next door to college housing! Please give zoning approval to this worthwhile request, and allow Good Works to expand their "good work". Homeless families deserve dignity. Homelessness can happen to anyone especially in the present climate of real estate foreclosures. It can happen to your family, best friends, neighbor... have some compassion for those less fortunate.

Diane Spezza/Mark Spezza  
CENTURY 21 Classic Gold  
Athens, OH



September 9, 2007

Dear Members of the Athens Zoning Board of Appeals:

I am writing on behalf of the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless to express our support for the opportunity for Good Works to purchase the Central Avenue property to be used as a residence for homeless families.

We are members with Good Works as part of the Ohio Coalition of Homeless Advocates. Along with Good Works we have been part of a state wide project of reducing homelessness and eventually ending it. We admire their commitment and dedication to serve some of the most vulnerable in rural Ohio with compassion and dignity.

Allowing Good Works to purchase this property permits them to fill an existing need in the community; providing shelter for families experiencing homelessness. Families experiencing the loss of their home would find the encouragement and attention needed during their time of crisis and transition. Parents can spend quality time with their children despite the challenges of their circumstances.

We encourage you to support Good Works in this endeavor as they continue to make an impact in reducing homelessness in Southeast Ohio.

Please feel free to call us at 614-252-3257 or email us at [columbushomeless@yahoo.com](mailto:columbushomeless@yahoo.com) if we can be of further assistance. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Don Strasser  
Director  
Columbus Coalition for the Homeless

To: Athens Zoning Board of Appeals

Date: September 1 ,th, 2007

Subject: Permits for 93 & 95 Central Avenue to be used to house the homeless

Dear Athens Zoning Board of Appeals,

My name is Emily Shadrix, and I am writing on behalf of Good Works in support of the building addressed 93 and 95 Central Avenue Athens, Ohio to be used for sheltering homeless families.

I was a former volunteer with the Good Works organization from 2002-2005 where I attended the Friday Night Life program and was both a weekend and weekday Timothy House volunteer. Following that period of service, I went on to work directly with Good Works through AmeriCorps from 2005-2006. carrying out the responsibilities of Friday Night Life Kids Club director, Hope and Possibilities Computer class instructor, Senior Care Coordinator and Summer Kids Club supervisor. After that year with Good Works, my husband (who was a caregiver at the Timothy House) and I moved to Athens, Georgia where we now reside.

During my time at Good Works I was able to witness firsthand the experience of homeless families within the Timothy House. I was overjoyed to have children in the house, but I could also see the consistent struggle of the parents and children to function among a house full of individuals and strangers. The noise of the Timothy House in the evenings was at a satisfactory level, but for a parent attempting to put their child to sleep while the rest of the whole house is awake is much more of a challenge than we realize. This small incident of a child not getting to bed on time streams into many more difficulties the following day. For families with smaller children who are going through potty training or consistently changing diapers and giving baths, sharing one or two bathrooms among a full house of 15 is also a significant challenge. In addition, having children in an emergency shelter among individuals whom the parents are unacquainted with, (though they have been screened by staff) can be a very uneasy feeling.

With just these few examples, I believe it is already substantial and clear to see that providing zoning for Good Works to purchase 93 and 95 Central Avenue would decrease the emotional, physical and mental clamor that parents and children experience when they encounter homelessness. Providing a specified shelter for families would offer more structure in taking care of their children, companionship with other families struggling in the position of homelessness and a higher level of safety among watchful parents, and staff in a more protected environment.

In conclusion, since leaving Athens, Ohio and Good Works, my husband and I have both come to realize to a greater extent, that there are very, very few organizations that operate with the fervor, integrity and wisdom which Good Works functions under. I fully believe from my personal experience that the staff of Good Works are equipped with insight, unity, and compassion, which accompanied by their policies that are thorough, consistent and practiced provide a stable foundation for the acquisition of 93 and 95 Central Avenue to be used to shelter homeless families. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Emily Shadrix

September 11, 2007

To: Keith Wasserman

From: Cindy Birt, Athens County Family & Children First Council

Re: Change of zoning

This letter is addressed to the zoning board of Athens County to support Good Works efforts to provide housing for homeless individuals.

The Family & Children First Council has frequent contact with the "hidden" families in Athens County. The primary population we serve are the working poor who are only one pay check away from a catastrophe. The FCFC families are not involved with other agencies that might provide them with a safety net if they lose their housing. They are also "families", and it has long been a concern of mine to house children with unrelated single men and women in the same domicile.

The FCFC is requesting the zoning board take a serious look at approving the Central Avenue change in zoning. This move towards family living is a positive one for the neighborhood, and definitely a positive move for our families.

Thank you.

FCFC, 22 Stonybrook Drive, Athens, Ohio, 740-592-9081  
birtc@odjfs.state.oh.us

Athens Zoning Board of Appeals  
Athens, Ohio

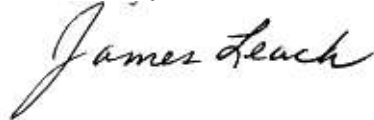
9/6/07

Subject: Request to grant Good Works allowance to use  
93-95 Central Avenue as a shelter for homeless families.

Members of Athens Zoning Board:

My wife and I have supported the work of Keith Wasserman and family for several years. I can think of no better way of helping those who find themselves with no hope. Except for the grace of God, there we also could find ourselves. Great sacrifices have been made resulting in many desperate families and individuals being returned to productive citizens with renewed dignity. As board members you have an opportunity to add to Goodworks the capability to serve our community even better. We hope you will add your vote to make this possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Leach". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

James and Amelia Leach  
8800 Johnson Rd. Unit 132  
The Plains, Oh 45780

***JAMES D. SILLER Y***  
**36 Fairview Avenue, Athens, Ohio 45701**  
740-592-4878

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[jsillery@mgss.com](mailto:jsillery@mgss.com)

September 11, 2007

City of Athens  
Board of Zoning Appeals  
28 Curan Drive  
Athens, Ohio 45701

RE: Good Works  
Case No. 07-14V  
93-95 Central Avenue

Dear Board of Zoning Appeals:

I write to ask you to favorably consider Good Works request for variances so that they can purchase 93-95 Central Avenue. I am a long time Athens resident and am often in the neighborhood. I also volunteer at Good Works. Hence, I have personal experience with the house and the people whom they serve.

Good Works has served the Athens area well in innumerable ways. As a former city prosecutor, I can only imagine the large number of cases that have not had to be dealt with by the police and the court due to the existence of Good Works and the influence it has on the people whom Good Works serves.

I have been in the home on many occasions when families with young children have been present. The present request by Good Works to provide these families with private living accommodations has much merit. It would enable the family to have more privacy. It would segregate young children from other residents. It would help the staff in assisting the family deal with their individual issues. Hence, this is a truly unique situation.

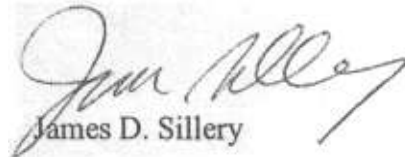
As a volunteer at Good Works, I am familiar with the rules and regulations at Good Works and the high standards that they require of their residents. Good Works requires its residents to have respect for their neighbors and I am unaware of any occasion when there has been any disruption in the neighborhood caused by Good Works' residents.

City of Athens  
Board of Zoning Appeals  
September 11, 2007  
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I am frequently in the neighborhood. I can see no detriment to the neighborhood by the granting of the variances requested. I am sure that there is far less noise and commotion from the Good Works house rentals with far fewer residents.

Finally, there may be some issue with regard to the combining of the two lots and the houses. There is precedence in Athens for such request. One that comes to mind is the Pi Kappa Alpha house on College Street. I am aware of other very large additions to existing houses on single lots on Palmer Street. I urge you to give this favorable consideration.

Very truly yours,



James D. Sillery

To the members of the Athens Zoning Board of Appeals:

As a 16-year resident of Athens, I am writing to ask you to please allow Good Works to use the house at 93-95 Central Avenue as a shelter for homeless families.

As you know, we live in one of the poorest counties in Ohio, and there are, unfortunately, many who need the services that Good Works provides. I have always been amazed and grateful that Keith Wasserman and his staff are willing, and even motivated to do this hard and probably thankless job. Good Works is a model of service to the poor, and is known all around the state. I grew up in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, three hours away, and was surprised to find out that people from churches that far away know about and support Good Works.

I know that Good Works strives to be a good neighbor to the other people that live in the Central Avenue area, and based on their good reputation, I am certain that they will continue to do so if given the opportunity to expand their services to the house at 93-95 Central.

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of the city of Athens, and thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Jenny McCollister  
6820 Gura Road  
Athens, OH 45701  
(740) 593-3309

September 4, 2007

Dear Athens Zoning Board of Appeals,

Please approve Good Works's request to use the duplex property at 93-95 Central Avenue for an extension to the Timothy House. As you probably know, Good Works provides a unique, valuable, and extremely necessary service to residents of Athens city and county, as well as the surrounding area. Their request before you is evidence of their service—they provided 3,709 nights of shelter in 2006—please help them to provide better and increased help to your neighbors.

As an OU student, I came to care about Athens very much, and I wouldn't want to see poor choices made regarding it. My sister, brother-in-law, and brother currently all live in Athens County as well—I think anything that the Zoning Board can do to encourage Good Works in their service makes Athens a safer, more compassionate place to live.

I worked at Good Works and lived at their Hannah House as an intern in 2001-2002. I know from personal experience that they always strive to create a safe, clean environment for residents, staff, and community. The proposed new property would be as well or better cared for and just as safe than if it were used as rental units. Giving them the chance to extend their reach at 93-95 Central will do nothing but improve Athens.

I would be happy to elaborate on my support over the phone or via email. I only wish I could be at your September 11 meeting in person. Please approve Good Works' request.

Sincerely,

*Katie Rankin*

Katie Rankin

Ohio University class of 2003

1300 Goldfinch Drive

Harrisonburg, VA 22802

(540) 434-1530

katiesnewlife@hotmail .com

Kelly and Tim Waugh  
The Plains UM Church  
34 Poston Rd.  
The Plains, OH 45780

Dear Athens County Zoning Board,

We regret that we are unable to be at the meeting on September 11, 2007 concerning the zoning appeal on behalf of Good Works to purchase the duplex located at 93-95 Central Avenue to shelter homeless families. However, we would like to show our respect and support for this organization by encouraging the Athens County Zoning Board to allow the purchase of this property and house for their continued work in the Athens area.

Good Works is an excellent organization whose volunteers work tirelessly to improve the lives of the poor in Athens County and surrounding areas. Their number one goal is to give homeless families dignity by giving them a more private living space while they identify, own and work on the issues which have caused them to become homeless. In their 23 years of owning and operating the property next door, they have made an intentional effort to honor their neighbors by respecting them and being sensitive to their needs and also have made a strong effort to keep the property visibly well kept. This should serve as a good prediction of what will occur if Good Works would be allowed to purchase the property next door.

Good Works currently utilizes our church building at The Plains United Methodist Church where my husband, Tim, is the pastor. They prepare and serve meals to approximately 150 hungry members of our community each Friday evening. They have been very respectful of the church property and we are happy to support their efforts in and around Athens County.

Thank you for your time and heartfelt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Dr. Timothy Waugh  
Kelly Waugh

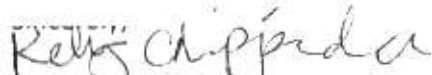
Athens Zoning Board of Appeals,

I am an Ohio University student here in Athens. I am writing on behalf of Good Works Inc. and their need for the approval to obtain and use 93-95 Central Avenue residence.

As a volunteer at the Timothy House, I was able to witness directly the need for this house. In working with families living in the Timothy House, I have first hand seen the problems that can arise from sheltering homeless children and their families amongst other homeless tenets of the facility. On many occasions families are forced to shelter their children in with residents of the house that are either bad influences on the children or can add an extra level of worry to an already stressful situation. I truly believe that using this house as a separate shelter for families would eliminate some, if not all, of this tension and anxiety.

I thank you and truly appreciate your time in reading this request. My hope is that you will take this into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Chippindale". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

Kelly Chippindale

5358 Harlem Rd.  
Galena, OH 43021  
September 8, 2007

Board of Zoning Appeals  
City of Athens  
Athens, Ohio 45701

Re: Good Works Emergency Shelter Proposal

Dear Board Members:

I am writing in behalf of the request of the organization, Good Works, to operate a family-based shelter for the homeless on the property of 93-93 Central Avenue. As a former employee of the shelter (1989-92) and a professional social worker, I understand the need of the staff to separate homeless families from single men and women. Good Works has a strong track record of providing a service to the community for which the city otherwise may not have the disposable resources to do for itself. Good Works has always placed a high priority on being a "good neighbor" to its neighbors. The city should be proud to have within it a program that serves individuals in need with dignity and honor. I hope that you will heartily grant the request which Good Works has asked of you, and so honor their commitment to this city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly Brown Isner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimberly Brown Isner

September 5, 2007

Dear Athens City Zoning Board of Appeals,

I am writing as a monthly volunteer at Good Works for the past 15 or more years. In that period of time I have always found Good Works to be an agency that maintains the highest level of dignity for the persons that they serve, persons who are homeless. It continues to amaze me regarding the endless need for emergency shelter and life supports that are extended to individuals and families who are in a period of crisis. Staff and the volunteers extend themselves with empathy and consideration for the people who are residents in the house.

I have seen numerous families reside at Good Works; people who have been appreciative for Good Works. At times it was so crowded that fathers of families were forced to reside in the men's room while their children and wife shared a bedroom with another family. These families always had to share the bathroom, living room, dining room with the majority of residents who are singles. So the situation with the numbers of 8-12 persons or more in the house plus staff makes the living situation pretty awkward as it compounds the trauma of being homeless and the causes for that dilemma in their lives.

Thus, I am writing to request your support for Good Works to acquire and use the 93-95 Central Ave. residence as a family facility for the Good Works emergency residential services.

Larry Jageman  
51 Charles St.  
Athens, OH 45701  
592-2123

September 8, 2007

To Whom It May Concern,

The need that Good Works has in providing a home for homeless families is not just a need for another church or do-good organization but rather for the whole city of Athens. I see homelessness as a plight that affects everyone. These are people who need a step-up so they can be productive members of (our) society once again. They need protection and security as well. The city should be jumping at this chance to help out Keith Wasserman and Good Works establish this haven of love offered to hurting citizens who are at a point in their lives that none of us would ever want to be at.

Sincerely,

Linda Harris

## Athens Zoning Board

I am an employee of Children Services as well as a homeowner on the West Side. I strongly support Good Works in their endeavors. I have worked closely with the Good Works staff and the families that they serve many times throughout the years and I feel that Good Works provides an invaluable service. They provide shelter to homeless individuals and families but also they provide support in a most caring, respectful and strengthening manner. Good Works' staff are strong advocates for the homeless. They are knowledgeable about and sensitive to the needs and issues of homeless families. They work diligently with families to help them to restore and maintain stability for their children. At the same time they require that the individuals and families who utilize their services are respectful to one another, to staff and to the neighborhood and community. I have lived in Athens for over 30 years and have lived on the West Side for over 6 years. I have experienced no problems at all from my neighbors at Good Works and I strongly support their effort to utilize the property at 93-95 Central Avenue to shelter homeless families.

Sincerely,

Liz Bowman  
53 Second St., Athens, Ohio

Board of Zoning Appeals  
Athens City Council Chambers  
8 East Washington St.  
Athens, OH 45701

August 8th, 2007

Attn: Board Members  
John Golzy  
Hector Flores  
Muriel Frederick  
Betty Hollow  
Greg Lavelle  
Roger Grueser

I am writing on behalf of Good Works Inc., and their upcoming September 11<sup>th</sup> zoning hearing requesting a homeless shelter at 93-95 Central Ave. As a former Ohio University student currently living, working and studying Psychology in Seattle, Washington, I look back on my years in Athens with fondness and gratitude. Athens was the place where I began to discover myself and the joy that life has to offer. While in Athens I became acquainted with Keith Wasserman and the Good Works family. The work they do in, for, and with Athens is phenomenal. I highly recommend their requests be granted so that they can expand their ability to assist the homeless toward self-sufficiency.

Thank you for all the work this board puts toward keeping Athens Ohio a place of strength, beauty, and integrity.

Sincerely,



Mary Kilian (OU class of 2001)

Dear Keith,

I have lived at 6 West Hills Drive since 1980, and as your neighbor on the west side I am willing to write a letter to the zoning board to attest that Good Works has been a *good neighbor* for the entire time Timothy House has been in operation. I support your efforts to purchase 93-95 Central Avenue to use as a shelter for homeless families and their children.

I support the idea of transitional housing for more stability for families searching for employment and affordable housing.

I am a supporter of Good Works through the Lutheran Church and even though I cannot give “big bucks” I welcome this chance to support your mission.

Mary Lee Powell

September 9, 2007

Athens City Zoning Board of Appeals  
c/o  
Good Works, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4  
Athens, OH 45701

Dear Members of the Board,

We are writing this letter in support of Good Works request in regards to the duplex property located next door to their existing facility on Central Avenue. As you are well aware, Good Works is serving a critical need of southeast Ohio. Specifically, Good Works is the only shelter for the rural homeless within a nine county region. After serving in this capacity for twenty-five years, Good Works has proven their commitment to social justice as well as the city of Athens and the surrounding communities. Their work has been conducted with the utmost sensitivity for the homes and families in the neighborhoods in which their facilities are located.

Nevertheless, Good Works is chronically short of space. If the Board approves Good Works' request, the additional property will allow Good Works better to serve the needy in our region. We respectfully request that you grant approval.

Thank you for your consideration,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Michael S. Braasch' and the signature on the right is 'Soo Y. Braasch'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sincerely yours,

Michael S. Braasch and Soo Y. Braasch  
P.O. Box 962, Athens, OH 45701

September 11, 2007



**MY SISTER'S PLACE**

P.O. Box 1158 Athens,  
Ohio 45701

Business 740-593-7125  
Hotlines/TTY 800-443-3402  
Fax 740-594-7122

Mr. Keith Wasserman, Executive Director  
Good Works, Inc.  
91 Central Ave.  
Athens, OH 45701

Dear Mr. Wasserman:

I am writing to support Good Works, Inc.'s request for a zoning variance from the Athens Board of Zoning Appeals. I understand, that if granted, your agency will purchase and utilize the property next door to your current facility and provide services to homeless families. This will include a covered walkway that connects 91 and 93 Central Ave.

My Sister's Place and Good Works have a long history of serving mutual clients. Many of the women and children seeking emergency shelter and services from My Sister's Place are facing homelessness due to the violence in their lives.

I hope the Zoning Board can recognize the city's need to incorporate a strong social service infrastructure to serve those in need; and, thereby enhance the health and safety of all members of our community.

Good Works has a established a proven track record for being a good neighbor and has adequately maintained its property on Central Avenue.

Again, I would urge to Zoning Board of Appeals to act favorably on this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate McGuckin".

Kate McGuckin, LPCC  
Executive Director

The Athens Zoning Board of Appeals  
8 East Washington Street  
Athens, Ohio 45701

Dear board Members,

I am writing in support of the use variance request from Good Works, Inc. for the duplex located at 93-95 Central Ave.

My connection with Good Works is limited; as a member of The Plains United Methodist Church, I am one of several volunteers who drive the church van taking people to and from Good Works' 'Friday Night Life' community dinner at their Hanna House on Luhrig Road. Our church provides the site for this dinner during the winter months when cold weather makes the outdoor facilities on Luhrig Road impractical. No matter the season, the return trip always includes people who must make use of the Timothy House, some of them with young children.

It occurs to me that the 93-95 Central Ave. property was built as a *duplex*, and it seems odd that such a structure--inherently suited to house unrelated families and in compliance with the preexisting R-2 zoning ordinance (and, heck, probably constructed before Athens even *had* a zoning ordinance)--should suddenly be made so much less valuable to its owner and useful as a part of the already-tight local housing stock. I know little about zoning, other than that it is a difficult business, but this seems like exactly the sort of situation for which zoning variances were created.

Beyond that question, I would appeal for the variance as a means of allowing Good Works to provide more and better assistance to the disadvantaged people it serves. Those I meet in connection with driving the church van run the whole gamut of character and personality, ambition and social skills; they all need a safe, warm place to lie down at night, but frankly the families with children would be better off in separate quarters, away from the influences that group housing sometimes brings. We hear it often said that you can judge a society by how it treats its animals, and I think that's true, but how much more by the treatment afforded to a society's less-fortunate people? If the dog-walking park and the skateboard park are worth having, why not this?

Good Works' efforts relieve the city and county of some burden, I'm sure, and this variance seems a small concession for that help. They are responsible members of the neighborhood, to judge from Chief Mayer's comments, and both of their existing properties appear to be well-maintained; it seems the impact on their neighbors would be minimal enough and the administrative savings of having the two properties side-by-side would be another of the small cumulative advantages that Good Works relies upon to keep going.

I hope that the Board will decide in favor of the variance. The physical nature of the building alone would seem to call for it, but the making of a little more room for the disadvantaged must be given some consideration in any community that styles itself as caring and progressive.

Sincerely,

Neil Fowler  
11 E. Third Street  
The Plains, Ohio 45780

I am writing in regard to Good Works' request to buy an additional property on Central Ave. to house homeless families. I hope that the board will see the great benefit in this proposal. I am a resident of Athens and, in fact, live on Central Ave. I have had nothing but positive experiences with the residents of the Timothy House. I am grateful that I live in a community where people are trying to make a difference in the world, starting right here at home. I find it hard to believe that anyone would be opposed to a reputable and established organization such as Good Works creating additional space for homeless families to get back on their feet.

I am writing to you as a neighbor but also as a mother. I know how hard it can be raising a child. I can only imagine the additional hardship and emotional strain living in a shelter causes mothers and their children. Living at a shelter might be the best or only option that the mother and father have. However, living amongst a revolving door of strangers is not the best for any child. Why not help these children have a more stable and family-centered atmosphere to help them through this hardest of times?

Please don't hesitate to approve Good Works' request to create additional temporary housing for families in great need. Be a part of this wonderful community that does more than talk about wanting to make a difference. Agree to help give these homeless families a more suitable environment for their children to thrive in.



Paula A. Linscott  
75 Central Ave.  
Athens, Ohio 45701

**Theresa Carter**

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From: Pete Couladis [pgcouladis@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2007 8:37 AM  
To: Zoning Board  
Cc: goodworks@good-works.net  
Subject: Zoning issues

Dear Zoning Board:

I want to offer my support for the zoning variance being requested by Good Works. The services offered by Good Works for more than 20 years have helped many, many people improve their lives. They have helped the people they serve to move from positions of hopelessness and despair to be better able to live on their own.

Good Works has been a vital part of our community having expanded over the years to meet an important need. They have grown from a basement operation to where they are today and are better able to serve more people in a more compassionate, effective and efficient manner.

This variance would not detract from the neighborhood and would allow more services to be provided to more people.

I encourage you to support and approve the variance being requested so Good Works may continue to provide the services that are so needed in our community.

Sincerely,

Pete Couladis  
5 Woodshire Court  
Athens, Ohio

# **Richard and Sandra Merrion**

2283 South County Road

300 East

Danville, Indiana 46122

317-745-6195

Merrion10@gmail.com

September 7, 2007

Athens Zoning Board of Appeals.  
Athens, Ohio 45701

To Whom It May Concern:

Although we do not reside in Athens, we have known of the work of Good Works for several years now. We attended a board meeting at Timothy House several years ago. We were impressed by how many people had come to Timothy House for shelter and were now trying to help other people get their lives together.

We think that the addition of the property at 93-95 Central Avenue to house homeless families would be a welcome addition to the Timothy House ministry. Families would have the opportunity for their own space and the children would not be with the single homeless people.

Please consider allowing this transitional housing for families in Athens.

Sincerely,

Richard and Sandra Merrion

Dear Athens Zoning Board Members,

I strongly support the request for Good Works Inc to use the property at 93-95 Central Avenue for the purpose of providing shelter to families. As you well know, Good Works is the only homeless shelter we have in a 9 county area, and serves referrals from many agencies, often in a time of crises for families.

As a Family Physician, and educator at Ohio University it makes a great deal of sense to provide shelter to families, thereby keeping them intact temporarily until there is sufficient time or educational opportunity for one or both parents to be gainfully employed and self sufficient. The Timothy House has had a very strong and responsible admission policy and the same would apply to the 93-95 facility I am sure -thereby assuring as safe as possible a surrounding to care for and nurture the children in a family.

I am also involved in volunteer educational programs for our OU medical students who give back to the community a great deal of health and wellness programming at no cost to Athens. What better opportunity than to be able to work with entire families, and have an even greater impact.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Roy R Bontrager, M.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Athens Zoning Board,

As a weekend volunteer at Good Works Timothy House. I see the need for a separate Home for families in need of shelter. A home separate from the Timothy House, that currently serves single adults and families.

For Families to have a temporary home without the addition of adult strangers would be a benefit for all members of the family. They would benefit from a more private living space.

I hope the Board has the vision to see the benefits for a family shelter that would serve homeless families.

Sincerely,

Ruth Bugglin  
Good Works Volunteer



**American  
Red Cross**

Athens County Chapter  
100 S. May Ave.  
Athens OH 45701  
September 10, 2007

To: Athens Zoning Board of Appeals

Dear Zoning Board Members:

I am writing in support of the application of Good Works, Inc. for approval to obtain the property at 93-95 Central Avenue in Athens to shelter homeless families.

A primary concern of the American Red Cross is to ensure that community members have shelter, food, clothing and all basic living needs. Our non-profit agency focuses on meeting emergency needs following house fires, floods and other disasters. We rely on Good Works to meet such needs for community members not hit by disaster.

Our chapter also serves as an information and referral agency. My experience over 22 years with the chapter is that many times local family members call in desperation—they have become homeless and do not know where to turn. It is critical for our volunteers to be able to say, “Call Good Works.”

Particularly in the case of families, it is frightening and upsetting to think that in order to have shelter, they and their children will have to mix with strangers. In fact, some callers have been reluctant to contact Good Works because they fear that this type of public sheltering will only increase the problems for their family.

The Good Works staff does an outstanding job of assisting their clients to identify and work on the issues that brought about homelessness, to find resources and make changes. It is extremely important to continue and improve this type of assistance to homeless families.

Acquisition of 93-95 Central Avenue, along with the dedicated work of shelter staff, will offer far better service to homeless clients, and to our entire community. Please seriously consider approval of the application.

Sincerely,

Sandra Shirey  
Executive Director

***Together, we can save a life***

Dear Members of the Athens Zoning Board of Appeals,

I would like to express my support for Good Works, Inc. to be able to use the duplex property located next door to the right of the Timothy House (93-95 Central Avenue) to shelter homeless families.

Since Good Works began offering shelter to the homeless, they have had to mix families with children into the population of the shelter with single adults. It is very stressful emotionally, psychologically, and physically for the parents and children both to be homeless, and to live in a homeless shelter with people they do not know.

My children and I had a 3-month experience doing just that in 1996. Being homeless, I was relieved to have a place to stay together with my children. However, being a single parent, I can tell you that it is very difficult for families and children to live so intimately with strangers. I had a lot to contend with trying to find work, learning the rules of the shelter, and managing the needs of my children. Raising my children in such a public setting where other adult strangers live was extremely stressful. Increased stress can lead to psychological and emotional problems that may be evident immediately, or may not show up for years. I was forced to live in a situation where bad role models were influencing my children on a daily basis. I felt helpless and unable to do anything about it. One man in particular seemed to draw delight in verbally harassing my 9-year old son. Fear of how he would retaliate kept me from saying anything to him. The staff noticed and mercifully intervened on my behalf.

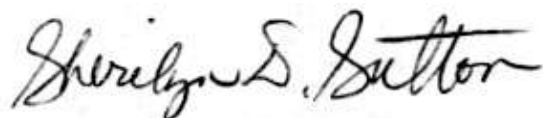
I started working at Good Works a few months after I left the shelter. Eleven years ago, we were able to find housing within 3 months. This is not the case anymore. With a 2-year waiting list for subsidized housing, it can take much longer to obtain affordable housing in this area. This area needs additional space for homeless people. Good Works is the only shelter for 9 surrounding counties.

As an employee at Good Works, I can tell you that we make an intentional effort to honor our neighbors by respecting them and being sensitive to their needs. Every Fall we make it a point to go out in to the neighborhood to welcome new tenants and to describe the way we operate in order to facilitate communication and understanding. Several of the rules on living in the shelter are about respecting the neighbors and the neighborhood. We also make a strong effort to keep our yard well cared for so that there is nothing unsightly about the property. I lived 3 blocks from the Timothy House for 10 years and never had any problems with any of the residents.

Your decision to grant the variance will give homeless families dignity by giving them a more private living space while they identify, own and work on the issues which have caused them to become homeless. It will increase our living space and capacity to serve families and, therefore, single men and women by giving families a separate living area. Additionally, since 93-95 Central Avenue is a duplex, half of this building will be used to provide transitional housing to families who need an extended stay while they obtain resources and/or wait for available housing. To our knowledge, there are no programs that provide transitional housing to families anywhere in Athens County.

Thank you for your time and concern for the people who need the services we will be able to provide with the variance on the property located at 93/95 Central Avenue.

Sherilyn Sutton  
15 Pepper Lane  
The Plains, Ohio 45780

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherilyn S. Sutton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "S" at the beginning.

Stephanie Bishop  
9199 Twp Rd 95  
Athens, OH 45701  
419-348-2340

Athens City Zoning Board

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to Good Works' proposed plan to open up the 93-95 Central Avenue property to shelter homeless families. I am in full support of this proposed plan and ask that you consider allowing Good Works to continue to serve the homeless to their best ability.

In June of 2007 I started an eight week AmeriCorps service term for Good Works. During these eight weeks I worked as a house supervisor at the Timothy House. I experienced firsthand what a positive impact Good Works, and specifically the Timothy House, has had in the Athens area. The organization is truly an irreplaceable part of the community, as many individuals would otherwise be left without a place to stay. In addition to the vital role Good Works plays in the area, they have always been good neighbors. During my service, I never witnessed anything but the utmost respect for the other residents on Central Avenue. Furthermore, the Timothy House is an extremely well-kept property.

In addition to the positive impact that I have seen from Good Works, I have also seen how they are limited in their service for homeless families. Families living with single men and women in the Timothy House often face additional stress. Parents often feel powerless over their children while living in a shelter; this can become magnified when they must live with single men and women, who can be negative role models. An additional shelter specifically for families would be very beneficial to both parents and children in need. The proposed shelter would be more welcoming for families who are learning to adapt to their new surroundings.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Bishop

Stephen McKean  
100 Second Street  
Athens, Ohio 45701

September 6, 2007

To: Athens Zoning Board of Appeals

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing in support of Good Works, Inc.'s effort to purchase the property at 93-95 Central Avenue. It is my understanding that they would like to have a connecting hallway or passageway to their existing property next door. As much of the same staff would be servicing both buildings, this only makes sense to me. Finally, for the sake of children who may be assisted by Good Works, this new arrangement seems perfectly reasonable.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen McKean". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stephen McKean

***Steve & Linda Lukasik***

*118 Central Avenue  
Athens, Ohio 45701  
740-593-7438*

To: Athens Board of Zoning Appeals

From: Steve & Linda Lukasik, 118 Central Avenue

Date: September 11, 2007

Re: Good Works, Inc. proposed expansion

This letter is in support of the expansion to 93-93 Central Avenue proposed by Good Works. We have lived at this address since 1989 and have watched the neighborhood from the Methodist church to Mary Street and beyond change from well-kept family homes to predominately student rentals. With this change have been increased noise, beer bottles and other trash lying around, unkempt yards and couches on porches.

All these years, however, Good Works has been a good neighbor. They are quiet, friendly, and their property is always immaculate. We welcome any expansion that they have planned for now and in the future, and urge the Board to seriously consider granting their request.

Sincerely,  


Steve Lukasik  
Linda Lukasik

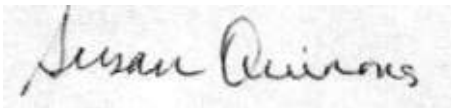
Sept. 10, 2007

To whom it may concern,

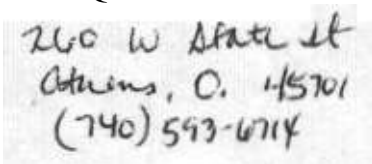
As a west side resident for over 15 years, I would like to voice my support for Good Works and the proposed expansion project to the next door property on Central Avenue. Good Works has demonstrated their commitment to the neighborhood through excellent maintenance of their existing property and friendly attitude over the years. I wholly support the expansion for a family shelter house and the sited reasons as better option for families that are assisted through the program. There are too many rental properties on the west side of Athens that are not well maintained and create an eye sore for the community. By Good Works being a responsible property owner, I see the expansion as being a positive move both for the organization and the city at large.

Please consider granting this request for expansion by Good Works in the interest of the west side community and those families in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Quinones".

Susan Quinones

Handwritten contact information including an address and a phone number.

260 W State St  
Athens, O. 45701  
(740) 593-6714



# *Tn-County Mental Health and Counseling Services, Inc.*

541 State Route 664 N, Suite C • P.O. Box 1145 Logan, Ohio 43138-1145  
(740) 385-6594 • FAX (740) 385-0852

September 7, 2007

Athens City Zoning Board of Appeals,  
Athens City Council Chambers  
8 East Washington Street  
Athens, Ohio 45701

Re: 93-95 Central Avenue to shelter homeless families To Whom It May Concern:

Please approve the zoning request by Good Works, Inc., to purchase the home next to their Timothy House Emergency Shelter on Central Ave. Housing advocates and policy planners across the country are just now beginning to recognize the issues related to rural poverty and how traditionally underserved rural homeless people have been. The economies of scale don't exist so every community can have their own shelter, staffing alone would deplete most charitable funds. Having one centrally located emergency shelter with a staff of trained professionals and volunteers, in collaboration with other social service agencies, is the first step for many to recovery.

Tni-County Community Mental Health & Counseling Services (TCMHCS) in Logan, Ohio, has worked with Good Works many times in the past to both shelter our referrals, and work collaboratively to re-settle individuals back into their communities of origin. Working together as part of a coalition of affordable housing advocates, we are preventing homelessness for some, while shortening the length of stay in shelters for others. Good Works offers restorative services and safety in one place and helps our agency maintain vital links with the person served staying there.

Good Works is not simply a place for people to get in from the cold. The staff there works on healing broken spirits, and reaffirms the dignity of everyone. It has been my privilege to work with the staff at Good Works to help people, who were homeless, establish homes of their own. Please grant them the zoning they request.

Martin Hammar, LSW  
ACPST Team Leader

Tom Odell, LISW  
Clinic Director Hocking County

## Athens Zoning Board of Appeals

Dear Sirs,

I am writing on behalf of Good Works, Inc. I have known Keith Wasserman for thirty years and his integrity is beyond reproach. I have watched the growth of Good Works since its inception. It is an organization that has had quite an impact on my family and I am a proud supporter of their ministry. I reside in the Columbus area but my extended family has lived in Athens and the surrounding communities for over 125 years. We care about what happens in this community.

Good Works reaches far beyond the boundaries of Athens, Ohio. Word of what they do and who they are is far reaching. I am unaware of any other organization that provides this type of service in the southern Ohio area. While other organizations rely heavily on telemarketers to generate revenue, Good Works relies on people telling people who tell other people about the needs of the homeless and how they can help financially. They educate others through newsletters, an education walk for the homeless and in personal presentations. They teach how homelessness can affect anyone, anytime, anywhere and help change our misplaced attitudes about homelessness. They inspire others to want to help provide solutions.

Good Works cares about how the community views them. Their properties are well groomed and they provide valuable services to the community and reflect Athens in a positive light. The transformation station should be the envy of other communities. It is recycling at its best. Gently used items are donated to Good Works, which in turn gives them to local residents in exchange for a designated number of hours worked for the ministry. Instead of a handout Good Works continues to foster hope while providing a valuable service to the community.

Good Works provides so much to Athens and the surrounding communities. First, they provide a physical place to stay for someone who is homeless. Then they feed them. Once their immediate needs are met they begin to offer employment and housing assistance. The most important thing they give is hope to the hopeless. If you lose hope then providing all the physical needs is for naught. Good Works is people caring for people. They provide temporary housing and transitional housing where families can begin to get back on their feet. There is a tremendous need for additional housing space not only to accommodate the number of people affected by homelessness but also to provide a more suitable environment for families who are making the transition out of homelessness. It is hard to imagine the emotional and psychological impact homelessness has on a family alone but being thrust into a more public environment such as the shelter at Good Works must add to the negative impact. There is a tremendous need for additional housing to meet these needs, which is why they are requesting the approval of the Central Avenue property.

I implore you to consider their request for the duplex on Central Avenue. Your decision will have a greater impact than you could imagine.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Theresa L. Thomas  
4240 Rensch Road  
Grove City, Ohio 43123  
614-738-8360  
love2crop.Theresa@gmail.com



## APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY

*Visiting Nurse Association,  
Hospice and Health Services, Inc.*

City of Athens Zoning Board  
City Hall  
Athens, OH 45701

RE: Good Works & Potential Purchase of Property

To Members of the Board:

Appalachian Community Visiting Nurse Association, Hospice and Health Services wishes to express its support of the purchase of a home located on Central Ave., next to the Timothy House, by Good Works, Inc. Our organization has been a friend to Good Works for the many years that both of our organizations have existed. Some of our staff and volunteers have been involved in working with Keith Wasserman and Good Works in helping the homeless, serving food at their dinners, participating in their annual fund-raising walk and sharing extra medical supplies, clothing and food that have been donated to us.

Over the years, our staff and volunteers have frequently visited the Timothy House and become familiar with the important work that Good Works provides in our community. The house appears to have been well-managed, its porch and surrounding areas always clean and well-kept, with no evidence of problems within the community about the type of support services Good Works provides.

Good Works has been a good neighbor and provides vital care to those who have suffered misfortune and lack food or lodging. Good Works offers emotional, physical and spiritual support to residents, often helping their clients find employment and more permanent housing. We support their purchase of another residence in order to help homeless families in our community. We hope you will give serious consideration to their request.

Sincerely,  
  
Milena Miller, Director of Development

  
Marnie Frey, CEO/President

cc Keith Wasserman, Good Works, Inc.