



## From the Executive Director...



BOB BEGGS

Joe Lisowski, Good Works Repair Supervisor is often heard to say, "I have the best job in the world. I get to tell people that we will repair their home at no cost to them."

Unlike many other volunteer-based home building or home repair organizations that require homeowners to take a mortgage, invest hours of sweat equity, or take training workshops to receive services, Good Works requires none of these. In addition, some home repair organizations will only fix the one item the homeowner initially called about, but Good Works performs a total home inspection and repairs everything needed to make the home warmer, safer, drier and more secure for the family. In this way, we exceed homeowner expectations with nothing required on their part other than to invite us into their home and into their lives.

### Why does Good Works renovate homes at no cost?

Our repair work is a metaphor. It is symbolic of the work that Jesus Christ does in our lives. God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8). His love is unconditional. We don't deserve it and there is nothing that we can do to earn it. Even more amazing is the fact that Jesus died on our behalf long before we were even born. It is the ultimate expression of love without condition and it is for everyone! Unconditional love doesn't come with any expectations or strings attached. It is present whether or not we succeed or fail and isn't attached to what we

do. Most people have never experienced unconditional love and that is why the Good Works experience is so refreshing.

When we experience God's love it compels us to share it with others. We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19). He loved us personally. He loved us first. Our love is a response to his grace. Our love is simply sharing with others what has been lavished upon us. His unconditional love sets us free to live according to God's plan for our lives. And, when we are aligned with God's plan, we find power to serve the poor without expectation and to see beyond the trappings of poverty to a better place. Good Works volunteers experience what it means to bring about the Kingdom of God here on earth. Those who have served for many years recognize this amazing reality and experience God's blessing flowing through them and into the families they serve. By serving unconditionally, they are released from being consumed with themselves and by becoming the hands and feet of Jesus they are immeasurably blessed.

### We serve unconditionally so that we can bring glory to God.

The home repair work we do is free, so that we can point people to God's free gift. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8). When we share unconditionally of our time, talent or treasure our impact goes well beyond a restored home. Like Joe, everyone associated with Good Works can honestly say, "We have the best job in the world...we point people to Jesus!"

Our mission is to transform lives by repairing homes for low-income families and share the hope found in Jesus Christ.

## Good Works 2017 Celebration Dinner...



Good Works hosted a "Celebration of Hope" at the beautiful Downingtown Country Club on March 22, 2017. Attendees included homeowners, friends and families who have been served by Good Works along with members of the staff, Board of Directors and workday volunteers. Music by Naomi and Joshua punctuated an evening that could only be described as "inspiring" as homeowners shared stories of how Good Works has changed their lives and increased their faith.



repairing homes and restoring hope

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Please visit our website and Facebook to keep current on all the good things happening at Good Works!  
[www.goodworksinc.org](http://www.goodworksinc.org)

## Before & After Photos for a Grateful Homeowner in Coatesville...



## Blessed to Be a Blessing...

God's timing is always best though it's not always the timing we have in mind. Jo-Ella Santori is our newest Ambassador and has a lifetime testimony of God working in her life. Since childhood, she suffered from multiple health problems that have limited her ability to work and serve the Lord; and then 7 years ago her beloved husband Kevin went home to Heaven. He is still the love of her life. Through it all, God had been her comfort and best friend, yet she wondered why God left her behind – widowed and without children. She felt like ½ of herself was gone. Then God showed her that she could have a new form of empathy that would minister to those in this same situation.

Jo-Ella applied to have Good Works help her with her home in 2014, but there was a 2-year waiting list at the time. In the many months that followed, she came to realize that for financial reasons, she couldn't stay in her home. The memories of



her husband and their lives together brought her to tears, every time she considered putting the little house up for sale.

It was not what she wanted to do, so Jo-Ella knew she had to "surrender the situation to the Lord" and then obediently began the process of cleaning out her beloved home, one drawer at a time. That very next month, she received a visit from Good Works that would change everything and give her a greater purpose than ever before. Her home was inspected and she was told that work would begin the very next month in November 2016! Now Jo-Ella could keep her home! She was elated but that was only the beginning of God's Redeeming Story of her new way of life on Earth!

On her very first Good Works workday, she met the Ambassador

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## Environmental Stewardship – Project Genesis...

Environmentalism has been a controversial topic shaped by science, politics, and naturalistic worldviews. But God reveals His glory to human beings through His creation (Romans 1:20) and He commands us to care for and protect it (Psalm 19:1-6). God also commands us to love our neighbors, yet one quarter of the planet's population lives in poverty and is extremely vulnerable to changes caused by drought or flooding, to the failure of agricultural crops or to rising sea levels. If we take caring for our global neighbors seriously, we need to consider the impact of our lifestyles on them.

Most of us possess the means and the opportunity to live in an environmentally responsible manner, but families living in poverty face a greater challenge than those with sufficient income to afford well-insulated homes with high efficiency heating and cooling systems and the opportunity to own and drive hybrid vehicles. So, what can a ministry like Good Works do in response to God's command to care for others and the world He has entrusted to us?

### Practical Environmental Responsibility.

There is no doubt that the repairs

Good Works makes to homes not only reduces energy costs for low-income homeowners, but also generate a positive impact on the environment. Insulation, new windows and doors, installing CFL bulbs and water saving plumbing fixtures all contribute to the win-win equation. But we can do more. An old furnace wastes about a quarter of the fuel it consumes by sending it up the chimney. On the contrary, high efficiency furnaces utilize over 95 percent of the fuel to heat the house, which is less wasted energy and fuel and better for our environment. An average house heated by oil can save around 2.5 tons of carbon dioxide emissions



annually when upgrading to a high efficiency furnace. Upgrading to an electric heat pump produces even greater benefit. However, keeping high efficiency heating and cooling

systems at peak efficiency requires annual maintenance which low-income families can scarcely afford. Our goal is to identify ways to install and maintain highly-efficient heating and cooling systems that reduce costs to our homeowners and reduce impact on our environment. In addition, we are closely monitoring renewable energy technologies and are seeking opportunities to offer homeowners green solutions as soon as practical.

This year, Good Works has partnered with Planet Green Recycling to raise funds for making homes more energy efficient by simply recycling e-waste through Good Works. E-Waste includes: used ink cartridges, videogames, cell phones, digital cameras, tablets, PDA's, iPods, iPads and other small electronics. You can help. When you recycle through Good Works, you generate income that we use to repair homes and restore hope. You can drop your e-waste off at any of the Good Works warehouses or at the Good Works office in Coatesville. Or, place some collection boxes in your workplace to multiply our efforts. Learn more about Project Genesis and recycling at: [www.goodworksinc.org/genesis](http://www.goodworksinc.org/genesis)

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

*Genesis 2:15*

## An Amazing Journey...



Grove United Methodist Church of West Chester is celebrating its one-year anniversary as a Good Works Partner Church and according to Work Crew Leader, Betty Traver, "It's been an amazing journey." Betty first became involved with Good Works years ago when she volunteered with her employer, SMS, for one of their "Days of Caring." Betty recalls her first workday as an "eye-opening experience" having never before come face to face with neighbors living in poverty. It moved her deeply. So much in fact, that after graduating from the United Way Leadership Chester County program in 2011, she pursued membership on the Good Works Board of Directors.

About that same time, Betty joined Grove United Methodist Church. In an effort to meet new people and learn more about the church, she joined its Church & Society Committee, which focuses on outreach missions to assist those in need in the local area. She began asking new friends from the church

to join her on Good Works workdays, and a team began to form as they committed to one workday per quarter. Betty appreciated that Good Works assigned her nascent team to an experienced work crew leader and technical team and the bond between them formed quickly. Before she knew it, the Grove Team was serving once a month and taking homes from start to finish.

Betty recalls the Grove Team coming to the aid of a homeowner whose mobile home had been crushed by a fallen tree during the Ice Storm of 2014. "It was a defining moment for our team when we completed and dedicated that home," she said. With their experience growing, the team adopted another home in Coatesville, and tech-savvy Greg Walters joined long-time volunteers, Dan Wiant, Penny Zimmerman, Linda Schneider, Carol and Mark Sitler and a growing number of dedicated volunteers. The Grove UMC team had reached critical mass. It was time to become a full-fledged Good Works Partner Church, and in March 2016, they completed the transformation into an independent work team under the leadership of church members. Betty assumed the role of Work Crew Leader and Greg the Technical Advisor. The team is supported by photographer, Laura Luther, and by their fabulous Lunch Coordinator, Denny Scheffler. Betty maintains that Grove UMC is

the best fed team in Good Works because "Denny provides a delicious, natural, heart healthy menu each workday including salads and fruit."

"The best part of being a Good Works Partner Church is getting to know the people we are serving. We love seeing the work get done, but



more importantly we enjoy building relationships, breaking down language barriers, working together, and having fun with the family," Betty concludes, "and as we serve, our own faith is tested and grows." The Grove UMC team serves every second Saturday in Coatesville and started repairing their third home as a Partner Church in March 2017.

***"The best part of being a Good Works Partner Church is getting to know the people we are serving."***

## Welcome Aboard Two New Good Works Board Members...

**Doug MacQueen** of West Chester is a Manager at UPS. He has served on Good Works workdays and is looking forward to being more involved on the Board of Directors and supporting development and fundraising activities.

**Paul Clough** of Berwyn is a successful real estate agent and an ordained pastor. A gifted leader with a heart for evangelism, Paul desires to help Good Works with networking, church relations, and fundraising.

## Blessed (continued from page 2)

assigned to her home. He explained his role was to minister, to encourage, pray for, and disciple her and the work crew. It was then, that Jo-Ella had light-bulbs going off in her head and heart, saying "I can do this"! From that moment, she felt a calling from the Lord to be a part of the Ambassador ministry. She was getting a blessing of a lifetime and felt as though this was how she was to help and continue the giving process. She said it was as if God chose her to do this role. Jo-Ella is a big prayer warrior and shares God's love wherever she goes, and now that ministry can expand through Good Works!

We have seen how the Lord's love exudes from her and her enthusiasm is contagious! This new role in her

life is impacting the lives of the crew that work on her home in ways they may not even know, as she is prayerfully interceding to the Lord on their behalf daily. They have said she is a great addition to the team in Phoenixville. This ministry has also changed Jo-Ella. Good Works is giving her a new purpose to be used by God despite her physical disabilities. Her strength is her Faith in God. She has seen Him work in the midst of her life and is now able to pass that along to others. Jo-Ella mentioned that the timing all makes sense now...it's the right time to be blessed and to be a blessing. Welcome to the team Jo-Ella. We are so glad God brought you to minister with us!

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## Good Works is a Game Changer...



Good Works was honored as a Game Changer in the African American Community at an exclusive event on February 22nd at the CBS Studios in Philadelphia, PA. Sponsored by KYW1069 Newsradio, the award recognizes individuals or organizations that have used their volunteer efforts and community influence to make a significant, positive change for people of color in the previous twelve months. Good Works was one of ten honorees selected from nearly four hundred nominees. Denise Jordan, Marcella McClain, Bob Beggs and Cheri Gregg of KYW Newsradio at the awards event on the Red Carpet (see photo on left).

### Win a Good Works ball cap!

What is the purpose of this tool? Respond at [www.goodworksinc.org/tool-contest](http://www.goodworksinc.org/tool-contest). Winner will be drawn from all correct answers received by June 1.



Please provide your email so that we can reduce our paper/postage costs and be better stewards of our resources.

Consider only receiving your end-of-year tax acknowledgment receipt listing your annual donations to Good Works by email. Please contact our office today ([office@goodworksinc.org](mailto:office@goodworksinc.org)) with your current email address. Thank You!

## Ways to Partner With Us...

To help you help us, we have some convenient options that can be used to send donations to Good Works through:

- Direct deposit from your credit card company or bank to Good Works
- Planned Estate Gift Giving
- Our Web site: [www.goodworksinc.org](http://www.goodworksinc.org)
- Donation of stocks

We continue to offer the following opportunities to give via:

- United Way of Chester County (simply designate to Good Works)
- United Way of Southeastern PA (code number 10255)
- Matching Funds at your place of business
- Amazonsmile.com

Please contact our office for further information (610 383 6311).

We take seriously the trust that our donors and supporters confer upon us and remain committed to using our resources in the most responsible manner to further the important work of this ministry.

The official registration and financial information of Good Works, Inc., may be obtained by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1 800 732 0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

### PARTNER SUPPORT

Some helpful information to keep in mind if you need the services of a good local business... try using a company that supports Good Works!

Go to the Good Works website [www.goodworksinc.org](http://www.goodworksinc.org) and look for companies under the "Partners" tab.

We thank God for your faithful support and know that "every good and perfect gift is from above."

JAMES 1:17