A Tale of Two Families...

Sue Ellen was 88 years old when her husband passed away, leaving her in a home that was in an advanced state of disrepair. She was forced to move in with her granddaughter Janice because the house was deemed unsafe for habitation. Not only were there major structural and system issues, but the home was very cluttered after 60 years. Accessibility had become a real challenge for Sue Ellen. Janice was renting, but both she and her grandmother hoped that someday they could move back into the old family home. Janice saw it as an opportunity to save some money and spend time caring for her grandmother. It was difficult for them to see the old home sit vacant but there was no way to afford the extensive repairs needed.

On the other side of the county, James and Darlene had their own issues. James had worked at the Power Station and Darlene at the local hospital. He became disabled and took an early retirement; she suffered a debilitating stroke from which she is still recovering. Now the couple live off their monthly Social Security checks. Their daughter and grandson share the small twin home where James and Darlene have lived for over fifty years. Although James had done his best to keep up with the maintenance, there were hidden structural issues. The bricks on the front and side of the home had begun bowing outward and stucco was falling to the pavement below. The Borough Building Inspector scrutinized the situation and advised that their home could collapse. They needed to immediately begin repairs or it would be condemned. As with Sue Ellen, there was no way this family could afford the extensive repairs.

Two families, from two different towns, were simultaneously facing very difficult decisions about their homes.

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A Legacy of Hope...

Good Works is celebrating its 30th anniversary so what better time to make a gift that ensures the future of Good Works life transforming mission beyond your lifetime.

Giving from your IRA

If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and are 70½ or older, you know you are required to take a minimum distribution from the IRA each year. What you may not know is that individuals may make charitable tax-free gifts directly from their IRAs rather than take a distribution that would be treated as income. That’s a win-win for you and for the charity you support! Just remember – a gift from an IRA must go directly from the account to the charity in order to be tax-free. So, please discuss it with your tax advisor if you are considering this type of donation.

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Most first time visitors to the Good Works office in Coatesville are impressed with “The Board.” The Board communicates at a glance all the homes in progress and completed by Good Works since the organization began in 1988. It consumes a full wall of the Application Coordinator’s office. Since 2015, Good Works has been expanding its ministry in the communities where the volunteers serve. The Ambassador ministry led by Outreach Coordinator, Deb Lego is growing both in volunteer numbers as well as its spiritual impact. Faith metrics continue to climb year over year. But the ultimate goal of the Ambassador ministry is to create opportunities for people to commit their lives to Jesus and to grow in their knowledge and reliance on Him.

The Bible tells us that heaven rejoices when even one person gets saved. (Luke 15:7). Our workday volunteers and Ambassadors create opportunities for the Holy Spirit to move in people’s lives and many are making a commitment to believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This decision eclipses a home completed and is worthy of recognition and celebration so a new Board has been added in the Good Works office. Every time the office receives word that a person has become a Christ follower as a result of a Good Works engagement, their name is added to the Board along with the date. Then we ring the bell to express our joy and to celebrate along with the heavenly hosts. Eighty seven names are listed as of today. Ring that bell!

Growing the Ranks of Volunteer Ambassador Directors...

Good Works is pleased to announce the addition of two new Ambassador Directors; Nancy Russell and Gladys Frame. Both of these ladies are a godly addition to our ministry and have already demonstrated leadership skills and their God given talents to help assist their respective teams. Nancy was praying for a ministry to use her gifts and was then approached by Good Works to be an Ambassador. God has used her heart for the truth of God’s Word, discipleship and her gifts of encouragement, faith and mercy to encourage her Coatesville 2nd Saturday team to give God their best each Saturday and every day.

When the Good Works Ambassador opportunity presented itself to Gladys she said her heart was drawn to the ministry. Being an Ambassador has enabled her to use her gifts of evangelism, teaching and administration. She draws upon her knowledge of the Bible and life lessons to minister to those she comes across each workday in Saint Peters Village.

AARP – Always Available, Resourceful & Professional...

They say a retired husband is a wife’s full time job. Maybe that’s why every Monday there are a dozen or so guys at the Good Works warehouse in Coatesville giving their wives a well-deserved break! The Good Works Monday team is nothing short of amazing. These talented and dedicated men, who regularly volunteer over 50 workdays a year, generate nearly 15% of our total annual volunteer hours.

“They bring a lot of skills,” says Joe Lisowski, Repair Supervisor, “and we couldn’t possibly assist 175 homeowners a year without them.” A real benefit of the Monday workdays is that unfinished projects from the Saturday workday can be completed by the Monday team, minimizing discomfort and dislocation for homeowners. Saturday volunteers can tear out and prep a kitchen because they know the retired guys will be there on Monday to install new cabinets, fixtures and appliances. These guys also pick up donated building supplies and appliances, and haul construction debris from worksites. They are always available, resourceful and professional (AARP).

We may call them the “retired guys” but you wouldn’t know it by their commitment to Good Works. This year, many of them worked multiple days a week to help our repair staff address the seemingly endless demand for services. Their sweat is evidence of their compassion for the families they serve. Many of them never imagined they would be spending their golden years working so hard. But they have a greater purpose knowing that God’s retirement plan is out of this world. To join the AARP team, contact Shanna at volunteer@goodworksinc.org
Welcome Bob...

Bob Bryan, Sr. Repair Technician joins the Good Works team

Bob Bryan is Good Works new Sr. Repair Technician. Bob’s first day of work in July was during Good Works annual Summer Work Camp. “I loved it,” Bob said, “Everyone was pulling the same direction and at the end of the week we were giving High 5’s.” Bob came to Good Works with extensive experience in the trades, and as a certified HVAC technician his skills were sorely needed. Heating and Air Conditioning issues are some of the most common repair calls Good Works receives. As a young man, Bob worked at repairing vending machines, where he honed his mechanical skills, then realizing that HVAC was an enduring need he enrolled at CHI Institute. After completing the program he went right to work in the field. Bob went from being a service man to Field Supervisor. Bob’s wife, Kim, and daughter, Emma Rose, know him as a great husband and father, in addition to the guy who can fix anything.

Bob was introduced to Good Works at his church, Bethlehem United Methodist, where he took on the role of Work Crew Leader several years ago. But, he never imagined working full time in a home repair ministry. Then, one day he received the job description via email. “Panic set in,” he described, “It was like the job was written for me.” He sat on the email for a time, thinking and praying about it. Then let his wife see it, thinking that would bring closure. Her response floored him. According to Kim, “I cried after reading the job description realizing that my husband had received a direct invitation from God to step into his ordained purpose.” She encouraged him to apply. He also spoke to several confidants at church who echoed his wife’s enthusiasm. So Bob took a big step of faith and joined the Good Works team. “It was hard telling my previous boss of the decision, but he understood.”

Bob Bryan, Sr. Repair Technician joins the Good Works team

“He fixes houses and talks to people about God.”
It doesn’t get any better than that!

A Tale of Two Families (cont’d from front cover)

Borough where they lived. Both prayed for solutions and both qualified for assistance – making 2018 the first time in Good Works 30-year history that the staff and volunteers took on two major rebuilding projects while committing to also serve 175 families. “These are extensive projects requiring engineering drawings and professional assistance,” said Joe Lisowski, Good Works Repair Supervisor. But, Joe felt compelled to help even though he realized the impact and time commitment of that decision.

Both homes became focal points for Corporate Workdays and Summer Work Camp teams this year. Both homes were adopted by Good Works Partner Churches and James and Darlene’s home required professional contractors who volunteered their time to oversee major structural repairs. Many of Good Works Monday retirees have served at these homes, week after week, and the progress has been nothing short of amazing. Although work is still underway, Joe forecasts that both homes will be complete before Christmas.

But, the story doesn’t end there. While Good Works staff and volunteers were busily reconstructing these homes, God was reconstructing lives through the Good Works Ambassador ministry. Janice was terribly frustrated one day and in the midst of her strife, she was introduced to Jesus. “God is so good,” she now declares and Janice is now sharing the Gospel with others. James and Darlene and everyone in the household accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior in a single day. Now both families, once suffering alone, are eternally connected and both share the hope and joy that surpasses understanding. It is the enduring story of Good Works. Repairing homes and restoring hope. To God be the Glory!

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Good Works Board of Directors

The Annual Meeting of Good Works Board of Directors was held on June 21, 2018. Betty Traver has returned to the Board assuming the role of President. Joining the Board anew is Marifrances Bolger, a Human Resources Risk & Compliance Lead at Vanguard. Completing their terms and retiring were Tom Anderson (past-Board President) and Maryanne Bishop (HR&A Committee Chair). Good Works thanks these generous men and women for their exemplary leadership and service.

We love hearing from you. Please provide feedback via the “Contact Us” page on our website, by email at: office@goodworksinc.org or by phone at 610.383.6311. We never share your information with any third party without your permission, so please keep us up to date if your email or mailing address changes.

A Legacy of Hope (cont’d from front cover)

Remembering Good Works in your Will

Are you building your legacy? Leaving behind a legacy that will benefit others after we are gone has a positive impact on those who give and those who receive. Many Good Works friends and supporters are choosing to increase the impact of their legacy by designating Good Works as a charitable beneficiary in their wills and retirement plans. And, modifying an existing will is much easier than people think. We are humbled and grateful when someone makes such a generous and long-term commitment to ensure that Good Works can continue to fulfill its mission of transforming lives by repairing homes for low-income families and sharing the hope found in Jesus Christ.

Using Life Insurance to Make a Charitable Donation

Donors who wish to increase their donations to Good Works can also use life insurance to accomplish their goal. Doing so provides the opportunity to leverage a relatively modest contribution of insurance premiums into a considerably larger donation.

By gifting a policy outright, or by naming Good Works as the beneficiary, a donor can make a substantial gift and create a lasting legacy for a cause they believe in. For more information on the use of life insurance as a gifting tool, consult your insurance agent or financial advisor.

To learn more about any of these legacy giving options, contact Larry Lukacs at: larry@goodworksinc.org