



A Cord of **Three Strands**...



God • Partners • Homeowners

Rope is one of the most useful inventions in the history of mankind. It is believed that prehistoric humans used vines, grasses and even leather to fashion short ropes, but it was the Egyptians in 3500 BC who determined that twisting fibers together and forming a small bundle made a rope stronger, more durable and efficient. Simply using one strand provided virtually no strength, two strands added more, but three strands twisted together in different directions called plaiting or braiding, proved to be much more than three times stronger than the single, original strand.

This braided cord of three strands is a metaphor for the organization of Good Works.

Good Works is comprised of three essential elements namely those who serve and partner with us, our homeowners, and Father God. The three are inextricably intertwined, like a cord of three strands. The Bible tells us in Ecclesiastes 4:12, that "a cord of three strands is not easily broken." It is a symbol that is both spiritually and physically meaningful. Let's take a deeper look at each strand.

The Partner strand is comprised of thousands of fibers representing our staff, volunteers, donors, suppliers, corporate and church partners. By sheer numbers alone, this is a strong strand. Each fiber, is a person or group of people who see Good Works mission as important to their community, and often their faith. Eyes and hearts are opened as people from different walks of life work together. We believe that everyone benefits when people from different

racess, cultures, and backgrounds join together in a common purpose – to repair homes and restore hope.

The Homeowner strand is comprised of men, women and children who are struggling with poverty. It is a strand intertwined with both strong and fragile fibers made up of people who have been touched by adversity, often due to circumstances that are outside of their control. It is a strand often maligned and marginalized by society. Yet it is extravagantly rich in diversity, personality and potential. Within the fibers of this strand we see lives transformed in miraculous ways.

The third strand is none other than the God of our universe. The Author and Creator of all things. This strand represents the character of God. A strand made up of Father, Son and Spirit. Its fibers include absolute holiness, perfect wisdom, irrefutable truth and unconditional love. It is eternal and unchanging. This strand is perfect and infinitely strong. It is the strand that binds the other two and is in fact the One that holds the entire universe together.

If that isn't amazing enough, consider how the braids wrap around each other. How the Partners and the Homeowners and God are in direct contact with each other, spiral after spiral, in a continuum that has existed for over thirty years. We rely on each other. We need each other. We are stronger when we pull together. Good Works is a ministry where everyone is welcome. It is a place where volunteers can help their neighbors and together build stronger communities.

It is a place where religion is trumped by relationship with God and with each other. It is a place where faith and works combine. It is truly a cord of three strands and Lord willing, it will never be broken.

"A cord of three stands is not easily broken."

Ecclesiastes 4:12



repairing homes and restoring hope

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) with your current email address. Thank You!

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Good Works is **Good for Business...**



HomeNet Auto Employee Workday

Partnering with Good Works drives business performance.

Leaders of successful companies understand that their business benefits from effective leadership, higher performing teams, a flawless reputation, a thriving local community and stable employees. But, few recognize that they can realize these benefits through partnership with Good Works. Good Works provides a unique environment for building teamwork and honing leadership skills. According to surveys, more

than 80% of professionals said they developed leadership skills as a result of their volunteer experience, and three in four think companies should use volunteering as a professional development tool.

Much has been written about the benefits of corporate volunteerism. 73% of employees wish their companies would do more to support a social or environmental cause or issue. Three out of four employees want to get involved with their company's cause-related efforts through company-sponsored days of service. 87% of employees who volunteered reported an improved perception of their employer and 82% felt more committed to their employer as a result. According to one corporate volunteer: "There is nothing more gratifying than getting out of the office and investing a hard day's work helping a neighbor who is struggling in poverty."

A reality often overlooked is that employees earning a minimum wage are often living at or below the federal poverty level. For those employees and their families, Good Works can be a life line. Strong homes contribute to stable employees, so a commitment to Good Works is a commitment to low wage employees.

Corporate citizenship is one of the top drivers of reputation. Corporate service can build brand awareness, trust, and loyalty among customers. Over 145 successful companies already maintain some kind of relationship with Good Works. These relationships span the gamut from regularly scheduled employee community service days, special projects, material donations, event sponsorship, and financial support.

If your company is ready to experience a new level of success, contact Larry (larry@goodworksinc.org) to learn more.

Give me **your Garbage!...**

"Recycling e-waste is win-win-win."
Frank Stearns

At the invitation of a friend, Frank Stearns participated in his first Good Works workday back in 2016. Unfortunately, he wasn't physically able to perform the repairs due to chronic health problems and fatigue resulting from a difficult battle with Lyme disease in 2014. Frank retired in 2018 after 35 years of clinical research in the biopharmaceutical industry and was looking for another way to make a positive social impact.

When Good Works launched its Genesis Project aimed at being a good environmental steward, Frank reengaged. "Recycling e-waste is win-win-win," says Frank, "It is good for the environment, for Good Works and for me." E-Waste includes used Inkjet cartridges, videogames, cell phones, tablets and

other small electronics. Frank set up a collection bin at his church and from time to time he is offered the opportunity to tell the congregation about his project. "Give me your garbage!" he shares from the pulpit. Every other month, Frank brings his collection of e-waste to Good Works for processing.

Good Works has partnered with Planet Green Recycling (www.planetgreenrecycle.com) to raise funds for making the homes of low-income families more energy efficient. "It is a great way to raise money for a good cause," says Frank "and so easy for people to do."

If you want to join Frank, visit Good Works Genesis Project Recycling webpage at: www.goodworksinc.org/recycle.



Frank Stearns

The Real World Classroom...

This year we had the unique opportunity to have a student from the Technical College High School (TCHS) shadow our Sr. Repair Technician, Bob Bryan. As a Junior, Caleb Rickards is focusing his efforts to acquire skills in the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) trade. Caleb learned about Good Works on the recommendation of his Skills Advisor and the TCHS Assistant Principal, who are both Good Works volunteers. "It's a unique opportunity to just help people for free with whatever needs to be done," Caleb shared. He appreciates how Bob treats each Good Works homeowner with the same respect he would a paying customer. The variety of tasks and the opportunity to learn things in the field that cannot be simulated in

the classroom make this partnership valuable to Caleb. When TCHS Assistant Principal Dave Purdy asked Caleb about the experience, it was "smiles, thumbs up, great!" That's the reaction Dave would like to see from all his students. "One of our goals is to find opportunities like Good Works for any student interested in gaining practical experience in the trades," Dave explained, "but it is a challenge finding openings and arranging transportation." Bob Bryan is also thrilled that someone Caleb's age wants to get into this kind of work, and is already thinking about his future. "This venture has been a positive addition to my work week," exclaimed Bob, "I look forward to more opportunities to work with students in the future."



Caleb and Bob working on a furnace

Experiential learning is the **future of learning.**

Turning a mess into a message...



Good Works Ambassadors provide messages of hope to homeowners.

Good Works is made up of two equal parts: home repair and restoring hope. Barring any surprises, the issues on the home repair side are easier to identify and rectify. The relational and spiritual side takes more time to get through the many layers of human complexity. Yet, week after week and month after month, God in His unique way orchestrates divine appointments. In the tapestry of His grace, God has matched the right Ambassador with the right heart to be ministered to. More times than not, that Ambassador has wrestled with, persevered and overcome the

very same issues. Consider Renee who never thought the devastating loss of her child would be an encouragement to her homeowner. But through sharing her pain, both women found comfort and healing. Or, Neil who struggled to overcome addiction and now has the opportunity to use what he learned to mentor a volunteer who needed someone to walk alongside to get him back on track. Coincidence? There are no coincidences with God. Our Ambassadors know that once rescued, God doesn't leave them there. He restores and molds us to be more like Himself. We are then compelled by His saving grace to encourage others with the same encouragement we receive from God. (II Cor. 1:3-4). We all have our own story of being rescued and redeemed by God that gives us the opportunity to effectively reach into the lives of others and shed light in the darkness. Fortunately there isn't a pain that God can't heal.

A relationship He can't mend. Nor a struggle that God doesn't have the power to help overcome. Reaching into someone's life is messy, but it is what we are called to do in Galatians 6:2. Only God can turn a mess into a message and bring hope and a future for all of creation. It is a privilege that God uses us to play a small part in restoring hope in every life we touch through Good Works.

God in **His unique way** orchestrates divine appointments

Chester County Home Show...



Shanna Cornuet, Volunteer Coordinator explaining Good Works to a Home Show patron.

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Good Works Celebration Dinner



Dinner guests enjoying food, fellowship and fun.

Good Works hosted its annual Celebration Dinner at the beautiful Downingtown Country Club on March 10, 2019. Attendees included homeowners, friends and families who have been served by Good Works along with members of the staff, Board of Directors, donors and workday volunteers. The event theme "A cord of three strands" featured inspiring testimonies and stories by volunteers and homeowners of how Good Works has changed their lives and increased their faith.

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.

Win a Good Works ball cap!

What is the purpose of this tool?

Respond at www.goodworksinc.org/tool-contest. Winner will be drawn from all correct answers received by May 1, 2019.

Our Fall 2018 Issue winner was Greg Carlin of Parkesburg, PA who correctly identified the vintage Cabinet Scraper.



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
- Planned Estate Gift Giving
- Our Web site: 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 Larry Lukacs at (610) 383-7240 for additional information.

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 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