



From the Executive Director...



BOB BEGGS

A Pearl of Great Value

A natural pearl begins its life inside an oyster's shell when an intruder, such as a grain of sand or a parasite, slips in between one of the two shells and the protective layer that covers the mollusk's organs, called the mantle. In order to protect itself from irritation, the oyster employs a defense mechanism. It begins covering the uninvited visitor with layers of nacre, the mineral substance that fashions the mollusk's shells. Layer upon layer of nacre, also known as mother-of-pearl coats the grain of sand until an iridescent gem is formed.

Poverty is an intruder that too often slips into a person's life and into their home as a result of a job loss, the death of a spouse, an accident, an illness, an addiction, a bad financial decision or some other unplanned event that launches a downward spiral. Without a defense mechanism, like that of the oyster, what starts as an irritation can turn into a wound that festers over the years, crippling its victims even into future generations. As time goes on, the effects of poverty become deeper and more complex and like the oyster, there isn't a simple solution like just ejecting the irritant. It takes time



and effort to recover. For an oyster, it can take between 6-24 months to transform the irritant into a pearl.

For families living in poverty, Good Works is a vital part of their defense system. Instead of nacre, Good Works volunteers use construction tools and the Holy Scriptures. Repair projects completed each workday build upon prior work. Relational and spiritual layers are introduced by our Ambassadors in parallel with the home repair layers. Slowly but surely, the home and its residents are transformed. Coincidentally, it takes between 6 and 24 months to complete all the work and the results are no less spectacular than the finest of pearls.

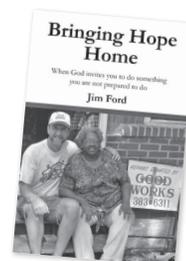
Since 1988, this has been the mission of Good Works – transforming lives – home by home – family by family. The pearl is the official traditional gift of the 30th anniversary. Pearls symbolize wisdom acquired through experience. The pearl is truly a perfect metaphor for the ministry of Good Works. Every home completed represents a layer. Every family assisted is a layer. Every volunteer's contribution of time and effort is a layer. Every donor's financial contribution is a layer. And the result is a stunning pearl of great value to the Kingdom of God. Thank you for your involvement in this ministry and for being part of the continuing advancement of Good Works.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

Matthew 13:44

Good Works Founder publishes *"Bringing Hope Home"*...

Founder, Jim Ford has not been resting on his laurels since retiring from Good Works. Jim has been keeping busy consulting with local non-profits and authoring his first book, *"Bringing Hope Home."* The writing chronicles the formation and first 26 years of this successful ministry that repairs homes for low-income families and shares the hope found in Jesus Christ. It is a story of ordinary people called by God to do extraordinary things and in the process forever change the lives of families struggling to break free of poverty. You can purchase your own copy of *Bringing Hope Home* at www.goodworksinc.org/book. All proceeds benefit Good Works.



repairing homes and restoring hope

CONTRIBUTORS
BOB BEGGS
DEB LEGO
PHOTOGRAPHERS
KURT BRENNER
MARY DAMIAN
FRED HERSHEY
BILL SHIRLEY
STEVE YOST

Remaining **Mission True...**



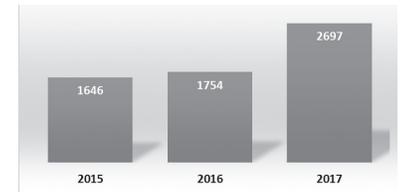
(L-R) Bob Beggs, Executive Director; Doug Thompson, Director & Faith Committee Chairman; Betty Traver, Incoming Board President; and Deb Lego, Outreach Coordinator.

Several members of Good Works staff and Board of Directors participated in the “Mission True” workshop sponsored by the C12 Group and facilitated by Hope Int’l. According to Peter Greer, President of Hope Int’l and author of *Mission Drift*, “In its simplest form, Mission True organizations know why they exist and protect their core at all costs. They remain

faithful to what they believe God has entrusted them to do. They define what is immutable: their values and purposes, their DNA, their heart and soul.” The Mission True workshop focused on defining strategies to protect and champion Good Works mission. Recognizing that Good Works is preparing for replication beyond Chester County, it becomes imperative that the ministry has mission clarity, policies to protect it and procedures to verify compliance across its future family of affiliates. “We have been given the responsibility to protect and share the mission of Good Works,” says Bob Beggs “and this workshop provided tools to do just that.”

Good Works Mission:
Transforming lives by repairing homes for low-income families and sharing the hope found in Jesus Christ.

Advancing **the Kingdom...**



Annual growth of Faith Touches

The full impact Good Works has had on the lives we have touched will not be realized this side of heaven. We are ok with that, but we do want to remain mission true and make sure we are being effective in our ministry. Our Faith Metrics are a helpful tool Ambassadors use to report on the Faith Touches they have had during their Workday. Looking back, 2017 was a year of incredible spiritual growth as a result of hearts yielded to be used by God and targeted trainings such as our Share Jesus Without Fear evangelism training course and Ambassador Workshops. A couple of highlights: Last year we had the privilege to share the Gospel with twice as many people than we did the year before. We were also blessed to have the opportunity to triple the number of individuals who were disciplined than those in 2016. This is not something we could do on our own. It is the Holy Spirit guiding us each Workday. To God be the glory for great things HE has done! If you are interested in joining our team to further the Kingdom please contact Deb at: outreach@goodworksinc.org

Good Works Partners with **RightNow Media...**

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Imagine the impact of Good Works being able to offer 24/7 access to 18,000 Bible Study videos from many of the best Christian speakers and teachers, such as Francis Chan, David Platt, Nancy Leigh Demoss, Dave Ramsey, Joni Eareckson Tada, JD Greear, and hundreds more. Imagine a channel where parents can provide access to an enormous library of entertaining and educational Bible-based content just for kids, like VeggieTales, What’s in the Bible?, 3-2-1 Penguins, and many more. Imagine being given the ability to participate in training courses taken from national and international Christian conferences from

the comfort of your home or anywhere else you have internet access. RightNow Media is just like a Christian version of Netflix and now Good Works has an exclusive agreement to provide free access to our homeowners, their neighbors, our volunteers, suppliers, donors and friends. Enabled by a grant from Calvary Fellowship Church, Good Works will make access to RightNow Media the spearhead for ministry into the homes and communities where Good Works serves. “This gives our Ambassadors a powerful resource for sharing the good news with everyone they meet on a workday,” says Deb Lego, Good Works Outreach Coordinator. “It is another creative way for Good Works to bring Hope to everyone in our mission field.”

If you are reading this newsletter, you have the opportunity to receive a FREE subscription to RightNow Media. Subscribe now at: www.goodworksinc.org/rightnow

Will you help fund critical equipment!

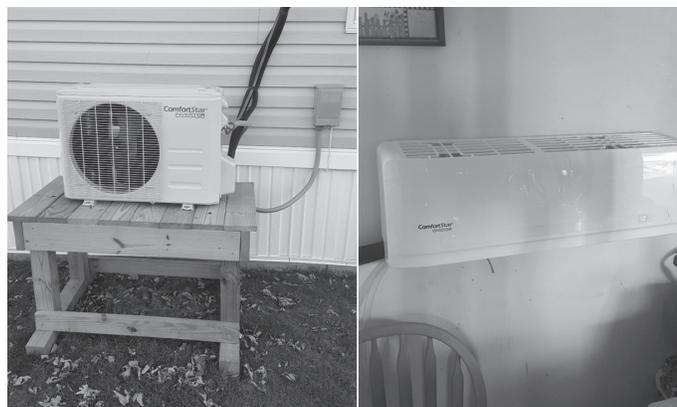


www.goodworksinc.org/lift
www.goodworksinc.org/truck

Project Genesis Update... Practical environmental stewardship

In 2017, Good Works launched the Genesis Project, a multi-year initiative to explore current and emerging technologies that contribute to environmental stewardship. Based from recommendations of a study performed by Vanguard for Good Works, we have been evaluating fuel efficient, alternative heating and cooling systems for our homeowners. Oil and propane are common fuel sources for heating homes in Chester County, but the cost to refill the tanks are often well beyond the budgets of the families Good Works serves. Fossil fuel based systems are not only costly to operate and maintain, they aren't good for the environment.

Instead of replacing old, inefficient oil burners with another oil-fired unit, Good Works is experimenting with next generation high-efficiency heat pumps. This year, our technicians installed a ductless mini-split system in a mobile home as a test to collect homeowner feedback on the unit's efficiency as well as comfort in both warm and cold weather. After six months, the results are looking very positive. "I am thrilled with the new system" said Barbara, "it is so quiet and saves me over \$30 a month on my electric bill." Good Works technicians have attended professional training on the new systems and are pursuing certifications to further reduce installation costs.



Heat pump installation at Barbara's home.

If environmental stewardship is important to you, check out the Good Works Genesis Project at www.goodworksinc.org/genesis

"It saves me over \$30 per month on my electric bill."

Barbara, Homeowner

Hope on a Mission...



Construction dust doesn't stop Ambassador Kathy from her calling.

Restoring hope isn't just our mission, it's a calling. We are thankful that individuals ask us to help make their homes warmer, safer and drier. It is a privilege to step into their lives and share the hope that can only be found in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For our Ambassadors that opportunity is a high calling that is taken seriously.

Ambassador Kathy Reitz and the team from Saint Elizabeth's are a

well-seasoned crew but they were not prepared for the home they were tasked with. According to Kathy, "it was beyond horrible, the worst I have ever seen." The condition of the home was an indicator of the pain and brokenness of the family who lived inside. Kathy saw the spiritual and emotional needs and asked for prayer to get beyond the odors, clutter, and mess so she could effectively reach this hurting family for the Lord. She described her efforts as baby steps – slowly building a foundation of trust that enabled the family to let down the walls they had built up to allow her the opportunity to share God's love. Because Kathy didn't give up, the family members started to feel comfortable – comfortable enough to leave their rooms and life giving relationships started to develop. Kathy used that open door to speak life into their lives. God was glorified. Seeds were planted and hope was restored.

Reflecting about her time with this family Kathy said that this home was both "very rewarding and challenging." It stretched her and grew her faith in God. Once their home was dedicated some of the family members said that this experience was the "first time people from a church have not looked down on us. They helped us to see God in a loving way and that will stick with us our whole lives." Hearts and lives were changed because someone was committed to being Jesus' hands and feet no matter the conditions. As Matthew 25:40 says "The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Being an Ambassador is a calling. It provides the opportunity for individuals who love and see people as Jesus sees them to be used and to watch God work. It doesn't get much better than that!

"This was the first time people from a church have not looked down on us. They helped us to see God in a loving way and that will stick with us our whole lives."

Good Works Homeowner

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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P.O. Box 1441, Coatesville, PA 19320
 610 383 6311

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Good Works Newest Board Members



Steve Harris is a Vice President at SAP and a marathon runner who is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and get actively involved in the mission of Good Works. He is ready to go the distance. Steve will initially serve on the Governance Committee.



Matthew Redding is an attorney at Fox Rothschild LLP in Exton, PA. Matt began volunteering with Good Works in 2014 and was seeking a more strategic role aligned with his professional skills and abilities. He brings a wealth of legal and business talent and will initially serve on the Replication Committee.

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 modern tool?

Hint: We use a version of it at Good Works. Respond at www.goodworksinc.org/tool-contest. Winner will be drawn from all correct answers received by June 1.



We had no winners from our Fall 2017 Newsletter contest. The tool shown was a Timber Scribe used during the heyday of timber framing, when builders would use the tool to number beam ends for layout purposes.

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
- 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