

FaithWorks Presentation (Dec 2017)

- The FaithWorks presenters throughout their presentation focused on the theme of “the work we do is God’s work and we need to surrender it to Him. When we try to make it ours it becomes overwhelming.” This falls in line with our own guidance within Christian Service that we always ask the Lord for guidance in deciding what we do and how we do it.
- God wants 2 things – relationship with Him, and a relationship with each other. When providing service, FaithWorks focus on both “being a humble, leader, servant”
- Not only bless the people we are serving, but receive blessings through our own interaction
- FaithWorks began with a 10 week study – Truth Study – has since become a 501c and became a larger group. It was started in 2009 to serve widows and children in our area.
- Most works are small home-improvement projects – Examples: wheelchair ramps, roof improvements, plumbing repairs, cleaning/fixing gutters, furnace repair, water heater repair, repair doors that won’t close
- Occasionally larger projects – currently working on making a mobile home handicap acceptable
- FaithWorks usually does many small projects in the year and select a single large one.
- Work is accomplished through a variety of churches, have worked through Kensington, Woodside, St. Andrews. Volunteers and recipients are not all religiously affiliated.
- Project requests can come through the web site, area churches, OPC and Neighborhood House. Some vet the families for the projects. Other projects are vetted by Faithworks. OPC gets many people just at or below poverty line that get forwarded to Faithworks.
- Evolved out of Kensington church. No longer exclusively Kensington.
- The problems of the families served frequently go deeper than the simple home improvement projects. Often loneliness of the people is a major issue.
- FaithWorks partners with many organizations in connections such as Rochester Neighborhood house.
- Most services are provided in Oakland County
- Group has grown to over 100 men and women. Some now construction-minded, some organizational, accounting, legal, etc.
- Not an emergency service – work through a list of people needing help every week (15-30 per list)
- Monday morning meetings Monday 7:00 Paul’s restaurant. If there is a holiday on Monday, they meet on Tuesday. Usually about 15-20 there. Some work every day, some only occasionally. The meeting begin with introductions, faith lesson, prayer. Then the full list of projects is addressed.
- Projects can be seen on-line as well. You can come to engage in a project you are interested in.
- Have not at this point pursued grant money, but as a 501c have received larger donations since people can now justifiably claim the donation.
- 100% volunteers, 100% of gifts go directly into the people/projects that are being served
- Sometimes OPC through grant money pays for material while Faithworks provides the labor.
- Sometimes also help people get fair bids for work for people that have the means but not the confidence to find/pay for service (frequently the elderly)
- Have partners in the city of Detroit that they will work with
- Work with Rochester College young people as well. They get credits for working with local non-profits.
- Have partnered with Ywam – Youth with a mission, Detroit. Young people from Australia (core team), coming from all over the world to serve in the metro-Detroit area, assist Faithworks with their projects.
- faithworksmichigan.com is the web site
- have an Amazon account – go through Faithworks site and 4% is donated to Faithworks