



SUPPORT
SHELTER
HOPE

December 15, 2016

Operation Nightwatch
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Dear Friends,

I have a confession to make.

Christmas and the holidays can make me sort of grumpy. How about you?

There never seems to be enough time to do everything that I want to do. There are long lines at the grocery store and the post office. And the traffic! Ugh. But somehow, the Spirit crashes into me – and the joy of Christmas overwhelms anew. This year is no different. Here's how it went down, in early December:

We had a crazy week.

A pipe broke in the building where our office is located. There was no water and no power. We had to hand-write 140 shelter tickets. Then, there was no volunteer to pick up the burgers from Dick's Drive-Ins. The janitor didn't show up, so the Nightwatch crew – including the Executive Director -- had to pick up the slack, dumping garbage, recycling cardboard, whatever. Then the refrigerator quit. All of this happened in just a few days! On top of this, Nightwatch has to make budget in the next two weeks.

Then God reminded me. "I'm with Nightwatch, in times of trouble." And it's true. With God's help, we've survived tough times, providing food, shelter, housing and hope.

Suddenly, I sensed a great calm descending. **God is with us. Immanuel.** That realization took all my grumpiness away, replaced by joy. God is with us. That's the message of Christmas!

So what brings you joy this Christmas?

Think about Westlake Center, in downtown Seattle. This time of year, shoppers and tourists and horse-drawn carriages are all over the place. But late at night, homeless people roll up in blankets and create makeshift cardboard shelters right outside of Macy's.





Last year, street minister Ben encountered Marcus right there. Stories were shared, along with peanut butter sandwiches. In the year since, Marcus has gotten into an apartment. But he stays in contact with Ben. And recently he asked to walk around with him, to “pay it forward.” Here’s what Ben says: “It was powerful to walk up to the spot in the

doorway where we had first met, and reflect together on just how far Marcus had come.”

Your support creates hope for homeless people.

In the middle of the crises, God is with us – with all of us. Our hope and our prayer is that you also will be with us as we bring food, shelter, housing and hope for homeless people.

Can we count on you? May you be overwhelmed with joy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Reynolds". The script is fluid and cursive.

Rev. Rick Reynolds
Executive Director

Merry Christmas!
from all of us
at Nightwatch

The next newsletter will contain your memorial and tribute donations. God bless you all!