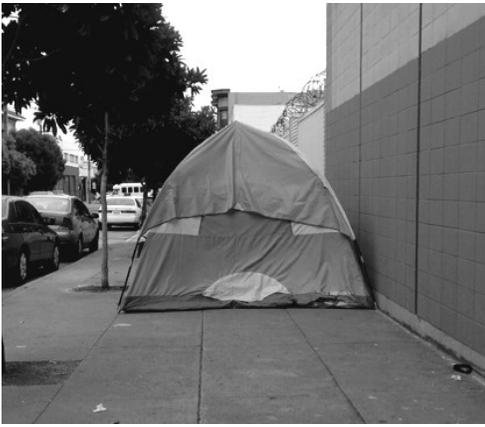


Nightwatch News

October, 2020

Five thousand five hundred twenty-three

By Rick Reynolds, Executive Director



We counted over 11,000 homeless people last January in King County. Of these, 5,523 people had no place to go at night. Shelters are full. Even the organized tent cities are crowded.

Since COVID-19 hit, the shelters have been required to “spread out.” In the Nightwatch shelters, our guys were too close together to satisfy Public Health. Now we have 21 sleepers in the same space which served 50.

Now we can add smoke to the crisis. People sleeping in tents or vehicles are being told to “stay indoors.” One homeless friend who suffers from an array of health conditions asked me: “Where can I go?” She lives in her van. I had no easy answer.

There is a question that jumps out at me from the last verse of the book of Jonah.

God asks, “Should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh?” This was the capital city of Israel’s biggest political enemy. If God is concerned about the humans – and animals – in such a place as Nineveh, it means God is concerned about our city too.

Will we turn away? Or will we love our neighbors? This is the critical question of these challenging times.

Grant us strength, O Lord, to care for those you love. ●

Keep on keeping on

By Tonette Winston,
Dispatch Center Manager

By now I thought we’d be writing about life, post pandemic. No such luck.

Here we are. Other services are cut, protective equipment is still scarce, other feeding programs are limited or closed.

Somehow, Nightwatch keeps going. We continue to serve our homeless friends to the best of our ability. We’ve added shelter space for 10 men to make up some of our losses. We keep on feeding people. And everyone is getting monthly COVID tests onsite.

But how can we bring comfort to the anxious ones? The weather is changing. I see fear and confusion in the eyes of many of our clients. Though most our homeless friends have managed to stay COVID-free, I can see the hope and optimism wearing thin.

Soul singer Curtis Mayfield sang:

**And there's still a lot of faith and warmth and trust
When we keep on keeping on**

In talking with clients, I begin to fully understand how our presence resonates in their spirit. We need to remain optimistic, and guide them through. This is no time to lose faith. Life may never return to normal, but it will improve, in God’s time.

Your support and prayers keep hope alive for our homeless friends. **Thank you. ●**



NIGHTWATCH

**Serving the night
community in the
name of Christ**

Lunch In with Nightwatch

**Wednesday, October 21
Noon–1:00**

We’re streaming this live. Make yourself a PB&J, get comfy, and tune in!

More details & registration:
seattlenightwatch.org/pbj

SOCK IT TO HOMELESSNESS

Sock Drive-Up Drop-Off

Sunday, November 15
12:30–2:00 pm

302 14th Ave S, Seattle

More details:
seattlenightwatch.org/sock-it

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Dorothy Clement
Norm & Melinda Lobb
Craig Davis
Bruce Davis
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Fred & Lois Eggiman
Sally & John Glancy
Morrie Ensey
Sally & John Glancy
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
Mal & Effie Higgins
Linda Martin

Harry Horman
Bob Porter
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Art Liddle
Sheila Liddle
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Norm & Melinda Lobb
Dick Mastenbrook
Bob Porter
Barbara McGlothern
Elizabeth Hansen
Daisy Neves
The Neves Family
Lloyd Nolte
Sally & John Glancy
Bud Palmberg
Jeunai Dotson

Frederick Shults
Gloria Shults
Phil Smith
Les & Carol Nelson
Dick Spady
Janette Schaueremann
Mary Speltz
Greg Speltz
Robert "Mugs" Tracy
Eileen Anderson
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok
& Cindy Monsen
Glenn & Shirley Weed
Cynthia & Jim Weaver
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus

Tributes

To all my family
Janice Creason
All firefighters
George & Carolyn Rippee
All volunteers
Art & Ruby Meyer
Nightwatch volunteers
Joy Lauderbaugh

Basic

By Ann Sakaguchi,
Deputy Director

A young homeless man called us because he needed a stable place to stay after he had surgery. We wanted to help, we tried to help, but this was a case where his need could not be met by Nightwatch.

We never heard back about how things worked out for him.

Many homeless people have chronic and persistent health problems. Our street ministers run into people sleeping in tents with their walker parked by the opening flap. We've seen people receiving cancer treatments who had no options for shelter, sleeping on cardboard in doorways of a downtown business.

It's not uncommon for one of our Nightwatch friends to be in the hospital for a few nights. We miss them, then they come back to us and go to a shelter. This is all we can do for them to promote healing and recovery, along with a healthy meal.

I've just spent three days/nights in the hospital myself. I received great care, but I couldn't wait to get out of that hospital bed and sleep in my own home. I wonder how I would have felt if I didn't have a home. I can't imagine what that must be like.

Not having a stable place to call home: this is a problem. This is not about a pandemic. Or about the collapse of an economy. And this is not about wildfires, nor about healthcare issues. **This is basic: we need more affordable housing so everyone can have a home.**

In the meantime, basic overnight shelter is still sorely needed. It's the least we can do as a community, and we must do better. Nightwatch works hard to provide the basics: Food, shelter, housing and hope.

Could you help us? Please give! ●



Shopping List

Please help by collecting these items for us to distribute to our homeless friends and tenants (travel sizes are preferred):

- Bottled water (16 oz.)
- Juice (single-sized)
- Protein bars
- Chewy granola bars
- Cereal bars
- Fruit snacks
- Fruit cups
- Trail/nut mix (individual pack)
- Cheese-n-cracker snacks (individually wrapped)
- Beef jerky sticks
- Wrapped candy
- Cookies and pastries (individually bagged)
- Whole individual fruit (apples, oranges, bananas)
- Large jars of jelly and jam

For more information about these items please contact:
info@seattlenightwatch.org

Amazon Wish List:

Ship donations to our door!
<https://amzn.to/2NwV2JG>

And if you shop through Amazon Smile, Nightwatch receives .5% of the price!
Go to smile.amazon.com

Shelter Dispatch Center & Senior Apartments

302 14th Ave. S
Seattle, WA 98144

Contact us:
PO Box 21181
Seattle, WA 98111

206-323-4359 Administration
206-860-4296 Senior Housing
206-329-2099 Shelter Dispatch

Info@seattlenightwatch.org
www.seattlenightwatch.org