

Nightwatch News

May, 2021

A little help

By Rev. Rick Reynolds, Executive Director



Every week we visit a north-end homeless camp, with the provision of Shoreline Little Caesar's pizzas. We buy seven, and they give us a few extras when they can. I worry sometimes that all the food options in the camp will make the pizzas superfluous, but I'm told the homeless campers have never thrown any pizza away, ever. And I believe it.

I look in the food tent every time we drop off, just to see what sort of things they have in abundance.

There is never a shortage of stale donuts and sheet cakes. Bread of every type is piled up in banana boxes and on the shelves. Sometimes there are left-over-left-overs from a church dinner. And, of course, the residents buy food for themselves daily.

Much of that food requires refrigeration, and freezing is a bonus. So the campers were thrilled to be given a giant two-door freezer. We got to camp just as it was being unloaded. It was eased down from a trailer by 5 big guys using two-by-fours, then hoisted onto the plywood platform, under the corner of the tarp that shelters the "kitchen." Picture me in my clerical collar, putting my hands on the side of the freezer as it wobbled and rocked back and forth into its new homeless home. To say that I helped is laughable. But it got me thinking.

We can work together to steady a few human beings along the way. Our help may seem so inconsequential that it is laughable to even say we helped. But some people are teetering like that freezer, and maybe all they need is just a steadying hand from you and me, to keep from falling into despair or worse. Maybe you've been there yourself. For the love of God, let us do something. Even the smallest act of kindness will not be forgotten.

Lord help us to leave aside our grandiose day dreams and put our hand to the simplest act of kindness each day. ●

Comfort zone

By Tonette Winston,
Dispatch Center Manager

This year has forced all of us out of our comfort zones, including our homeless friends. Yes, even homeless people have comfort zones. Along with the Nightwatch staff and volunteers, homeless people have had uncertainty piled upon uncertainty.

Shelters have closed. Sit down meals with friends can't happen. The library and day programs are closed. Despite this, good things have happened.

Now there is a new comfort zone. Nightwatch has been able to offer hotel rooms. And we added Julia's Place shelter at Madrona Grace Presbyterian. This means homeless people can sleep without interruption or fear. As a result, some have gotten into housing. Others have shown up for appointments they might have missed in the past. Some have found work. And a surprising number have secured their vaccination.

Sometimes we have to leave our comfort zone, in order for growth and change to happen. **Thank you for getting out of your comfort zone for Operation Nightwatch!** We are in this together. ●



NIGHTWATCH

Serving the night
community in the
name of Christ



GiveBIG 2021

May 4th and 5th

Help keep homeless
people safe this spring!

[www.givebigwa.org/
operation-nightwatch](http://www.givebigwa.org/operation-nightwatch)

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Charley Bush
Gail & Jay Winberg
Donald Davidson
Lola Davidson
Craig Davis
Bruce Davis
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Don
Christine Hanson
Dick Erickson
Peggy McClintock
Woodland Park Presbyterian
Keith & Kay Forbes
George & Carolyn Rippee
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
Sharon Green
Pat & Ron Cygan
Mal & Effie Higgins
Linda Martin
Jon Ihde
LaVonna Ihde
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan

David Johnson
Gary Baker
Dean & Hattie Kimble
Katherine Smith
Richard Lamb
Luke Larson
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Harley & Mercedes Lolley
Vern & Marilyn Lolley
Donald Mayo
Chriselda &
Christopher Calderon
Elmer Molzahn
Sherianne Caldwell
Daisy Neves
The Neves Family
Bud Palmberg
Chrisi & Michael Dotson
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Larry Prall
Russel Poppe
Leroy Poppe
Stephen Poppe
Otto Pribnow
Lynn Schnoor
Janice Smeal
Norm Riggins
Maureen Wells-Henderson

Jennifer Russell
Bob Porter
Greg & Mary Speltz
Barbara Anderson
& John Preston
Jack & Sheila Giesler
Lisa Marie Styer
Pat & Gene Styer
Clio Thomas
Mike & Sandy Birdsall
Henry Jordan
George & Carolyn Rippee
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Robert "Mugs" Tracy
Eileen Anderson
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok
& Cindy Monsen
Glenn & Shirley Weed
Carolyn & Curtis Neitsch
George & Carolyn Rippee
Cynthia & Jim Weaver
Leo Werlech
Ray & Jackie Marsh
Gary White
Eugene White
Irene Woodgate-Campiglia
George & Carolyn Rippee
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus

Tributes

Church of the Ascension
Carol Voelker
Bruce Davis
Joan Bergman
Happy Easter!
Fran & Frank Abbott
Harborview Healthcare Workers
Anonymous
Victoria Palmen
Harvey & Geri Nelson
Jennifer Poole for Mothers Day
Matt Poole
Denny Shaw
Carol Sue Janes

Then what?

By Ann Sakaguchi, Deputy Director

When the pandemic is over will homelessness be over too? When it's over, will everything go back to normal?

Restrictions are lifting; things are opening up a bit and there is real light, with an end clearly in sight. So what does that mean for Nightwatch and the people we help?

Maybe you've heard this in the news.

"Congregate shelters" are out of favor. Too many people are sharing a room in close quarters.

Hotel rooms and tiny houses seem to be the most favored way to go.

When our shelter in the University District was forced to close, some of our guests were moved into hotel rooms. After sleeping in a room with 20 other guys, having your own room sounds good, right?

After a few days, "Norman" contacted us. He did not want to stay in the hotel room anymore. He missed Nightwatch and he preferred to be in a shelter.

Norman has been staying at our 10-bed "congregate" shelter, Julia's Place, in the basement of Madrona Grace Presbyterian Church. Beds are socially-distanced; high ceilings and fans make for good airflow, masks are worn. Norman helps with chores and is thriving there.

My question: Hotel rooms and tiny houses are fine. But what about the folks who cannot survive in the isolation of a hotel room? What will happen to those who prefer and need the structure and stability of a shelter?

How can Nightwatch respond to this need?

As we look ahead to an end of the pandemic, we need your prayers. Would you please join us? To pray for wisdom and discernment? We need you. ●



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
- Trail/nut mix (individual pack)
- Beef jerky sticks
- Wrapped candy
- Cookies and pastries (individually bagged)
- Whole individual fruit (apples, oranges, bananas)
- Gloves
- Warm hats—beanie style
- Toothpaste
- Floss
- Deodorant
- Band aids
- Combs

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

Amazon Wish List:

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

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
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