

Nightwatch News

August, 2021

The compassionate ones

By Rev. Rick Reynolds, Executive Director



"Marco" could barely keep his eyes open. "I may be just a little. . . tipsy." Maybe?

We talked, about nothing in particular. He likes being in the shelter, after so many years sleeping outside.

Suddenly, Marco was focused on me. He looked at me intensely. "Are you okay?" he asked.

"What do you mean?" I really didn't know what he was asking me.

"Do you got a place to go tonight?"

"Yes, Marco, I'm good." I think about my warm bed, surrounded by various comforts.

"If you needed a place, I'd get you in here," Marco assured me. "We have to take care of each other. We're all family here." He waved his arm around the TV room.

Indeed.

I've been talking to homeless people steadily for 39 years now. This was the first time I was offered a place to go, if I needed help. Marco, despite his alcohol problem, is one of the compassionate ones. He is looking out for the people around him. He is full of love for his community at the shelter. And through the fog, he wants to help me. And I say, "God grant wisdom and strength to all who would serve."

Lord, you equip us with gifts for serving you and others. Help us to use these gifts in a way that expresses your care for all your children. ●

Swing and a miss

By Tonette Winston,
Shelter Dispatch Manager

What will life be like in the future, for our homeless friends?

Shelters are still dealing with ongoing health issues. Like the rest of us, homeless guys are worried, and facing even more uncertainty. And yet, they have adapted. They are rather used to uncertainty in life.

We had high hopes for one of our afflicted friends, George. He's an old man, in poor health. He limps around with a cane and slurred speech, following a brain injury. Nightwatch got him into our senior apartments, but after a few months, he simply limped away. George returned to being homeless, where people steal his money, and he has to face the hardships of the weather.

Because of the pandemic, we discovered that we are here to support each other. Our struggles may be different, but we can inspire hope in each other. Thank you for your help, because discouragements sometimes abound. And if you have a quiet moment, remember George, would you? ●



NIGHTWATCH

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

Nightwatch needs shelter!

- Room for 10 guys and a worker
- Access to bathrooms
- Available 9:00 pm to 7:00 am

Let's talk about it!

Call Rick:
206-323-4359

Nightwatch relies on our donors each month. Thank you!

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Keve Anshutz
Lola Davidson
Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Charley Bush
Ginny Larkins
Gail & Jay Winberg
Craig Davis
Bruce Davis
The dearly departed van
Anonymous
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Dick Erickson
Peggy McClintock
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
Fr. Gus Hartman
Robert & Roberta Brown
Rev. Paul Jacobson
Paul & Carole Jacobson
Rev. Jean Kim
Jan Anderson
Justin & Robin Desilet
Rick & Lorri Reynolds
Dean & Hattie Kimble
Katherine Smith

Yukio Kumasaka
Joan Hirata
Steve & Chris Murphy
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Elmer Molzahn
Sherianne Caldwell
Daisy Neves
The Neves Family
Oscar Nunez
Kathy Rossi
Bud Palmberg
Anonymous
Chrisi & Michael Dotson
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Donald Reilly
Carol Hepburn
Jim Reynolds
Marge Beavers
Janet Buck
Cliff Bull
Jason & Julie Chee
Dean & Susan Christianson
Lois Lingren
Vernon & Marilyn Lolley
Jerry & Berta Merrill
Jayne Ross
Kim Sather
Roger & Sandy Schoenhals
Shelley Staley
Rob & Carla Wall

Persistence

By Rev. Michael Cox, Street Minister

“Rhonda” is a regular guest at the Nightwatch outdoor community dinner. (This Tuesday-night meal is served by our street outreach workers and volunteers.) She is always intoxicated and screaming obscenities. In the middle of her outbursts, she often breaks down and cries, asking for prayer. After we pray and hug, she will usually calm down for a while and eat a meal. Soon she starts yelling again, drinks a beer at the bus stop, and then walks across the busy intersection into traffic. One evening she was extra-aggravated, pushed one volunteer, and threw a bottle of water at another. All I could think was, “This is who Nightwatch is here for.”

Then, as Rhonda left the meal, she grabbed an entire bag of Dicks hamburgers, walked into the street, and glared at me. All I could do was laugh. Rhonda is exactly who Jesus invites to dinner. Only God knows what has happened in her life.

The next week Rhonda came to the meal and apologized, handing me a swordfish Christmas ornament she found in the trash. I thanked her and promised to hang it up in my office.

Rhonda came again last night to the dinner and hugged me saying, “Thank you, Pastor and thank you to the Church.” She was clear-headed and well-spoken. She had been in county jail for twenty days and was clean from meth, alcohol, and crack cocaine. She participated in a jail house Bible study and was praising the Lord. The judge at her arraignment gave her a second chance and told her he wanted to see her succeed. So do I, and so does God. Rhonda asked me if I would pray for her. Driving home, I could not stop crying.

Jesus said, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.” (Mark 5:33-34) Thank you for making this work possible. ●

Ann Sakaguchi's column will return next month.



Tributes

Betty Buzitis
Pam Bentley
Dan Helton
Mary Kaplan
Judy Hurley
Martin Hurley
Denny Shaw
Carol Sue Janes

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
- Fruit snacks
- Trail/nut mix (individual pack)
- Wrapped candy
- Cookies and pastries (individually bagged)
- Whole individual fruit (apples, oranges, bananas)
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Floss
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Band aids

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

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