

Nightwatch News

November, 2021

The beauty of a church basement

By Rev. Rick Reynolds, Executive Director



There's a dimly lit church basement which serves very well as home to 10 homeless guys overnight.

I don't hang around very often, but I found myself at Madrona Grace Presbyterian, with very little to do but chat with the residents. "Charles" gave me a running commentary on the news of the day, and other guys were listening in, amused. In the back, eating a meal alone, "Vinnie" talked about how much he appreciated having a place to stay. "This is home." He felt comforted by the warmth and welcome of the place.

This domestic scene stands in contrast with life outside. In a tent, you have to worry about enforcement. You are subject to being swept away and all your things taken, by thieves or the police. Your basic needs must be met in the open air, without dignity. And that damp, cold air seeps into your very bones, a chill that sometimes doesn't go away all day.

Look, I don't know what will end the pandemic of homelessness in Seattle. But I know that 10 guys and a single Nightwatch worker is making a difference to Charles and Vinnie. That's 10 fewer tents. 10 hopeful men. 10 guys getting cared for in a church. We can reproduce this with your help. Amen? Call me.

Lord, grant us wisdom for this hour, and the strength to stand. ●

Shaking my head

By Tonette Winston,
Shelter Dispatch Center Manager

Nightwatch tries to be a good neighbor to both the housed and the unhoused. Sometimes the housed neighbors call us—worried about someone in crisis— or simply being bothered by some bad behavior.

The culprits aren't always our folks. But sometimes they are.

Recently, I took a 2:00 am call. There was glass breaking and yelling involved, just up the street from Nightwatch.

The next morning I figured out the problem. One of our homeless friends wasn't in a place like we thought. "Deaf Mary" slept in a van, which was slated for impound. After hours of fevered note-writing, she agreed to go to a woman's shelter if I could find one with an open bed.

It seemed like an impossible task. I was on the phone for hours, with no luck. At the end of that long day, I took one last call from a worker trying to get a guy into shelter. We traded our stories of frustration. But as I described Mary's situation, the worker stopped me. "We've got a spot for Mary in our women's shelter!" Just a mile or so from Nightwatch, provides 24-hour care, just for women. Problem solved!

Someone up there was watching out for us, for Mary, and for the neighborhood.

I'm still shaking my head. ●



NIGHTWATCH

Serving the night
community in the
name of Christ

SOCK IT TO HOMELESSNESS

Sock Drive-Up Drop-Off

Sunday, November 14
12:30–2:00 pm

302 14th Ave S, Seattle

More details:
seattlenightwatch.org/sock-it

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

PB&J Lunch-In

Thank you for the
tremendous support!
If you couldn't join us,
watch the recording!

seattlenightwatch.org/pbj

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Dorothy Balch
Shelley Staley
Candi Tepke
Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Charley Bush
Ginny Larkins
Craig Davis
Bruce Davis
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Bethany Erickson
Peggy McClintock
Dick Erickson
Peggy McClintock
Kim Forman
Paula Ross
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
Larry Hagglund
Peggy Hagglund
Mal & Effie Higgins
Linda Martin

Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Robert Ishii
Steve & Chris Murphy
Paul Jacobson Sr.
Carole & Paul Jacobson Jr.
Dean & Hattie Kimble
Katherine Smith
Ron Kimble
Heather Craven
Richard Lamb
Luke Larson
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Davonne Loup
Carl Westphal
Donald Matson
Georgia Kurtz
Mary Mayeno
Steve & Chris Murphy
Elmer Molzahn
Sherianne Caldwell
Martin Murray
Maria & Greg Van Horn
Daisy Neves
The Neves Family

Bud Palmberg
Chrisi & Michael Dotson
Jack Patterson
Merle Patterson
Andrew Pine
Paul Pemberton
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Greg & Mary Speltz
Lynn Vollert
Lisa Marie Styer
Pat & Gene Styer
Clio Thomas
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok
& Cindy Monsen
Glenn & Shirley Weed
Cynthia & Jim Weaver
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus
Zach Sutthoff Zappone
Bob Zappone
& Maggi Sutthoff

Tributes

All volunteers
Art & Ruby Meyer
Eddie Ardrooni
Bob Porter
Frank DiGirolamo
Don & Diane Gockel
Mary Jo Eck
Harvey & Geri Nelson
Sterling Heart
James Yorkston
Trudy James
Bob Porter
Janice
Magdalena Brooks
Johnson, Millam, Brown, Callender,
and Mooers
Kirstin Ward
Denny Shaw
Carol Sue Janes
Wonderful staff
Julianne Kumasaka

Thank you!

**By Ann Sakaguchi,
Deputy Director**

It's November already. Thanksgiving is almost here. What are you thankful for?

I have a long list.

In my job at Nightwatch, I get to sit in on all the interviews when we hire new staff or bring in new residents to our senior apartments. I might complain about it, but it's really one of the "funnest" things I do around here.

People want to impress you, right?

They're hopeful for a new job or apartment. It's amazing sometimes, the stories we hear. The folks looking for apartments are over 62 years-old. They are living outside or couch surfing. Some are in a shelter.

Before I left on vacation, we interviewed several people for the apartment vacancies. I left the final decisions up to coworkers. When I returned, a couple of guys had moved in. Also, while I was gone, the new videos for our Peanut Butter and Jelly fundraising event had been produced. I didn't know who was captured in these, but looked forward to seeing them.

A new resident, "Bennie," shared some thoughts in the video. He talked about sleeping in a bed again. He proudly held up his keys, something he hadn't owned in a long time. "Even a key for the mailbox!" He described our humble little apartment building as "heaven." Over and over. He is so thankful!

Without your support, the apartment where Bennie now lives would not be possible.

Bennie isn't the only one who's thankful. I am too. ●

The work of Operation Nightwatch is made possible through the support of people like you. 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
- 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 or to schedule a drop-off, 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
www.seattlenightwatch.org

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