

Nightwatch News

Thanksgiving, 2021

What are you thankful for?

By Rev. Rick Reynolds, Executive Director



Every Thanksgiving as a kid, our mother would have us go around the heavy-laden table and say what we were thankful for. She wanted to hear what we'd say, even if it was only being thankful for potatoes.

This Thanksgiving I'm feeling a bit grouchy and sorry for myself. Our furnace died. I've got a half-done bathroom remodel that has run into a snag. Our two cars have a combined age of 34. After my pity-party, I am reminded of the homeless guy who was carrying two grocery bags with all his worldly belongings.

Richard told me one November day that it didn't matter where he woke up in the morning—in a park, or a shelter, or on the docks. The first thing he did every morning was to thank God for that first breath. He was thankful, yet everything he owned was in those two plastic grocery bags.

So, I'm getting up, dusting myself off, and thinking about everything that has made my life meaningful and good. Good family, meaningful work, amazing friends, so many helpers during the pandemic they can't be numbered.

God forgive us for our lack of gratefulness at the goodness you have granted. Thank you for the donors, the volunteers, the staff, the clients, the tenants and the socks! ●

Adjusting to life inside

By Marlene Poland and staff
Housing Coordinator

How would you adjust to life inside after being homeless?

Now that I've been at Nightwatch for five years, I have learned how homeless seniors adapt to life after homelessness.

The first thing they do is sleep. We might not see them very much for several days while they enjoy the feeling of clean sheets, privacy, a warm room. There's not much sleep when you are staying in a shelter or living outside. Once you have your own place, sleep seems to be the number one thing to do.

The number two thing new tenants want is to take a long hot shower. At Nightwatch you don't have to wait in line for a shower, and we don't set the timer like some of the homeless hygiene programs have to do.

Homeless people are constantly on guard. They have to be aware of their surroundings, day and night. There are many threats they have to contend with. This takes a toll on a body. And when you are a senior, these threats are magnified. You don't want to fall, you don't want your backpack stolen, you don't want to drop your phone. Life is a constant worry as a homeless senior. No wonder they love to sleep and take long showers!

And there's one more thing for new tenants. They have to remember how keys work! That's my favorite thing, though; when I get to hand a new tenant a set of keys.

Thank you for making our work such an occasion for joy! ●



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

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Daisy Beach
John & Jody Fenlason
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Chuck Beavers
Marge Beavers
Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Charley Bush
Ginny Larkins
Merna Corson
Ina Page
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Bud & Trudy Forbes
George & Carolyn Rippee
Jim & Fern Smith
Keith & Kay Forbes
George & Carolyn Rippee
Kim Forman
Bill & Jody Lemke
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
Lee Hermann
Anthony Chang

Mal & Effie Higgins
Linda Martin
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Paul Jacobson Sr.
Paul & Carole Jacobson
James/AK
Molly Bosch
Taryn Jensen
George & Carolyn Rippee
Iorwerth Jones
Bob Porter
Dean & Hattie Kimble
Kathy Greiner
Katherine Smith
Ron Kimble
Carl & Heather Craven
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Don MacDonald
Ginger MacDonald
Elmer Molzahn
Sherianne Caldwell
Daisy Neves
The Neves Family
Bud Palmberg
Anonymous
Chrisi & Michael Dotson

Michel Pawloski
Holly Bienkowski
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Greg & Mary Speltz
Barbara Anderson
& John Preston
Alison Eisinger
Kate Speltz & Rich Gamble
Lyle Staley
Shelley Staley
Violet & John Stevens
Joy Lauderbaugh
Clio Thomas
Henry Jordan
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok
& Cindy Monsen
Glenn & Shirley Weed
George & Carolyn Rippee
Cynthia & Jim Weaver
Gary White
Lisa Connolley
Eugene White
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus

Tributes

Patricia Broulette
Akane Yamaguchi
Frank DiGirolamo
Diane Odegard Gockel
& Don Gockel
God's Grace
Kenneth Jordan
Kathy Higbee
Trude Higbee
Bob Hirotaka
Harvey & Geri Nelson
Man Lung Li
Shutyee Yeung
Denny Shaw
Carol Sue Janes
Kate Speltz
Alison Eisinger

Hold on a little more

By Ann Sakaguchi,
Deputy Director

When the pandemic started, it was clear that Nightwatch was an essential service. That made our staff "essential workers." They could not stay home and work remotely.

They still had to work with homeless people, in person. They were not allowed to isolate in their homes. They all came to work, at great risk to themselves and to their families. Some caught COVID; most did not.

Now, almost two years later, I reflect on some lyrics of a song we sing in church, The Kingdom Is Yours*. The words seem so fitting for all of us, but especially for the Nightwatch staff and volunteers.

Blessed are the ones who walk in kindness

Even in the face of great abuse

Blessed are the deeds that go unnoticed

Serving with unguarded gratitude.

Blessed are the ones who fight for justice

Longing for the coming day of peace

Blessed is the soul that thirsts for righteousness

Welcoming the last, the lost, the least.

Blessed are the ones who suffer violence

And still have strength to love their enemies

Blessed is the faith of those who persevere

Though they fall, they'll never know defeat.

The kingdom is yours, the kingdom is yours

Hold on a little more, this is not the end

Hope is in the Lord, keep your eyes on him.

Thank you for supporting us so that the Nightwatch staff can come to work. Thank you, volunteers, for helping us do our work. ●

*Written by Terrell Wilson (BMI), Brittney Spencer (BMI), Micah Massey (ASCAP), Aaron Keyes (ASCAP)



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.)
- Protein bars
- Chewy granola bars
- Fruit snacks
- Wrapped candy
- Cookies and pastries (individually bagged)
- Whole individual fruit (apples, oranges, bananas)
- Hand Warmers
- Beanie hats
- Gloves
- Socks (new)
- Tooth brushes & paste
- 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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