

Nightwatch News

May, 2022

My last newsletter

By Rev. Rick Reynolds, Executive Director



I felt no need to change jobs in the past 28 years. The job itself changed, along with downtown Seattle and the world around me.

When I started in 1994, the internet and email were brand new. Windows 3.1 powered our computer. Remember floppy disks? Bill Clinton was President and Norm Rice was starting his second term as Mayor of Seattle.

We counted homeless people my first year; just Nightwatch and the police department. We found 453 homeless people my first year, but we only looked around downtown Seattle, because that is

where homeless people were found in 1994. Now homeless people are found throughout the Puget Sound region.

One thing hasn't changed since I started: God continues to love every single homeless human being. So here's the question as I head out the door in June:

Will our love for homeless people retire too?

I recently ran into this quote from James 2 (The Message): *"Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?"* In other words, faith without works is dead. To me, faith has to be lived out. God cares, and we care too. Not just with words, but for real. **There is no retiring from love!**

Of course I'm sad. Parting is such sweet sorrow. But I'm thrilled that God has heard our collective prayer, and raised up a successor to carry on this work.

His name is Deacon Frank DiGirolamo.

I was showing Deacon Frank the city from my perspective, late one February night, the week of the Seahawks victory parade. About 11:30 p.m. Frank and I squeezed through a hole in a security fence. We walked down a muddy path and found a clump of guys, huddled together against the cold. They gratefully received the blankets we brought with us.

Deacon Frank and I walked into a world populated by rough characters, beaten down, barely surviving. But Deacon Frank recognized that this was a place he needed to be, because even under a roadway, Jesus is there. And he has continued with Operation Nightwatch since 2014. Now we have arrived this point in time, when he has been selected to be the new Executive Director. He will start full-time this month.



Soon after he got the news of getting hired, Frank said to me, "I hope the Board of Nightwatch doesn't expect me to serve for 28 years." That made me laugh.

This I know. It will be the hardest and most satisfying job Frank will ever have. It has been all of that for me. Thank you, friends of Nightwatch, and thank you God, for the opportunity of the past 28 years.

Please remember to pray for Frank and for the work of Nightwatch during this time.

Lord, please grant Deacon Frank the wisdom to know your will, and the power to do what he cannot do in his own strength. ●



NIGHTWATCH

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

GiveBIG 2022

May 3rd and 4th
Your gift provides
food, shelter,
housing and hope
for people in need.

[www.wagives.org/
organization/
Operation-Nightwatch](http://www.wagives.org/organization/Operation-Nightwatch)

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

David Aasen
James & Judith Rowson
Chuck Beavers
Marge Beavers
Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Bob Brooks
Allison Brown
Charley Bush
Ginny Larkins
Lorraine Lofton
Patricia Dennis
Robert & Roberta Brown
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Bethany Erickson
Peggy McClintock
Dick Erickson
Peggy McClintock
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
Ruth Herbig
Alan & Debbie Herbig

Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Dean & Hattie Kimble
Kathy Greiner
Ron Kimble
Carl & Heather Craven
Richard Lamb
Luke Larson
Donn Larson
June Burr
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Elmer Molzahn
Sherianne Caldwell
Curtis Neitsch
Carolyn Neitsch
Bud Palmberg
Chrisi & Michael Dotson
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Nikki Powers
Judi Selset
Jim Reynolds
Jerry & Berta Merrill
Judi Selset
Timothy Staley
Shelley Staley

Theresa Stuhrman
Maria & Greg Van Horn
Clio Thomas
Mike & Sandy Birdsall
Henry Jordan
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Susan Van Pelt
Judi Selset
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok
& Cindy Monsen
Glenn & Shirley Weed
Carolyn Neitsch
Cynthia & Jim Weaver
Leo Werlech
Ray & Jackie Marsh
Gary White
Lisa Connolley
Eugene White
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus

Tributes

Bill Black & Nancy DuTeau
Bob Porter
Nathan Hautala
Robert & Toni Hautala
Dave Hicks
Aaron & Sue Feik
Gretchen Monteith
Lee Monteith
Victoria Palmen
Harvey & Geri Nelson
People of Ukraine
Dan Patterson
& Debby Walters
Robert
Brennan McQuerry
Denny Shaw
Carol Sue Janes
Sweet Baby Y
James Yorkston
Vernus Keepers Woodgate's
100th birthday
George & Carolyn Rippee

We laugh, we cry

By Marlene Poland, Housing Coordinator With Nightwatch staff

The Senior Housing Program provides affordable rooms for people age 62 and older. Nearly all the seniors have been homeless. Living together with shared bathrooms and kitchens means we especially have to get along with each other. The result? We become a community, COVID or not. And like any community, we laugh, we cry. And wow, have we been through it.

This past month two tenants died. Both guys were long-time residents at Nightwatch. Ryan had been with us for eight years, and Jim had been here seven years. They both were taken away by ambulances on the same day.

Ryan and Jim each moved into Nightwatch after being homeless for a number of years. Ryan was especially thrilled when he was handed his keys and moved in. Jim was also glad to have a home, safety, comfort, and independence. No more living in a tent village or sleeping in a church basement overnight. Both men had their own space. They could take a shower, cook a meal, and best of all, sleep until noon if they felt like it.

But that's not all. Both Ryan and Jim were artistically gifted individuals. After he moved into Nightwatch senior housing, Ryan got his electric piano out of storage and played to his heart's content. And Jim returned to photography, taking beautiful photos, like the photo of Ryan, above.

When there is a death at Nightwatch, it's always tough on the survivors, whether they were close friends or not. It's emotional. It causes us all to think about our own mortality, staff included. All the petty squabbles that took place now seem insignificant against the backdrop of eternity.

"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

Yes, we laugh and we cry at Nightwatch. It is a part of the human condition, and it is good to know we are not alone.

Thank you for your support which makes this work possible. ●



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 & chewy granola bars
- Cookies and pastries
- Apples, oranges, bananas
- Shampoo (travel size)
- Conditioner (travel size)
- First aid cream (individual pks)
- Razors
- Lotion
- Deodorant

More info, or to schedule a drop-off: 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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