

Nightwatch News

July, 2024

Seen, known, and cared for

By Deacon Frank DiGirolamo, Executive Director



"Patty" sat down across from me at our evening meal and we started a conversation...

Me: "How is your day going?"

Her: "Just horribly."

The room would soon be full. She had sent up a good warning flare. She started to eat, slowly, and looked up at me, "How is YOUR day today?" In the midst of her horrible day, she was actually concerned about me and my feelings.

Our team knows her well. The other evening guests do, too. Normally upbeat and engaging, this night, she had none of that.

In just a little time things started to unfold. She was becoming despondent and needed some help. She kept repeating, "I am so sad..." Eventually, 911 was called. Fellow dinner guests stayed with her, assured her, and gave her a safe place to reflect and be honest about her feelings.

She is now at the hospital. **We will follow up, try to find her and be present.** For now, though, I am simply grateful that she had a place to go, long after other programs had closed for the night. She was welcomed, had a place to sit down and reveal her day, honestly. To be seen, known, and cared for during a meal. Even on a day that felt all wrong and sad.

Peace to all. Prayers for all who are having horrible days. **Let's keep seeing each other, being present and listening over honest dinner conversations.** ●

To care for community

By Tonette Winston,
Director of Housing
& Shelter Services

Recently, one of our staff had a stroke while starting the day. We are blessed that this coworker is on the road to recovery. We are also supported by a great community that believes in our mission, sees us and the work we do for those without a voice.



The events on that day made me realize that we are not superheroes. We are simply humans who care deeply for others. At Nightwatch, caring for others who lack a voice, is what we do each and every day. I realized in that moment that this job, unlike others, is not just what we do. Over time it actually becomes part of who we are, the very fabric of our lives.

Working here gives us the opportunity to be in caring community with others. We can see lives changed and people stabilized after years of life on the streets. We also see setbacks and fear, and can offer a listening ear, assistance, resources, and prayer.

I am thankful that my coworker has a caring community to return to after healing. I am glad that our mission which includes Jesus' teaching to love our neighbors, is alive and well, and not only for our clients. This holds true for those of us who have made the decision to work here, even on the tough days.

Thank you for being a vital part of our community. ●



NIGHTWATCH

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

Save the date!

Join us in-person
once again for a
fundraising dinner!

**Lighting the Path
Thursday, October 17**

More details to follow!

**Volunteer
Orientation
Friday, July 12
5:30 pm**

Come on in, take a look
around, and hear about all of
our volunteer opportunities.
Then stick around and serve
dinner with us!

302 14th Ave S, Seattle 98144

RSVP:

michelle@seattlenightwatch.org



Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Bobby
Marla Hoffman
Monica Brown
Robert & Roberta Brown
Charley Bush
Ginny Larkins
James Cassan
Jan Snyder
Charles
Marla Hoffman
My dad on his birthday
Anonymous
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Elizabeth
Marla Hoffman
Marie Erickson
Judy Hurley
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
Steve Graves
Harvey & Geri Nelson

Tony Haycock
Julie Callaghan
Clint Hattrup
George Lundin
John Hull
Vijay & Carol Luthra
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan
James Iverson
Marilyn Iverson
Barbara Johnson
Carolyn Murphy
Dean & Hattie Kimble
Kathy & Jared Greiner
Ron Kimble
Carl & Heather Craven
Jackie Leake
Ryan Yalowicki
Howard Lee
John Geis
Jim & Susan Mochizuki
Jerry & Phyllis Sera
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Colin Manderson
Kristen & Erik Wilson-Weiberg
Terry Marcell
Fran & Frank Abbott

Michael
Marla Hoffman
Elmer Molzahn
Sherianne Caldwell
Olga
Marla Hoffman
Dwan Oliver
Lola Davidson
Bud Palmberg
Chrisi & Michael Dotson
Robert & Nellie Porter
Bob Porter
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Mary Santi
Stephen Santi
Dick Shipe
Gary & Theresa Shipe
Greg & Mary Speltz
Lynn Vollert
Rob Staley
Shelley Staley
Gary White
Lisa Connolley
Eugene White
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus

Tributes

Chelsea
Mary Lee Peters
Chrisi Dotson
Donna Palmberg
Leah Leicester
Jen Blackwood
Sue & George Lauderbaugh
Joy Lauderbaugh
Leah Leicester
Jen Blackwood
Jeff Palmberg
Donna Palmberg
Denny Shaw
Carol Sue Janes
Tavarous Williams
Molly Bosch

Break my fall

By Rev. Michael Cox
Director of Outreach Ministry

Every Monday, I stand in front of the church, greeting people as they make their way to the community dinner. I stand between our colorful sandwich board sign, and the steps to the fellowship hall, gently extending hospitality. I have been saying the same thing for over six years. "We're doing a free meal tonight if you're hungry!" Being invited literally opens the door. Most of my time is spent on the sidewalk, listening to people.

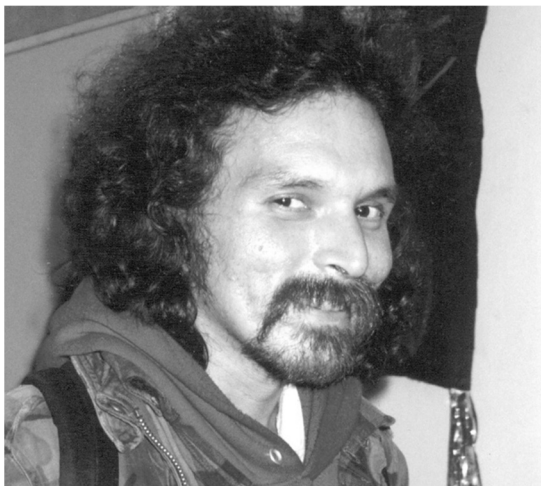
This week, I met a young person who has been clean from drugs for three months and was feeling "happy". They had gone to treatment and spent time with family, healing in the power of unconditional love. As we discuss our sobriety stories, the warm presence of sacred space begins to form around us. **I tell my new friend that all are created in the image of God.** Their eyes fill with tears as they hug and thank me, telling me that they plan to volunteer next week.

Fighting through impatient motorists and an irritated commuter bus, a man hunched over a bicycle slowly crosses the street toward me and the dinner. I meet "Ralph" who broke his back, forgot his cane, and can't get off his bike. I get him two to-go meals and he tells me how grateful he is that God saved his life.

He had been working as an arborist and fell out of a tree onto a brush pile. The doctors said that if the brush pile had not been there, he would have died. We pray for his upcoming series of surgeries and relief from chronic pain. **Ralph thanks me and declares, "I praise God for breaking my fall!"**

The holiest moments happen on the sidewalk!

"Though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand." (Psalm 37:24 NRSV) ●



Shopping List

Please help by collecting these items for us to distribute to our homeless friends and tenants (travel sizes are preferred):

- Cookies and pastries
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Lotion
- Soap & body wash
- Deodorant
- Men's new athletic socks
- Wash cloths & towels
- Twin sheet sets, new or clean
- Twin blankets, new or clean

For more information, or to schedule a donation drop-off: info@seattlenightwatch.org

Amazon Wish List:

Ship donations to our door!
<https://bit.ly/ONWlist>



Shelter Dispatch Center & Senior Apartments

302 14th Ave. S
Seattle, WA 98144

Mailing address:

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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