

Nightwatch News

March, 2017

No shelter

By Rev. Rick Reynolds



We've been saying this for over 20 years: There isn't enough shelter in Seattle. It's getting worse, and it has been getting worse for a long time.

Rents are sky high. There are now more than 10 homeless camps and tiny house communities in

Seattle/King County. And in every neighborhood we see tents and garbage and chaos.

Thursday night I got back from visiting one of those camps. It was nearly midnight. Nightwatch had filled up the shelter beds and gave blankets to the last half-dozen guys who came to us seeking help. There were no shelter options.

One of the guys forced to sleep outside was old. He hunkered down right in front of Nightwatch. "I can't take another step" he told me. With a groan, he rolled up in his blanket on the sidewalk, just outside our doors. We couldn't do anything for him, and we couldn't get him to move.

The next morning he was gone. I checked our records to see how old he was. His birthday is the day after mine. He will be 64 this spring.

Those old bones should not have to sleep on concrete, fully exposed to the weather. We need to do better, and quickly. Thank you for your generous support, supplying shelter, and failing that, keeping people alive for the night.

Lord, you have been our resting place for generations. Who else can we turn to in our time of need? Hear the cry of the homeless in our city, and act quickly. ●

What I learn from our seniors

By Marlene Poland,
Housing Coordinator

I've been working with the seniors at Nightwatch for six months. I'm getting more out of it than they are! They have so much to teach us.

From a very young age, I was taught that seniors are to be cherished, respected and honored for their wisdom in the world.

Each morning I make my rounds, getting a chance to talk with the tenants. We talk about life. They tell me stories of strength and hope. **They have taught me that even in the worst of times, a simple smile or a listening ear can make worries fly away.**

Senior Housing at Operation Nightwatch is more than just a place for our seniors to live. We are a community for each other. We are a safe refuge. This is home, where they hold the keys; and not just the keys to their front door. Here, they hold the keys to a richer life.

The rent that the seniors pay is about half the cost of the program and utilities and maintenance. For all our seniors, let me say "Thank you" for making this senior housing possible, through your ongoing support of our work. ●



NIGHTWATCH

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

Volunteer Orientation Open House

The best way to learn about Nightwatch and the many volunteer opportunities.

**Thursday, Mar. 2, 2017
7:30–8:00 pm**

RSVP or questions:
info@seattlenightwatch.org

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Burton Beegle
Dean Kimble
Bob Bradbury
Jane Ann Bradbury
Carol Jean
& Patrick Gaffney
Charlie Brown
John & Jody Fenlason
Marie Davidson
Lola Davidson
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Keith & Kay Forbes
George & Carolyn Rippee
Pete Gudger
Cheryl Gudger
Mal Higgins
Linda Martin
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan

Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Ross & Evelyn Massey
Maureen Massey
Donald Mayo
Chriselda Landon
Norm Riggins
Jan Baugh
Ellen Johanson
Rick & Lorri Reynolds
Don Ricks
Gloria Shults
Paul Sakaguchi
Sharon Aburano
Eric & Gena Kasahara
Dean & Sue Nakagawa
Greg & Diana Sakamoto
Dick Shipe
Gary & Theresa Shipe
Jane Shipe
Louise Solemslie
Allen Solemslie

Mary Speltz
Greg Speltz
Anna Strahan
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok
& Cindy Monsen
Ryan Walker
Jerry & Terresita Bailey
Glenn & Shirley Weed
Andy & Ramona McBeth
Carolyn & Curtis Neitsch
George & Carolyn Rippee
Jim & Cynthia Weaver
Gilbert Weiss
John Weiss
& Corry Venema-Weiss
Leonard Woodgate
Carolyn & Curtis Neitsch
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone

Tributes

Cathy Braun
Beth Braun
Family
Lorraine Molzahn
Atty. Gen. Bob Ferguson
Fran & Frank Abbott
Mary Nichols
Cammy Hendrix
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Debbie Ross
Rachel & Larry Prigg
Staff and volunteers
Jan Creason
Kathleen & Clio Thomas
Bud & Trudy Forbes

Bad news?

By Ann Sakaguchi

No one likes to receive bad news.

No matter how gentle and kind the messenger, it is still bad news. The content of the news overwhelms the kindness and good intentions. In the end, it is just bad news.

And so it was with Nightwatch recently.

Nightwatch has been a partner in providing shelter for 75 men every night, rain or shine, at the Pearl Warren Building since the end of 2014. By partner, I mean we pay money (which we receive from you) to the Compass Housing Alliance. They pay workers to watch over our homeless guests at night.

Maybe you've heard that the City of Seattle plans to open a new place to serve homeless people, called the Navigation Center. This is a good thing. The center will serve up to 75 people, particularly those who cannot be helped in other shelter situations. It will be a place to stay, 24 hours, and to get help in many ways.

It is a good plan, but the Pearl Warren Building has been selected to be the new Navigation Center. This means that our humble shelter for 75 men is being displaced. Our 75 men are being replaced by a different group of 75 homeless people. We have to go somewhere else.

We don't know yet when we have to go. We don't know what will become of our people.

But we are people of faith. Bad news is just another opportunity to watch God work.

Please pray with us. We need your support now, more than ever.

Lord, show us the way. We look to you for guidance through these dark days of uncertainty. ●



Shopping List

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

- Deodorant
- Hand warmers
- Lotion
- Lip balm
- Shave cream
- Hand sanitizers
- Multi-vitamins
- Cough drops
- Pain relievers
- Kleenex packs
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bulk drink mix
- Ear plugs

For more information about these items please contact:
liz@seattlenightwatch.org

Amazon Wish List:

<http://tinyurl.com/zjo64fd>

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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