In a world of uncertainty: Pizza
By Rev. Rick Reynolds

About five years ago, we started getting free pizzas from a local franchise. These were left-over pizzas which were never purchased. Every week we’d stop by, and pick up ten to thirty pizzas. It was tremendous. We were able to feed hungry people and make lots of friends. Because it’s never just about pizza, right?

Then the owner retired, closed the business. No more free pizza. So sad. Now we watch for sales. Tombstone pizza was available recently, 3 for $10. Every Thursday night, we take pizza with us. We get to talk with our friends about the virtues of pepperoni vs. plain cheese. Sometimes the conversations turn serious; about life, loss, sorrow. But mostly, the concerns of the day wane. It’s pizza night.

With all the uncertainties facing Nightwatch and our homeless friends, it’s good have some constants, like Thursday night pizza.

This morning, a guy was crossing the street. As soon as we saw each other, we recognized each other and smiled. We are united in our common humanity, because of pizza!

Your support makes pizza possible, along with shelter, housing, and hopefulness. Please don’t forget us this summer. God bless.

Lord, our lives are in your hands. Thank you for pizza, and the love you show daily.

Yuck
By Liz Fenn
Dispatch Center Manager

Recently, I was out sick for three days with a fever I could not shake. I did not have a cold or a cough, just a fever and aches that made it hard to move. Having a fever and body aches makes you feel old. I was miserable, and feeling sorry for myself. I wanted chicken soup. I wanted medicine. I wanted someone to nurse me back to full health. I couldn’t steel up enough willpower to get moving.

Yuck.

Then I remembered our homeless friends who get sick. They have it worse. They don’t even have their own bed to lie in when they are sick. If they are lucky enough to get into a shelter for the night, they can sleep for a few hours, but then are awakened by 5:30 or 6 a.m. and are told to be on their way. Most of the time they do not even have aspirin or Tylenol at their disposal.

I do not like being sick when at home; I would hate being sick while living on the streets. Thank you to the kind people who bring cough drops, cold medicine, vitamins, and other essentials. Thank you, volunteers who cook the meals. Thank you, donors and everyone who has a hand in helping at Nightwatch. You ease the misery of all who suffer, and make the “yuck” not quite as bad.
Prayers needed
By Ann Sakaguchi

I firmly believe that prayer changes things.

Please don’t misunderstand me. I am not saying we can make God do what we want Him to do. I’m saying I believe God listens to His people; He hears our prayers.

Having cleared that all up, I am appealing to all of you who believe as I do. We need you to help us now. Nightwatch needs you. Some 75 men who are homeless need you. We need your prayers.

In a nutshell, the situation is this: Nightwatch, an organization that helps people who are homeless, is about to become homeless again. Just to be clear, we are not losing the apartment building that we own, which is home to 24 seniors. We are not losing our Dispatch Center, where volunteers serve a meal every night to our homeless friends. Those aspects of Nightwatch are staying the same. What we are losing is our shelter space, where 75 men have been sleeping every night.

I have believed, since this whole saga began in February, that there is still a place somewhere for our 75 guys. I have faith that God will not abandon our people and leave them outside, without a place to be safe. We just don’t know where it is yet.

Today, we are using a building graciously loaned to us by the City of Seattle. We know we must vacate by the end of August.

Here’s where you come in. Would you please pray with us to find a shelter space soon for 50—75 men? Preferably somewhere relatively close by? We don’t need fancy; we just need a couple of restrooms. Despite our faith, we’re starting to feel a little desperate. Please help us. Please pray with us. Thank you.

Lord, show us your plans. Show us the way forward. •