Superheroes among us
By Liz Fenn, Dispatch Center Manager

In “The Justice League,” six superheroes save the world. In an early scene, a homeless man sits among the debris of a ruined city. The camera pans around him, and we see his cardboard sign which reads, “I Tried.”

The forces of evil gain power to take over the world. The superheroes come together, united in purpose, using their unique gifts to defeat evil and save the earth from destruction. I love feel-good movies!

The message on the man’s sign, “I Tried,” was really meant to convey that he had given up; there was no hope left. At times, that’s how I see some of our clients—struggling against enormous odds just to survive; and some losing hope.

But there is hope. You and I can be superheroes, with God’s help, and save our corner of the world. We don’t have to wear masks or capes, or be able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. We are superheroes when we acknowledge homeless people with a smile or friendly gesture as we pass on the streets. We are superheroes when we cook a meal, knit a hat, give someone a new pair of socks, or help Nightwatch pay for shelter.

Superheroes don’t sit around with signs of resignation and despair. Our signs encourage hope, action, determination, and grit!

Thank you to all the superheroes who help Operation Nightwatch! We couldn’t do this without you.

I hate Christmas.

There are people sleeping outside in our community because there is not enough shelter, and not enough affordable housing. There’s no room in the inn, and we converted the manger into an Airbnb bed.

No, I don’t hate Christmas. But every year I have this knot in my stomach, wondering if the homeless people at Nightwatch will be forgotten in the crush of special appeals, church programs, school concerts, and general chaos of the season. Will we be able to keep on going with food, shelter, housing, and hope despite the holiday madness?

Please remember Nightwatch as we launch into the new year.

Lord, as we celebrate the birth of a homeless refugee, help us all to keep in mind those things that matter most to that baby in the manger.

Bah, humbug
By Rev. Rick Reynolds

Christ climbed down from His bare Tree this year and ran away to where there were no rootless Christmas trees hung with candy canes and breakable stars.

(L. Ferlinghetti)

I hate Christmas.

Putting up lights, cooking, cleaning the house, buying a tree, addressing cards. Ugh.

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Memorials & Tributes

Memorials
David Aasen
Ivaly & Scott Alexander
Ruby Anderson
Jan Anderson
Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Charley Bush
Linda Bush
Lloyd Deister
Jim & Frances Reynolds
Robert Domalski
Paul & Linda Arms
Mark & Lisa Domalski
Pat Domalski
Tony Domalski
Mark & Lisa Domalski
Pat Domalski
Keith & Kay Forbes
Linda Martin
Pete Gudger
Cheryl Gudger
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Jack & June Keepers
George & Carolyn Rippee
Cheryl Kelly
Clinton Kelly
Ron Kimble
Heather & Carl Craven
Dick Lamb
Roberta Adams
Karen Johnson
& Douglas Hildie
Lynette Petrie
Hiromi Tamura
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Joyce Mansfield
Marlyn Hoffman
George Matsuda
Muriel Taylor
Mark McLaughlin
Arnold Becker
Pat & Lyle Riddell
Jodi Mangold
Edith Root
Jim & Frances Reynolds
Paul Sakaguchi Sr.
Paul & Stacie Sakaguchi
Dick Shipe
Jane Shipe
Stephen Shipe
& Marta Pasztor
Bob Sill
Betty Sill
Louise Solemslie
Allen Solemslie
Mary Speltz
Greg Speltz
Anne Todd
Kathleen Todd
Scott Uomoto
Grace Uomoto
Steve & Chris Murphy
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok
& Cindy Monsen
Glenn & Shirley Weed
Andy & Ramona McBeth
Jim & Cynthia Weaver
Gilbert Weiss
John Weiss
& Corry Venema-Weiss
Leonard Woodgate
George & Carolyn Rippee
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone

Tributes
Jesus
Ilia Hall
Blaine Kym
Daisy Neves
Landis Lingren
Lois Lingren
Dr. Brian Louie & team
Tom Stewart
& Ronnie Takasugi
Anthony Neves
Daisy Neves
Nightwatch volunteers
Kim Sather
Tim & Rebecca Vader
Bud & Donna Palmberg
Mary Jo Kjell
Victoria Palmen
Harvey & Geri Nelson
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Greg Speltz
Robert & Roberta Brown
Maurice & Barbara Syme
Jim & Fern Smith
Ulrich Family
Cindy Ulrich

Friends
By Ann Sakaguchi

News!! We opened the new Nightwatch overnight shelter on Friday, November 10 for 40 men. It is located on the lower floor of the University Friends Meeting. Our new contractor (who provides the workers to run the shelter) is Catholic Community Services. We’ve named the new shelter “Friends,” to recognize our gracious landlords and new staff, all the friends who helped along the way, as well as the homeless men we are serving every night.

Our hosts are the community of Quakers, who worship upstairs at University Friends Meeting. We’re settling into our space and routines; there have been rough spots but we’re finding a way to make it all work.

At Nightwatch, most of 2017 has been consumed by the crisis to relocate this shelter. We’ve had to focus on the practical details of finding a space, getting workers lined up and making the space ready to be a shelter. All along, we knew that dollars were up expenses.

At this shelter, for the first time, we don’t have to stack up our mats every morning. Right now, we have room for 40 men, sleeping on mats on the floor. We’ve ordered bunkbeds, so we can make the best use of our space; we’ll have room for 50. And this is an additional expense.

Remember when this all started? The shelter for 75 was closed and displaced. Friends Shelter will host 50 men. So what about the other 25, you wonder? We’re wondering too. In 2018, we may need to find a way to do more shelter.

In 2017, Friends Shelter came about because God provided and showed us the way. I have faith that He will continue to do so.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support. With the increased expenses, we need you now, more than ever.

Lord, thank you for friends and for being our friend. Amen.

Friends
By Ann Sakaguchi

Shopping List
Please help by collecting these items for us to distribute to our homeless friends and tenants (travel sizes are preferred):
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Shave cream
- Dental floss
- Lip balm
- Hand sanitizers
- Multi-vitamins
- Cough drops
- Pain relievers
- Kleenex packs
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bulk drink mix

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 98114

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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