Home sweet home
By Ben Curtis, Street Minister

It was a chance meeting. One brisk fall afternoon a few years ago, a young man showed up at Nightwatch. He'd been told by someone on the street that we could help him.

Here was Rudy. Living out of his car, struggling financially and having familial problems. I liked him immediately. You could tell he had a good heart. After hearing some of his story, we made plans to meet up again so I could hear more about his situation and to see how we could help him.

That one lunch turned into nearly two years of walking alongside Rudy through the ups and downs of life. He moved into a transitional housing program and back to his car; in a tent for a while and then into another transitional housing program. He went through four different jobs, battled with alcohol to cope, and had legal trouble.

The whole time I was there. Listening as he told me his frustrations of living without a home, and encouraging him to keep going; things would get better. Finally, they did.

He reconnected with some family in another state. One of his relatives had a large house that was mostly vacant. He could have one of the rooms. They would even buy his bus ticket to get there. Hallelujah! Rudy was moving on to greener pastures.

It’s cold. It’s wet. And their teeth hurt. It’s heart-breaking.

Seems weird to say, but going to the dentist is a luxury. No more complaining!

Sometimes the problems we see at Nightwatch are easily solvable. We gave an Orca card to a new worker. We sent people out-of-town to where they won’t be homeless anymore. We bought blankets for a chilly shelter. These problems have easy fixes. It just takes money. But saving a molar? It can be tricky.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Lord, look with compassion on us all, as we help our homeless friends and neighbors.

Tooth pain
By Rev. Rick Reynolds

Last year was my year for tooth pain. I had two root canals, a crown, and in utter defeat, an extraction. I love my dentist, but enough is enough!

Then last week, I met a homeless friend who declined an offer of pepperoni pizza because of tooth pain. It isn’t the first time I’ve encountered a homeless friend dealing with dental issues. Access to routine care costs money. Because my friend has started working, the low-cost clinics are going to charge full rate. And what do you do about getting to a dentist during the week, when you are working an hourly job, and it is “go-go-go” all day long? Such is the case for my friend.
Lord, help us to appreciate what goes on behind the scenes, things that You know about, but we can’t see. We know what’s going on with the people we meet. There’s usually a lot going on, under the surface.

This is true for people and groups too. We can see only the surface. At a place like Seattle Nightwatch, to help people every night, a lot happens behind the scenes. And we don’t know what’s going on with the people we meet. There’s usually a lot going on, under the surface.

Regardless of what is going on behind the scenes for our homeless friends, our job is to love them, to shelter and care for them, to seek the best for them. This love can only happen, thanks to your support, and the work of hundreds of volunteers each month.

You are like the crew that makes this ship sail, with the divine wind to move us along.

A big “Thank you!” to the Union Pacific Foundation for their support.

Grateful thanks to the Robert & Helen Hutchman Charitable Trust for funding the bunkbeds at our new Friends Shelter.

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