Nightwatch News

May, 2018

Cringe-worthyBy Rev. Rick Reynolds



I don't think I'm any more self-centered than the next person, but I sure seem to blow my opportunities to show love to strangers often. How about you?

Last Friday, two of us were previewing how we were going to manage an experimental outside breakfast opportunity. As board-member Bruce and I sat quietly outside, discussing the options, a young woman appeared.

"Can I use the bathroom?"

Well, see, the church that hosts us expects that our guests will only be in the space overnight. So I had to tell her "Sorry, no." What followed was all the invective a distraught homeless person can pour out. It made me sad, for her, for me, for the whole mess we find ourselves in locally.

Now, a week later, I wish I could have a do-over. I think my "by the book" approach was cringe-worthy. I'm hoping I get another chance, somehow, to do kindness to a stranger, even if there is a cost.

Lord give us wisdom and strength to love our neighbors and the strangers among us. •



A few months ago, a homeless friend had his backpack stolen, and with it, his beloved concertina. "David" was heartbroken. His concertina helped pass the time, connected him with people, and let him earn a few bucks. Without his 'squeezebox', he felt lost.

A volunteer posted something on Facebook. Almost immediately, someone bought a concertina and had it shipped to Nightwatch. It was Christmas, and we all had a warm fuzzy feeling watching David open the box.

Excitement turned to disappointment. It was the wrong kind of concertina. Who knew? He sat, dejected.

Why does it matter? Music can bring joy, and make us feel closer to our Creator. And our sharing David's suffering let him know that he wasn't alone in the world. Homeless people struggle with loneliness and feeling worthless. A musical instrument won't resolve all of David's troubles, but it can be a start.

After the "wrong" concertina was sent back, things were looking grim. David seemed hopeless. Meanwhile, we kept shopping. Finally, we found the instrument. But could we find David? This was no easy task.

After weeks of searching, we found him, just last Friday. The street ministers gave him the new concertina. He was ecstatic, hugging me. "Now I finally have my life back." This hopefulness is a wonderful thing – and love has been kindled by faithful volunteers and generous donors.

Thank you for giving us the chance to serve, by your gifts and prayers for Nightwatch. ●





NIG HIVATCH

Serving the night community in the name of Christ



GiveBIG is May 9!

You can support
Nightwatch and
schedule your donation
starting April 26.

https:// www.givebigseattle.org/ operation-nightwatch

Volunteer Open House

Find your favorite volunteer job!

Thursday, May 3, 2018 7:30-8:00 pm

RSVP or questions: info@seattlenightwatch.org Find out more: http://tinyurl.com/ydaqfjsx

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Bill Branom Mary Branom Charley Bush Paul Rollins Matthew Bvk John Byk Craig Davis **Bruce Davis** Robert Domzalski Mark & Lisa Domzalski Tony Domzalski Mark & Lisa Domzalski Pat Domzalski Gary Edwards Janet Buck Lyle & Shelley Staley **Bud Forbes** Carol Bragg Brian & Pat Hogan Francis & Virginia Merritt Robert & Margaret Merritt Rhoda Peel Rick & Lorri Reynolds George & Carolyn Rippee Jim & Fern Smith Jim & Jan Sullivan Kathleen & Clio Thomas Tony & Kim Ulkekul Kenneth Winslow & Celia McBride Nancy Winslow

Keith & Kay Forbes George & Carolyn Rippee Lina Frisbie Aaron & Sue Feik Ozie & Ora Gibson Hal Gibson Pete Gudger Cheryl Gudger Mal Higgins Linda Martin Mary Ellen Ingersoll Jim & Jan Sullivan Dick Lamb Charlotte & Frederick Cook Al & Maxine Lobb John & Jody Fenlason Margaret Mack Steve & Marion Mack **Donald Mayo** Christopher Calderon **Andrew Pine** Paul Pemberton Regina William Harr **Edith Root** Jim & Frances Reynolds Jack Root

Leonard Root

Dick Shipe Gary & Theresa Shipe Jane Shipe Mary Speltz Greg Speltz LaVerne Sugamele Lee & Gretchen Monteith Anne Louise Todd Kathleen Todd Gene Todd Kathleen Todd 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

Jennifer Byk John Byk Mollie Chaffee Mary Liz Chaffee Victoria Palmen Geri & Harvey Nelson Mike Potts Catharine Fletcher Anna Seidler Fran & Frank Abbott Steve Shivers Rick & Lorri Reynolds

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

Amazon donates to Nightwatch when you shop through Amazon Smile! Here's the link:

http://smile.amazon.com/

ch/91-0964027

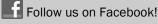
Shelter Dispatch Center & **Senior Apartments** 302 14th Ave. S

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



Little green tips By Ann Sakaguchi

I love spring. I love seeing the little green tips coming up in the flower beds. I know the green will grow up into something else; something bigger, and maybe colorful. It keeps me curious, to imagine what may blossom from the green tips. What will spring bring?

Likewise with people, we can imagine how they might blossom and what they may become. At Nightwatch, this is happening right now, in our apartments for seniors.

We have an open room, so Marlene and I have been busy interviewing folks who would like to move in. We need to be careful when we select a new resident. Where did they live

before? Did they pay rent? We want to be sure they can abide by our simple rules ("No smoking in the common areas"), get along with others, and can pay the modest rent. We ask for references.

Not all formerly homeless people can give us the answers we're looking for. Some have never paid rent ("I lived with friends on their couch".) Others have skipped out, without paying, in the end. We have to be careful, yes, but sometimes we need to take a chance.

So it is with "Melvin." He's been homeless for nine years and has no rental history. We want to watch him grow, because we see little green tips. There is so much right about him that we're willing to take a chance; we hope that he blossoms fully in a stable living situation.

Thanks for supporting Nightwatch and the seniors like Melvin. We wouldn't be able to give chances to folks like him without your donations.

Lord, thank you for letting us watch little green tips grow up into beautiful things. ●