Shared suffering
By Ben Curtis, Street Minister

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.

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

Cringe-worthy
By 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.
Lord, thank you for letting us watch little green tips grow up into beautiful things.

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.

Memorials
Bill Branom  
Mary Branom  
Charley Bush  
Paul Rollins  
Matthew Byk  
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 Rippe  
Jim & Fern Smith  
Jim & Jan Sullivan  
Kathleen & Clio Thomas  
Tony & Kim Ulkekul  
Kenneth Winslow  
&Celia McBride  
Nancy Winslow  
Keith & Kay Forbes  
George & Carolyn Rippe  
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 Feniason  
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 Rippe  
Mary Woolridge  
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:
hp://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0964027