Van drivers needed

By Rick Reynolds, Executive Director

For the second time in a week, I delivered homeless men to “Julia’s Place” at Madrona Grace Presbyterian. Ten guys. Lots of social distancing. And one Nightwatch worker overnight.

I gotta say, driving the van is the most fun I’ve had in a long time. The men are grateful for the shelter and for the ride. While in the van, they talk about sports, old cars, barbecue.

Last night, we were almost at the church. “Did Jackson get in the car?” I ask. Two nights ago Jackson was going on and on, talking about barbecue in West Texas where he’s from, compared to barbecue in Seattle, about which I have opinions. The back and forth was great, But tonight, from my driver’s seat, there was no gentle drawl from the back of the van. “Is Jackson with us?”

There was a pause. “I’m here,” Jackson says. “It’s the spaghetti.” He had gotten his meal and was relishing every morsel — in the van, before arriving at the church.

Everyone chuckled, but Jackson did not mind it one bit. There was so much gratitude in the van that night. God is great, God is good, let us thank him for our food.

Lord, help us to focus on the goodness around us, the deeply satisfied homeless guys who got a meal, and a wonderful place to stay. Grant us wisdom and strength for the days ahead.

Your support makes food, shelter, housing and hope happen for poor and homeless people in Seattle. If you would like to drive, email haley@seattlenightwatch.org.

Baptism

By Rev. Michael Cox, Street Minister

Street ministers try to meet the needs of homeless people on many levels—food, water, socks, bus tickets. But “Larry” wanted something different.

Larry wanted to be baptized.

We would see him every week. We talked and prayed, We ate lasagna together.

He still wanted to be baptized. Right in the parking lot on Pike Street where we serve a meal. We asked Larry the traditional questions, and I poured water over him in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. His friends, mostly homeless, all yelled their support.

Larry had this huge grin on his face. “I can’t wait to tell everyone.” It’s a steamy hot day. We are socially distanced and wearing masks.

At the bus stop, someone is working their way through a 12-pack of beer. But Larry is announcing to the world that he wants to follow Jesus. It’s a good thing.
Memorials & Tributes

Memorials
Bill Branon
Mary Branon
Jay Cawley
Adam & Erika Schuyler
Craig Davis
Bruce Davis
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Bud & Trudy Forbes
Jim & Fern Smith
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
Mal & Effie Higgins
Linda Martin
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Congressman John Lewis
Irmma Evans
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Feniason
Ted Lomax
Gloria Lomax
Daisy Neves
The Neves Family
Bud Palmberg
Anonymous
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Barbie Sharrard
Joy Lauderdale
Dick Shipe
Gary & Theresa Shipe
Jane Shipe
Chris Siddons
Bob Porter
Gordon Siddons
Bob Porter
Mary Speltz
Greg Speltz
Margaret Sullivan
Fran & Frank Abbott
Robert "Mugs" Tracy
Eileen Anderson
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok
& Cindy Monsen
Glenn & Shirley Weed
Carolyn & Curtis Neitzch
Mary Woolridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus

Tributes
All the volunteers
Ken & Carol Williams
American Legion Post #62
Tonasket, WA
George & Carolyn Rippie
All the wonderful people helping our homeless
Jackie & Clark Hoyt
Gautam, Gallendar, Klein, and Larios families
Kirstin Ward
Abbey McMahon
Jennifer Grant
Sono Sakaguchi
Rodney & Kristine Kawakami
Greg Speltz
Robert & Roberta Brown
Muriel Staple’s 92nd birthday
Bob & Dixie Doyle
Wonderful staff
Yuko & Julianne Kumasaka

Just a chair
By Ann Sakaguchi,
Deputy Director

No doubt, it’s been challenging for everyone, these past six months or so. We’ve had some tough times here at Nightwatch, not the least of which was being without Pastor Rick, while he battled COVID 19 at home. We’re thankful for his recovery and return to work.

We’ve been working hard to find new shelter sites. It takes a lot to get a shelter up and running; we thought we knew the basics, so we decided to try using the Dispatch Center for overnight shelter.

Our Dispatch Center Manager, Tonette, worked on the details; the mats, blankets, how to space them out so that everyone is safe. The guys were hesitant at first; but they soon felt comfortable.

On the first night, Tonette showed the guests their mats. She had carefully placed a chair at the head of each mat. When she pointed out the chair, one guest responded with sincere gratitude: “That’s so nice,” he said. Think about that. A simple plastic chair at the head of each mat. When she pointed out the chair, one guest responded enthusiastically “Yes!” So last week, we opened shelter for up to ten men in the space known as Julia’s Place (named for a beloved church member). And, yes, next to each mat, there is a chair.

Putting a chair next to each mat was not on the list of things required for shelter. It was Tonette’s sensitivity to the needs of our homeless friends, a small thing to make shelter better, that led her to do it. Thank you, Tonette.

We are also grateful to our new friends at Madrona Grace Presbyterian Church. When we asked if we could use their basement for shelter, they responded quickly and enthusiastically “Yes!” So last week, we opened shelter for up to ten men in the space known as Julia’s Place (named for a beloved church member); And, yes, next to each mat, there is a chair.

We still need more shelter. We need space and we need funds to pay the workers. Please continue to pray. This pandemic is not even close to being over.

Shopping List
Please help by collecting these items for us to distribute to our homeless friends and tenants (travel sizes are preferred):
- Bottled water (8 oz. - 16 oz.)
- Juice (single-sized)
- Protein bars
- Chewy granola bars
- Cereal bars
- Fruit snacks
- Fruit cups
- Trail/nut mix (individual pack)
- Cheese-n-cracker snacks (individually wrapped)
- Beef jerky sticks
- Wrapped candy
- Cookies and pastries (individually bagged)
- Whole individual fruit (apples, oranges, bananas)
- Large jars of jelly and jam

For more information about these items please contact:
info@seattlenightwatch.org

Amazon Wish List:
Ship donations to our door! https://amzn.to/2NwV2JG

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

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