We can see clearly now
By Marlene Poland, Housing Coordinator, and staff

At long last, the North Side senior tenants at Nightwatch have new windows, like the South Side tenants.

For two years, the North Side tenants had to listen about how great the new South Side windows were.

The finishing touches are happening this month. New blinds will soon be installed, and the workers will be gone.

For the first time, they have a window to see through clearly. It opens wide. It closes tight. There’s no more wind howling through on a stormy night, and no rain dribbling in.

A tenant said: “Makes me feel human!”

A North Side Guy said “I love my new windows.” A South Side Guy responded “I told you it was worth the hassle.”

“Are you going to raise my rent?” I was asked. And I was glad to tell him, “No!”

It’s going to be a bright, bright, sun-shiny day, thanks to Nightwatch donors. You are keeping our seniors in affordable housing. Please remember us this winter.

Ring the bell for the workers
By Rev. Rick Reynolds, Executive Director

I’ve had a giant 300 pound bell in my backyard since I was about 10 years old. It was salvaged by my aunt, given to my mother, who entrusted it to me.

It tolls out special occasions, like birthdays, national holidays, New Year’s Day.

Since about April we’ve been ringing it to honor first responders in the time of COVID, at 8:00 p.m. Many of our neighbors come out on their balconies to cheer. My wife will yell out “This one is for the teachers!” or “This one is for the grocery workers!” “This one is for the truck drivers.”

“This one is for the homeless program workers!” I yelled the other night. There were shouts of approval from across the alley. It made me get teary-eyed.

Think about the team at Operation Nightwatch! We’ve had people get sick, then come right back to work. Most have not gotten sick. They keep showing up, doing whatever they can do for homeless people in the middle of a pandemic. They have been faithful to do what must be done, to keep people alive, providing the essentials: food, shelter, housing and hope. We need them. And we need your support.

Lord, thank you for the willing hands who are working to provide care in difficult circumstances. And thank you for the donors who hear and respond.
Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Chuck Beavers
Margie Beavers
Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Dorothy Clement
Norm & Melinda Lobb
Joe Curtis
Robert & Roberta Brown
Craig Davis
Bruce Davis
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Bud & Trudy Forbes
Jim & Fern Smith
Kim Forman
Bill & Jody Lemke
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
David Hamp
Steve & Chris Murphy
Mal & Effie Higgins
Linda Martin
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Richard Lamb
Luke Larson
Beth & Joe Lamont
Bob Porter
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Norm & Melinda Lobb
Daisy Neves
The Neves Family
Bud Palmberg
Anonymous
Michael & Chrisi Dotson
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Bernice Reilly
Carol Hepburn
Ron
Christine Jones

Paul Sakaguchi Sr.
Paul & Stacie Sakaguchi
Robert “Mugs” Tracy
Eileen Anderson
Dale Turner
University Congregational Housing Association
Howard Van Horn
Maria & Greg Van Horn
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok & Cindy Monsen
Tom Walters
Debbi Walters & Dan Patterson
Shirley & Glenn Weed
Curtis & Carolyn Neitsch
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus
Rose Chin Young
Steve & Chris Murphy

Tributes

All healthcare workers and first responders
George & Carolyn Rippee
All who work towards a better society
Jo Merrick
Dodger greatness
Eric Bernd
Verna Honda
Paul Kuo
Jedidiah
Christine Jones
Man Lung Li
Eric Lam
Greg Speltz’s 97th birthday
Robb Petersen

Hotel rooms?

By Ann Sakaguchi,
Deputy Director

We had an outbreak of COVID-19 among guests at two of our shelters. As a result, all shelter guests, whether they were COVID positive or negative, went into isolation or quarantine. Two of our three shelters closed.

Our partners at Catholic Community Services have secured hotel rooms for our guests who had been at the Friends shelter; a much safer situation than an overnight-only shelter. The Friends shelter will not re-open during the pandemic. These hotel rooms are being funded by King County through December.

This is a major change for Nightwatch; it’s a big deal.

A hotel room to call your own seems like a great improvement over a bunkbed in a place with 20 other guys, right? A private room, with your own bathroom, where you don’t have to leave every morning is good, yes?

One guest, “Hal” resisted going to the hotel. He told us he had been coming to Nightwatch for years; he wanted to keep doing so. Seems like he considers our Dispatch Center a comfortable, predictable place, and that we are his family.

Hearing this broke my heart.

We re-opened Julia’s Place at Madrona Grace Presbyterian Church for overnight shelter last week. Hal now comes to Nightwatch every night, to go there for the night.

So what happens after the end of the year, after funding for the hotels dries up? We don’t know.

And what about all the others that will want to come inside, as the weather changes? We don’t know.

Will you please pray with us? We need to find ways and places and the means and the funds to bring people inside. We know that God will provide; we just don’t know how right now.