

Nightwatch News

July, 2021

Benny and my Pop

By Rev. Rick Reynolds, Executive Director



My father Jim passed away in late May. He and my mom have been super supportive of Operation Nightwatch since I arrived here in 1994.

My first summer on the job, Nightwatch moved to 91 Wall St. The floor in the new space was really bad, so Pop and I took a Saturday to build a deck to cover it all; measuring and cutting 2x4s and laying down plywood over the old floor. While we were working, homeless Benny showed up and asked if

he could help. Benny was the loudest, most mentally ill guy I knew. From my night-time experience with Benny, I was ready to shut the door on him. But Pop welcomed him and soon kept him busy. He held the tape measure and handed us nails and wood. When it was lunch time, Pop invited Benny to join us.

I was freaking out with worry. But Benny kept it together through lunch, and we soon finished our job. I was grateful that Benny didn't blow up, or punch my 70-year-old dad.

Seven years later, Benny was crushed while trying to hijack a garbage truck in the middle of the night. It was a tragic end. But I will remember my father's welcoming friendship for Benny, and Benny's response. He kept it together for a few hours, and returned the love. It was unforgettable.

Thank you Lord for the example of love you have given us. Help us all to rise in response, to love the people around us, no matter how challenging. ●

Angelic Lyft driver

By Michael Cox, Street Minister

It is a beautiful evening in Seattle. Views of Puget Sound and the Olympic mountains are available to anyone willing to stop and look. The sun is setting, and Seattle's homeless community begins to make plans for the evening. We're in a park, witnessing two contrasting realities: beauty and suffering.



There is a homeless man on a bench who is coughing and tells us that he has chest pains. Our nurse-friend Maggie immediately goes to work. The coughing man shares his medical history and agrees that a visit to the emergency room is in order.

Maggie calls for a Lyft, which arrives in under a minute. I walk up to the car, hoping to use some of my white privilege to smooth out the inevitable drama that is about to take place. I can't imagine a Lyft driver wanting to chauffeur a homeless man.

To my surprise, the driver is not only friendly, but excited to help our sick friend. The driver tells me that he comes to the park with food, and is frustrated when people take pictures of people living in tents. He tells me it's disrespectful and dehumanizing when "do-gooders" hand out food to homeless people, then end up taking "selfies."

We put two, dirty, overstuffed backpacks with broken zippers into the trunk. Our homeless friend is invited into the front seat, and arrives at the hospital safely.

"Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it. (Hebrews 13:2 NLT)" ●



NIGHTWATCH

**Serving the night
community in the
name of Christ**

Nightwatch needs shelter!

- Room for 10 guys and a worker
- Access to bathrooms
- Available 9:00 pm to 7:00 am

Let's talk about it!

Call Rick:
206-323-4359

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Eileen Tracy Anderson
Ann Sakaguchi
Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Brillion
Anonymous
Carl & Eva Bross
Bob Porter
Craig Davis
Bruce Davis
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Burt Dyson
Kathy & Bob Roseth
Marie Erickson
Judy Hurley
Dee Glenn
Maria & Greg VanHorn
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
Effie & Mal Higgins
Linda Martin
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Mary Jensen
Bob Porter

George Johnson
Les & Carol Nelson
Russ Johnston
Vern & Marilyn Lolley
Dean & Hattie Kimble
Katherine Smith
Clarence & Dorothy Linscott
Diane McAlister
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Jodi Mangold
Alicia Azurin
Daisy Neves
The Neves Family
Bud Palmberg
Chris & Michael Dotson
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Jim Reynolds
June Burr
Sheila Liddle
Shawna McMahon
Alice Prall
Brian & Julie Reynolds
Frances Reynolds
Greg & Brenda Reynolds
Rick & Lorri Reynolds
Ann Sakaguchi
Don & Lenora Spears
Jeanne Wiganosky

Greg & Mary Speltz
Lynn Vollert
Clio Thomas
Henry Jordan
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Robert "Mugs" Tracy
Eileen Anderson
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok
& Cindy Monsen
Glenn & Shirley Weed
Carolyn & Curtis Neitsch
Cynthia & Jim Weaver
Gary White
Eugene White
Irene Woodgate-Campiglia
George & Carolyn Rippee
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus
Harold & Norma Young
Vern & Marilyn Lolley

Tributes

Anne Down
Harvey & Geri Nelson
Phillip Lorente
Buffalo Mazzetti
The Marchi Family
George Lundin
Denny Shaw
Carol Sue Janes

Now what?

By Ann Sakaguchi, Deputy Director

We've all been through a lot, but now it's time to look ahead. And we need help.

The number of homeless people coming to Nightwatch has been climbing. During the height of the pandemic we were only serving 45-50 at night. But now, more than 100 are seeking help most nights. There isn't enough shelter. What are we gonna do?

The guys we've been helping through the pandemic are now in housing, hotel rooms, or 24-hour shelter programs. It's great. But until there is enough room for everyone, we need more overnight options. Options like Nightwatch has at Madrona Grace Presbyterian Church.

Spread out in the church hall, 10 homeless men are safe, sheltered, and cared for. A Nightwatch worker is there to ensure safety for all. They come in late – after 9 pm – and they leave by 6:30 the next morning. Nightwatch delivers them to the front door and the guys have a bus ticket to ride Metro in the morning.

Shelter is so much better than sleeping in a tent and being run off by the city work crews and the police department. People in shelter have a sense of community. There is accountability and structure which many homeless people like and need. And shelter helps homeless people retain a sense of dignity and hope.

This is where you come in. Someone reading this knows about a church basement or some other space where we could put a worker and 10 homeless guys overnight. **We could fill 2 more church sites like this for homeless guys right now.** Ten guys and a worker.

Please pray. Make a phone call. Let your friends know, then contact us.

We don't have to keep chasing homeless people out of parks if we bring people inside. It can be done safely.

Thank you for all you've done to make this a better community for everyone. ●



Shopping List

Please help by collecting these items for us to distribute to our homeless friends and tenants (travel sizes are preferred):

- Bottled water (16 oz.)
- Juice (single-sized)
- Protein bars
- Chewy granola bars
- Fruit snacks
- Trail/nut mix (individual pack)
- Wrapped candy
- Cookies and pastries (individually bagged)
- Whole individual fruit (apples, oranges, bananas)
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Floss
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Band aids

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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