

Nightwatch News

April, 2022

Feeling sorry for myself

By Rev. Rick Reynolds, Executive Director



The building which housed our offices caught on fire February 19, and we won't be back for a long time.

We got permission to haul out our essentials on short notice. Street ministers, program managers, and I hauled boxes and equipment down 46 steps in the dark, then trudged back up 46 stairs. There was an acrid smell of a burnt building around us, and debris in the darkened halls. I felt so sorry for myself. I shouldn't be doing this right now. I'm two months from retirement. Our temporary offices are cramped. We can't get the phones to work properly. The internet connection is slow. We found more

suitable space, but it has the same problems with phones and internet. We are on the wrong side of the street. Everything is slow here.

The night after my "pity party," I spent two hours with a homeless guy. He suffers the indignity of absolutely no phone, no internet, and no electricity at all. These are now essential for normal life. Without them, you can't connect for a job, keep up with the news, apply for aid, or find housing. Later that same night, I heard reports that a million refugees were fleeing war. **I started looking at my life with new eyes.**

With all our disruptions from the fire, Nightwatch is still standing strong. Food and shelter, nightly. Workers on the street. Senior Housing Program. Thank you God, and thank you donors!

Lord, forgive us for our whining when there is so much need. Thank you that you have given us the ability to show love for homeless people at Operation Nightwatch. ●

David's RV

By Paul Benz Jr.,
Street Minister

I met David in an RV at a McDonalds.

You've probably noticed old rigs around Seattle. David's RV was littered with assorted tools and wires; unrecognizable, half-finished projects. But there wasn't the deep grime that comes from years of RV living full-time—not yet anyway.



Yes, David's RV was in disarray, and smoky. But there was one more element. **Hope.** David had not yet lost hope. There was light in his eyes, and a smile on his face. All he needed was fuel to get his rig home, where a loving sister was waiting for him. She knew about his difficulties, but she wouldn't give up on him. We wouldn't give up either.

Poverty is chaotic and tragic, though. It can travel at warp speed. A week after David met me, the rig was gone, along with everything else. After missed connections, visits and phone calls, Nightwatch was able to get David a train ticket home. He came to the King Street Station with nothing more than the clothes on his back. But he had a sister who loved him still and was grateful to have him home. **"Thanks for helping my brother."**

This is what we do, thanks to your support, prayers, and love. ●



NIGHTWATCH

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

**Save the Date!
GiveBIG 2022**

May 3rd and 4th
Your gift provides
food, shelter,
housing and hope
for people in need.

[www.wagives.org/
organization/Operation
-Nightwatch](http://www.wagives.org/organization/Operation-Nightwatch)

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

- Bill Branom

Mary Branom

Bob Brooks

Betty Blosssey

Charley Bush

Ginny Larkins

Craig Davis

Bruce Davis

Robert Domzalski

Mark & Lisa Domzalski

Pat Domzalski

Tony Domzalski

Mark & Lisa Domzalski

Pat Domzalski

Ruth Goins

Elizabeth Hansen

Chris Graff

Norma Jean Hanson

Gus Hartman

Robert & Roberta Brown

Effie & Mal Higgins

Linda & Mike Martin

Mary Ellen Ingersoll

Jim & Jan Sullivan
- Paul Jacobson

Carole & Paul Jacobson Jr.

Dean & Hattie Kimble

Kathy Greiner

Ron Kimble

Carl & Heather Craven

Al & Maxine Lobb

John & Jody Fenlason

Marshall

Bob Porter

Elmer Molzahn

Sherianne Caldwell

Bud Palmberg

Anonymous

Chrisi & Michael Dotson

Mike Potts

Catharine Fletcher

Nikki Powers

Judi Selset

Jim Reynolds

Marge Beavers

Judi Selset

Linda Day Sakamoto

George & Carolyn Rippee

- Sandra Snow

Lisa Lady

Hide Tekawa

Ron & Sharon Hirata

Clio Thomas

Henry Jordan

Jim & Jan Sullivan

Janice Tomisser

George & Carolyn Rippee

Susan Van Pelt

Judi Selset

Zollie & Sylvia Volchok

Tony Volchok

& Cindy Monsen

Glenn & Shirley Weed

Carolyn Neitsch

Cynthia & Jim Weaver

Gary White

Lisa Connolley

Eugene White

Mary Wooldridge

Holly Boone & Pat Braus

Tributes

- Nathan Hautala

Toni & Robert Hautala

Jayne Ross Matsuda

Muriel Taylor

Aaron Rinsema's birthday

Judd & Linda Rinsema

Denny Shaw

Carol Sue Janes

Meet the new staff



Shelley Dooley is the new Director of Administration. She is excited to be at Nightwatch in a setting where she can live out her faith, caring for people at the most basic levels.

Shelley brings expertise from her work at Catholic Community Services, Compass Housing, and Real Change.

She says she’s a cat person who has converted to both dogs and cats. Please no hating!

She also has been a foster parent and is

mother to a 20-year old son.

Shelley’s passion is noticeable to all who talk to her. **“I love being able to use my skills to remove barriers and to benefit people living in poverty.”**

Bethany Buer is the new Director of Programs at Operation Nightwatch. She was a volunteer while a student at Seattle Pacific University, served for a time on our Board of Directors, and has come back to Seattle, just for us.

“One of my enduring memories of Bethany is her ability to relate to a homeless guy, Doug, who ran the Torchlight Parade to raise money for Operation Nightwatch. Halfway through the race he sprinted past us and left the course, and only later did I realize he knew where all the places were, where you could get a drink of water or use the bathroom.” (Pastor Rick Reynolds)

Doug continued to return to Nightwatch after he got a place, because he liked the food and the sense of community. **“We hope we can get back to that sense of community once COVID restrictions are lifted,”** Bethany says.

Please remember Nightwatch as we move to new leadership. ●



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.)
- Protein & chewy granola bars
- Cookies and pastries
- Apples, oranges, bananas
- Shampoo (travel size)
- Conditioner (travel size)
- Razors
- Lotion
- Deodorant

More info, or to schedule a drop-off: 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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