

Nightwatch News

July, 2022

You saved my life. I love you.

By Deacon Frank DiGirolamo, Executive Director



We have been hearing from many former clients. Emails. Voicemails. In person. The messages are gifts. The theme is the same. Operation Nightwatch was there at a critical time, to help them stabilize.

Maybe it was a shelter bed and hot food. Maybe housing. Or just a listening ear and a prayerful presence, affirming their identity and value. Now they're back on their feet, and they just want to say thanks!

One of our recent voicemails ended with, "...you saved my life. I love you." We played that one several times!

That voicemail was soon followed by a personal visit from another friend, "Sarah," at a weekly community dinner.

She used to live outdoors, and would talk about how she loves to help others, as well as her struggles and hopes. **Now, she excitedly tells us about how shelter helped her stabilize and get back on her feet.** She's sober, and loving life. Her smile and her eyes are filled with joy. She's in an apartment, and about to land a job. The future is before her. Sarah pauses and smiles, holding out her arms. An eternity in that hug... tears of joy gave way to more sharing about newfound hope. We part with well-wishes, and hopes to see each other soon.

Thank you for making it possible for Nightwatch to be there.

Lord, thanks for gifts of gratitude and community. ●

It's the little things

By Bethany Buer, Director of Programs

We know the phrase "it's the little things (in life)." The saying focuses our attention on what nurtures us. It fosters gratitude, and makes life sweeter.

When our senior housing tenants move from the streets into our full-time, permanent housing, Operation Nightwatch provides many "little things" to make their transition just a little bit sweeter. It starts with the basics; bed frame, mattress, dresser, mini-fridge, and nightstand. We also

repaint the walls in a bright white and install new carpet; a full cosmetic refresh. Marlene, who oversees housing, coordinates all of this and more, to acknowledge the dignity of the person who will soon call this place home.

"Bennie," a new tenant, recently told us it was the "new sheets, fresh towels, and never-been-opened, out-of-the-box shower shoes" that made him really feel like he'd **come home** for the first time in many, many years. Moving from the streets into an apartment is a big step, and has a huge impact on Bennie's life. But maybe the greatest impact Nightwatch is having is in the small things, like new shower shoes. A sign that you are home.

Lord, thanks for the little ways in which you show your care for us. ●



NIGHTWATCH

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

Nightwatch needs shelter spaces!

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

Let's talk about it!

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Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Daisy Jean Beach
Jan & Gary Erford
Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Charley Bush
Betsy Darrah
Ginny Larkins
Cathy Cuenin
Marnie O'Sullivan
& John Schlosser
Patricia Dennis
Robert & Roberta Brown
Dickens
Geri & Harvey Nelson
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Bethany Erickson
Peggy McClintock
Dick Erickson
Peggy McClintock
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson

Effie & Mal Higgins
Linda & Mike Martin
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan
James Jahnke
Sydney Carr
Dean & Hattie Kimble
Kathy Greiner
Ron Kimble
Carl & Heather Craven
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Bud McDole
Jerry & Berta Merrill
Elmer Molzahn
Sherianne Caldwell
Bud Palmberg
Anonymous
Chrisi & Michael Dotson
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Nikki Powers
Judi Selset
Jim Reynolds
Judi Selset

Dick Shipe
Gary & Theresa Shipe
Violet & John Stevens
Joy Lauderbaugh
Clio Thomas
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Susan Van Pelt
Judi Selset
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok
& Cindy Monsen
Bill Ward
Jan & Gary Erford
John & Jody Fenlason
Glenn & Shirley Weed
Cynthia & Jim Weaver
Leo Werlech
Theresa Werlech
Gary White
Lisa Connolley
Eugene White
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus

Tributes

Nathan Hautala
Toni & Robert Hautala
Rick Reynolds
Paul & Linda Arms
Mary Branom
Sherianne Caldwell
Flo Chambers
John & Celeste Clauson
Sabra Cleveland
Nancy Ellingham
Jan & Gary Erford
John & Jody Fenlason
Connie Foseid
Dick & Carol Grieves
Biji Keigley
Won Kim
Judith Kovarik
Doug Hart & Carole Powell
Jackie & Clark Hoyt
Sheila Liddle
Ginger MacDonald
Linda & Mike Martin
Gretchen & Lee Monteith
John Nelson
Sharon & David Nichols
Steve Santi
Joan Selvig
Mike Tye
Mary Ellen Vetto
Ann Sakaguchi
Ginger MacDonald
Steve & Chris Murphy
Mary Santi
Steve Santi
Denny Shaw
Carol Sue Janes

Validation

By Ben Curtis, Street Minister

There are many housing programs in Seattle, helping people to get off the street. A common element in the process is the need for a "letter of homelessness verification." It requires the testimony of someone who knows the applicant and can verify their current living situation.

Recently, our outreach group spoke to one of our friends, "Josh" who was working to get

housing. His case manager let me know a letter was needed, and it was an easy one to write. We had come to know this man well over the years. Thanks to our relationship with him on the streets, Josh is now on his way to getting keys to his own place!

The headlines remind us that, in our communities, thousands of folks are sleeping in doorways, bus stops, and tents. Because our Street Ministers show up every week, we are privileged to know a vast number of these friends by name. We know their faces and hear their stories.

These are unique times, with many good people trying to find solutions. Josh's story reminds us that housing begins with relationship. The process of verification requires it. Perhaps the bigger process is one of "validation." Validating each other's existence, dignity, and worthiness for safe and stable living situations.

Thanks to your support, we are thrilled to give a testimony that helps folks get inside.

"For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future." Jer. 29:11 ●



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)
- First aid cream (individual pks)
- Razors
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Sewing kits (travel size)
- New white t-shirts (men's)

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

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