

Nightwatch News

November, 2023

Truly seeing each other

By Deacon Frank DiGirolamo, Executive Director



We just celebrated our 2-year anniversary of hosting a weekly “dinner church” at a parking lot in the Bitter Lake neighborhood. Hot meals, smiles, hugs, friendship, coffee, prayer. It’s an initiative that is sponsored by a small group of churches in North Seattle. They each pitch in funds, and send volunteers to handle the logistics.

We get to be present and engage with folks... and what a pleasure it’s been to be invited back week after week. Conversations effortlessly pick up where they left off. “Diane” comes from a nearby apartment; “Gary” rides the bus to see us; “Patrick” shows up from a nearby homeless encampment.

Last week a bunch of us huddled in a circle at the end of the meal. It’s getting cooler and darker, but Diane’s words warmed our hearts. **“This gathering is the best thing that’s happened in this neighborhood in years.** We’re all connecting with each other. Truly seeing each other. Loneliness is fleeing. Thank you for starting it.”

The feeling is mutual! We simply showed up to love others, and everyone else jumped in to do the same. It’s how Nightwatch works. Thanks for your support of the ministry!

Lord, we love because you first loved us. (1 John 4:19). ●

Face time

By Rev. Michael Cox,
Director of Outreach Ministry

I met “Danielle” in an encampment that overlooks the freeway. The view from her tent was spectacular. The waterfront, Bainbridge Island, and the stadiums were all visible from her home. However, the noise, rats, and erratic behavior of her neighbors made her situation extremely unsafe.

Danielle had a housing voucher and wasn’t sure how to get into an apartment. I referred her to our in-house case manager and several other people who know how to navigate the fragmented and challenging system that is low-income housing. After a few more visits to her home, her encampment was swept, and we lost touch. No one is living there now, and as always, I hope for the best and fear the worst.

At the end of a recent outreach night, we are walking back to our van. As we cross the street, I say hello to a young couple who looks like they may be unhoused. It’s Danielle! She is happy to see me, introduces me to her boyfriend, and updates me on her housing prospects. As we say our goodbyes, **Danielle tells me that it’s nice to see me, that seeing my face makes her feel like she is home.**

Thank you for helping us bring a feeling of “home” to wherever people need it. ●



NIGHTWATCH

Serving the night
community in the
name of Christ

Together Again



Operation Nightwatch 2023

Together Again

Thursday, November 2

6:30-7:30 pm

We are so excited to see you
at our fundraising dinner!

A few seats are
still available:

<https://bit.ly/ONWta>



Please give today!
<https://bit.ly/giveONWta>



Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Chuck Beavers
Marge Beavers
Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Monica Brown
Robert & Roberta Brown
Charley Bush
Betsy Darrah
Ginny Larkins
Robert Cooper
Maria & Greg Van Horn
Merna Corson
John & Ivy Conklin
Craig Davis
Bruce Davis
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson

Lee Hermann
Anthony Chang
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Paul Jacobson Sr.
Paul & Carole Jacobson
Barbara Ellen Johnson
James Johnson
Tom Koeneman
Jackalee Koeneman
Dean & Hattie Kimble
Kathy & Jared Greiner
Ron Kimble
Carl & Heather Craven
Alice Lawyer
Rick & Lorri Reynolds
Art Liddle
Sheila Liddle
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
George Matsuda
Muriel Taylor

Sean Kenny McMurtry
Anonymous
Elmer Molzahn
Sherianne Caldwell
Robert & Nellie Porter
Bob Porter
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Dick Shipe
Gary & Theresa Shipe
Lyle Staley
Shelley Staley
Clio Thomas
Mike & Sandy Birdsall
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Cindy Mosen
Glenn & Shirley Weed
Carolyn Neitsch
Gary White
Lisa Connolley
Eugene White
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus

Tributes

Ben Curtis
Susan Dean
Anita Riksheim
Vijya Patel
Nancy Bennett Evans
Bob Powell's birthday
Joy Lauderbaugh
Rick Reynolds
Jane Bradbury
Dick & Carol Grieves
Linda & Mike Martin
Doug Hart & Carole Powell
Denny Shaw
Carol Sue Janes
Zan & Penelope's marriage
Ginny Larkins

I am home

By Marlene Poland,
Housing Coordinator

All of our senior residents have experienced homelessness at some point. Occasionally, we welcome someone who has been "out there" for many years. We offer a smile and hope, knowing they may not have experienced either for a very long time. It can take a while to adjust to the goodness.

"Ted" came to us last year, after 19 years on the streets. He received an apartment.

Still, every day for month, he packed up and headed out, only to return in the evening. I intercepted him and inquired, "Where are you going?" His response was conditioned by years of shelter life, "I have to leave, right?" He thought that someone else came in to use the space during the day. He left his keys in the door for the next person, because he was unfamiliar with the concept of having his own place.

Gently, I assured him. "This is your house. Those keys are yours. You can lock your door, and go back to sleep, whatever you like. You are home." He went inside and slept for days.

Emerging later in the week, fully rested, he updated me. "I'm good now. I know that I am home."

At Nightwatch, hope is offered and understanding is given.

Your compassionate contributions make this possible. ●



Many thanks to our Together Again sponsors!

Event Sponsors

Bob & Dixie Doyle
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Epiphany Parish
Larry & Kristie Garrett
Griptape

SOCK IT TO HOMELESSNESS

Sock Drive Open House

Sunday, December 3
12:30—2:00 pm

Start collecting new, men's
athletic socks now!

More details:

seattlenightwatch.org/sock-it

Shopping List

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

- Cookies and pastries
- Fruit
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Razors
- Toothbrushes
- Lotion
- Soap & body wash
- Men's new athletic socks
- Beanie hats
- Warm gloves
- Wash cloths & towels
- Twin sheet sets, new or clean
- Twin blankets, new or clean

For more information, or to schedule a donation drop-off:
info@seattlenightwatch.org

Amazon Wish List:

Ship donations to our door!
<https://bit.ly/ONWlist>

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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