

Nightwatch News

April, 2024

A mother to many

By Deacon Frank DiGirolamo, Executive Director



It's evening, at our shelter dispatch center. Dinner is served.

"Mindy" sees me and quickly invites me to sit with her. "It's been a while since we've talked. We need to catch up!"

She asks me about my family, recalling several things we talked about last time. And then, "Thanks again for not judging us out here. **You all seem to understand that we are suffering from things outside of our control.** Just trying to make it through the day."

And over the next hour, she gently shares both tragedies and gifts. The trauma of being estranged from family and her own children for various reasons. It all brings her to this mysterious gift of finding herself "out here" and able to be a mother to so many young adults who've been separated from their own families. **One of her missions is to encourage people to go back home, to reconcile.** Her own suffering has enabled her to help others heal. Mindy says it's because she has God in her heart. Wow.

Lord, thank you for breaking bread with us. Help us to keep meeting you as we walk and dine with one another.

At Nightwatch, dinner is served 365 days per year, thanks to your support. ●

Acceptance

By Rev. Rick Reynolds,
Street Minister

You'd think by age seventy I wouldn't be concerned about what people think about me. But that anxious 6th grader is still with me.

I arrived at our humble community meals program on Tuesday night – the one served by the street ministers in a garage at Pike and Boren. I'm still new enough, there is a note of uncertainty on my part. Will I be accepted by our street friends?

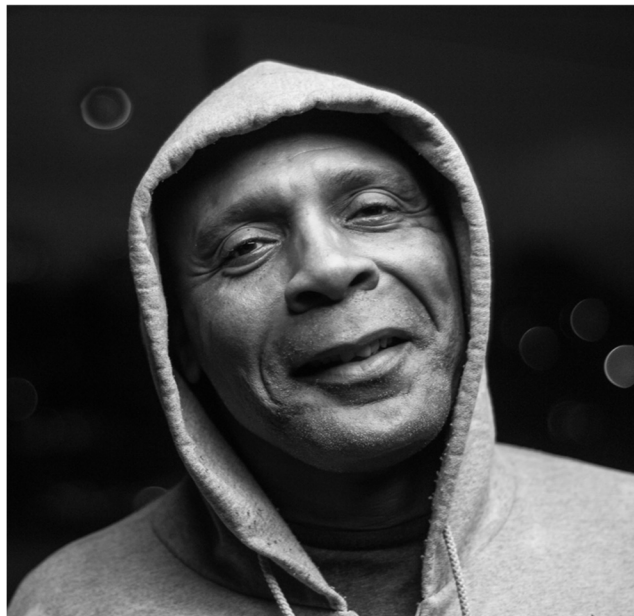
That fleeting moment disappeared the moment I stepped into the parking lot.

"Pastor Rick!"

Patrick was so happy to see me. He was waiting for our arrival and for a delicious meal. Words tumbled out of his mouth in a stream of consciousness which ended with "Can I get a hug?" I'm not sure much, if anything else, made sense.

I smiled, wrapped my arms around him, and gave him a squeeze.

He felt better, and so did I. ●



NIGHTWATCH

Serving the night
community in the
name of Christ



GiveBIG 2024

May 7th & 8th

Early giving starts April 23

Your support provides food, shelter, housing, and hope to people in need.

All gifts will be matched up to \$10,000!



<https://bit.ly/GiveNW>

Volunteer Orientation

Friday, April 12

5:30 pm

Come on in, take a look around, and hear about all of our volunteer opportunities.

302 14th Ave S, Seattle 98144

RSVP:

michelle@seattlenightwatch.org

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Mardi Carroll
George & Carolyn Rippee
James Cassan
Walter & Thelma Ritchie
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
George Frank
George & Carolyn Rippee
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
John Hull
Vijay & Carol Luthra
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Barbara Jeanne Blair Johnson
Ted & Jean Faley
Bob Johnson
& Karen Hoven
Rick & Lorri Reynolds
Shelley Staley
Alan & Shigeko Williamson

Clarice Johnson
Ted & Jean Faley
George Johnson
Ted & Jean Faley
Joybelle Johnson-Eriks
Ted & Jean Faley
Dean & Hattie Kimble
Kathy & Jared Greiner
Ron Kimble
Carl & Heather Craven
Howard Lee
Jason & Julie Chee
Sharon & Ron Hirata
Wan Lim
Wesley Markham
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Mark McNeil
Robb Petersen
Elmer Molzahn
Sherianne Caldwell
Bud Palmberg
Chrisi & Michael Dotson
Cynthia Pemberton
Paul Pemberton
Robert & Nellie Porter
Bob Porter

Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Jim & Frances Reynolds
Vern & Marilyn Lolley
Jeanne Wiganosky
Maury Santi
Stephen Santi
Dick Shipe
Gary & Theresa Shipe
Greg & Mary Speltz
Lynn Vollert
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Cindy Monsen
Gary White
Lisa Connolley
Eugene White
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus
Joey Yee
Anthony Chang

Tributes

Donna Palmberg's birthday
Stephanie Dotson
Doreen Duff Dings
Merideth Nelson
Jeffrey Palmberg
Ann Sakaguchi
Kim Sather
Denny Shaw
Carol Sue Janes
Maureen Walker
Harvey & Geri Nelson

Warmth and safety

By Tonette Winston, Director of Housing & Shelter Services

During the winter months we plan to give out blankets every night. If the weather is severe, we often exceed our nightly allotment. This has happened a lot over the last four, extremely cold months.

Last Friday, I had the opportunity to cook and serve the meals at our Dispatch Center. As I prepared the food, I noticed several of our guests requesting blankets from the staff.

One gentleman, "Brad," pulled me aside and informed me that blankets aren't just used for warmth, but also security. He described the trauma he had experienced on the streets since he became homeless as a young person. **He said the security of a blanket provides one more layer against all the dangers.** If he is wrapped in a blanket with his head covered, he feels safer, less noticeable to strangers, and almost invisible.

I realized in that moment that a blanket is more than something to keep you warm, it can also provide safety, security, and peace-of-mind.

Your support of Nightwatch brings warmth and safety to our homeless neighbors. Please consider volunteering or donating.

Thank you. ●



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
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Razors
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Lotion
- Soap & body wash
- Deodorant
- 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
Mailing address:
PO Box 21181
Seattle, WA 98111

206-323-4359 Administration
206-860-4296 Senior Housing
206-329-2099 Shelter Dispatch

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www.seattlenightwatch.org



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