

Rick Reynolds, Operation Nightwatch; Rick Friedhoff, Compass Center

Operation Nightwatch and the Compass Center are our two partners in our shelter work. The executive directors have over 50 years experience working with the homeless population in Seattle. Despite efforts to curb homelessness, Seattle has seen a consistent rise in the homeless population, particularly with men and children. Those working in the field also tell me that homelessness has been creeping into the population that formerly would have called themselves "lower middle-class." Reynolds and Friedhoff see incredible opportunity to expand our work with the homeless of our city and the options are many, however, far and away, one need continues to rise to the surface - day center care. Day Centers provide a wide range of services to the homeless and disenfranchised everything from case management, showers, laundry, access to phones and computers, mail, crafts, reading and entertainment areas to the very simple provision of space for individuals to be inside and off the streets. Their distinction is that they operate during business hours. Shelters typically operate from 9 pm to 7 am. Day Centers provide that necessary home base where one can find services, rest, community and encouragement during day hours.