



AWAKE CHURCH

Aurora Avenue, Seattle, WA

Sept/Oct 2009



'Aurora Means Dawn' bronze plaque design. Kevin (blue) & friends build Montana (right) a shelter.

Greetings from Seattle! Here are some things we've been up to lately as a missional community seeking to be salt and light along Aurora:

Shaping a Neighborhood Identity:

Almost 2 years ago, I helped craft an Aurora vision statement that ended with the statement, "Aurora Means Dawn. Wake up to a new Aurora!"

Soon that theme will be depicted on bronze plaques at Aurora bus stops!

Blessing the Forgotten: Thanks to Awake, a single woman living in a motel had a supportive companion when she gave birth to her son, and a homeless friend now has a (hidden!) shelter.

Building Trust: A motel manager listed me as a reference on an application (apparently "pastor" looks good as a character reference!), a former motel resident that now lives in a home invited Awake folks to her baby shower, and a local bar owner said about Awake, "I admire your altruism."

Waking Up Churches: Old and new local churches have asked us for guidance about engaging Aurora.

Advocating for Our Neighbors:

Following a *Seattle Times* article that negatively stereotyped our neighbors, a number of us wrote the editor, author, and neighbors, shedding light on the hopeful things we are witnessing and creating along Aurora.

Sharing Life: After sharing a community dinner with neighbors struggling with homelessness and addiction, we participated in a drum circle, which soothed the soul of one of our homeless friends, a former drummer.

PRAYERS

-Lord, we celebrate Andrew & Christy's marriage!

-God, we praise you for the relationships and possibilities around 90th & Aurora.

-Spirit, deepen our mission, strengthen our community, and direct our formation.

-Lord, give us wisdom for the Parish Collective, Vacancy Project, community development, and space issues.

Thanks for your support!
Grace, Ben Katt

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