

Community



Physical labor makes up much of Douffet's average work day.

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town traffic, pausing only to blast a passing friend with a long lean on the horn, or flip through a carefully arranged clip of notes attached to the sun visor.

At Humble Bagel in South Eugene, Douffet picked up a bag of French rolls, then hustled to make it back to the warehouse in time to deliver that night's dinner to Catholic Community Services on West Seventh Avenue.

Douffet worked as a mechanic and auto body technician before joining FFLC, and makes all of the necessary repairs on the organization's equipment. But Douffet said the satisfaction gained in working with people outweighs his previous profession by far.

"I get a great deal of satisfaction from helping people," he said, and to that end Douffet is constantly analyzing and calculating - looking for any corner to cut. He keeps a complete log of the weight, location, date and expense of every load he has ever carried.

"It began as a game - how much can I get done for the very least amount of gasoline?" he said. "I was always a trendsetter in the Army. Whatever they said was the minimum or

maximum I could do, I just tried to see if I could make a whole new chart for 'em.

"I move 322 pounds ... for every dollar of gasoline," he explained, "bread, dairy products, cookies, clothing, magazines, refrigerators, all kinds of things.

"I know every reflector on the streets, I can navigate any turn, any environment, with no damage," Douffet said, admitting to having broken a couple of bottles of spaghetti sauce once, but adds quickly that they were dropped in the warehouse.

"I drive a little fast, but extremely safe. My driving record is excellent," Douffet added.

Douffet also is aware of his own limitations. He is careful to stay behind the scenes - removed from the actual face-to-face realities of hunger and poverty on the streets of Eugene, and beyond.

"It's very sad out there, I know that, and for my personal protection I don't want to know at this point how sad," Douffet said. "I leave that for the people that deal with it one-to-one.

"I let the people who function the best there do that," he said. "I believe that I function the best at what I'm doing."

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