

DIRECTOR'S  
DESK

By Israel Bayer



The 2008 *Street Roots* annual report is featured in this edition of the paper. We are proud of what we have been able to accomplish in 2008. People expect less from a homeless newspaper, and we give you more. And it's because of you, the reader, that this is possible. In 2009 we ask you to push *Street Roots* on your family, friends and co-workers. If anyone thinks *Street Roots* is just another lefty rag, they are mistaken. And if you're a regular reader, by now, you get it. Don't be afraid to tell your peers just what is happening inside the pages of the newspaper.

*Street Roots* is starting the Roger Gates Memorial Fund. For more information on the fund and how to contribute please see the second page of the annual report in this edition. You can also check out more on-line at [www.streetroots.org](http://www.streetroots.org).

*Street Roots* is gearing up for a big 2009. The organization has hired its first part-time reporter, Mara Grunbaum, who has been working as a freelancer for both *Street Roots* and *The Sentinel* over the past year. Grunbaum comes from Seattle, and along with reporter Amanda Waldroupe, has raised the profile of *Street Roots* through hard-hitting journalism.

*Street Roots* loses journalist Amanda Waldroupe to the Salt Institute of Documentary Studies from February until June. Waldroupe heads to Maine to sharpen her writing skills and learn more about narrative journalism.

*Street Roots* has also hired the organization's first development director, Kate Cox, who has been writing grants for the organization over the past year. Cox will take more of leadership role in 2009 and will be working on developing new sources of revenue for the organization.

This summer, *Street Roots* will be opening a satellite office in outer Northeast Portland. The new office will allow *Street Roots* to target a growing number of individuals living on the streets and experiencing poverty in the outer rings of Portland.

A host of new locations from the Willamette to I-205, SE Powell to NE Broadway will open up for individuals and readers in the community. *Street Roots* will be hiring a former vendor to oversee vendor outreach and running the new office location.

And last, but not least, *Street Roots* is looking for more letters to the editors. We know you're reading the newspaper, right? Well, then, we implore you to let us know what you think. Whether it's writing us about a specific story or about the overall feel of the newspaper, we want to hear from you. Please send letters to the editor to Managing Editor Joanne Zuhl at [joanne@streetroots.org](mailto:joanne@streetroots.org).

## Street Roots

211 NW Davis St.  
Portland, OR 97209

Mail to:

Thank you, reader, for your support!

ACT  
NOW

Steps you can take to make a difference



Etching by Peter Stephan

## AT ISSUE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Organize to address the economic crisis

Jobs with Justice and a growing number of other organizations, including *Street Roots*, invite you to a town hall meeting on the economic crisis.

The meeting will be at 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 31, at the First Unitarian Church, 1011 SW 12th Ave.

We have a great opportunity to organize for an economy that provides opportunity for working and poor people, an economy that helps communities thrive and reverses decades of growing inequality, union busting, unfair trade agreements, cuts in health care and the oppression of the poor.

In these extraordinary times, it is so important that we be proactive and learn, strategize and organize together!

The event will feature panelists with experience and expertise on the economic collapse and ways to organize for solutions.

## Restoring Oregon's General Assistance Program

General assistance would provide a temporary monthly cash grant to childless individuals with disabilities to cover basic necessities while they apply for federal SSI/SSDI benefits.

Oregon currently has no safety net for vulnerable people with disabilities as they pursue federal benefits. Since the General Assistance was cut from the state budget during the last recession, thousands of individuals have been left (literally) in the cold with no means to cover their basic needs.

The average application time for federal benefits is one to three years. Without assistance during this time, many individuals end up in emergency rooms, jails and shelters, likely costing more than what taxpayers would pay for the General Assistance.

**Take Action:** Go to the research and action portion of the Oregon Food Bank Web site, [www.oregonfoodbank.org](http://www.oregonfoodbank.org), and join the coalition to restore Oregon's General Assistance Program.

## OREGON CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

|                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>David Wu</b><br>District 1<br>U.S. House of Representatives<br>2338 Rayburn H.O.B.<br>Washington, D.C. 20515<br>Phone: (202) 225-0855<br>Fax: (202) 225-9497 | <b>Greg Walden</b><br>District 2<br>U.S. House of Representatives<br>2352 Rayburn H.O.B.<br>Washington, D.C. 20515<br>Phone: (202)-225-6730<br>Fax: (202)-225-5774 | <b>Earl Blumenauer</b><br>District 3<br>U.S. House of Representatives<br>2446 Rayburn HOB<br>Washington, D.C. 20515<br>Phone: (202) 225-4811<br>Fax: (202) 225-8941 | <b>Peter DeFazio</b><br>District 4<br>U.S. House of Representatives<br>2134 Rayburn H.O.B.<br>Washington, D.C. 20515<br>Phone: (202) 225-6416 | <b>Kurt Schrader</b><br>District 5<br>U.S. House of Representatives<br>1419 Longworth H.O.B.<br>Washington, D.C. 20515<br>Phone: (202) 225-5711<br>Fax: (202) 225-5699 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## OREGON SENATORS

|                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ron Wyden</b><br>1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Suite 585<br>Portland, Oregon 97204<br>503.326.7525 | <b>Ron Wyden's Washington D.C. office</b><br>223 Dirksen Senate Office Building<br>Washington D.C. 20510 202.224.5244<br><a href="http://wyden.senate.gov">wyden.senate.gov</a> | <b>Jeff Merkley</b><br>B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building<br>Washington D.C. 20510<br>202.224.3753<br>(Portland office to be established) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## YOUR DONATION MATTERS

Street Roots is a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization. All donations are greatly appreciated and may be tax deductible. I would like to contribute:

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send your check to:

Street Roots, 211 NW Davis, Portland, OR, 97209

Donate online at [www.streetroots.org](http://www.streetroots.org)