



Dear readers,

There's no doubt about it — there have been better times to be a newspaper. But then, we're not just any newspaper. For 10 years now, *Street Roots* has held to the principle that people want to learn from the individuals and events around them, and readers have responded with their increased attention to our vendors and our content. It is that simple equation that is at the foundation of our organization — with the support of our readers comes the support of our vendors. For years, *Street Roots* had been tagged as "the homeless paper," a moniker that was entirely fitting in our early years, but one that has not kept up with the times. Today, we have to look at the bigger pictures, still keeping an eye focused on our community, but put in the context of issues affecting all of our lives.



Our editorial team now boasts about 40 volunteer writers, columnists, artists, poets and photographers from on and off the streets, and reaching beyond Portland. Locally, we're bringing you coverage on important issues that effect not just the streets, but all of us as a community. When people on the streets protested City Hall, no one provided more comprehensive coverage on the history behind the street movement to end the criminalization of the homeless. We brought you the frank and stirring series from Tye Douy, chronicling his life under addiction on Portland's streets. And we introduced you to some wonderful people, many of them our own vendors, and said goodbye to Roger Gates, who's passing brought to the surface the impact one man on a corner can have.

"The best journalism always combines in-depth reporting with a commitment to public service. That's Street Roots."
— ANNA GRIFFIN
THE OREGONIAN

It is important to us not only to provide engaging articles and photography, but also to educate. In our recent special edition on affordable housing, we hope we helped sort out the complex and often confounding world of affordable housing development and all the strings attached. In the year to come, we hope to infuse the paper with more culture, including inspiring interviews with creative and intriguing personalities. And we have a world of sister papers in partnership to deliver more news and commentary to our Portland neighbors.



We will also be publishing our first poetry anthology. To keep up the pace with all that's going on, we've hired our first part-time reporter, Mara Grunbaum, and launched a blog, www.streetroots.wordpress.com, to provide sneak peaks into new editions, keep you posted on events, and generate a wider dialogue on the topics important to our community.

We send out a special thanks to everyone who help make *Street Roots* a great newspaper and a publication like no other in the Portland area. Because of your support, as writers and readers, 2008 was a great year, and with all the changes upon us, here in Portland and across the nation, stay posted in 2009.

Sincerely,
Joanne Zuhl
Joanne Zuhl
Managing Editor



Some members of our editorial team gather on production day. Pictured, left to right, are Vendor Coordinator Art Garcia, copy editor Mary Pacios (seated), writer Ruth Kovacs, Staff Writer Mara Grunbaum, Managing Editor Joanne Zuhl, writer and copy editor Cassandra Koslen, columnist John Thompson, and Rose City Resource Specialist Eddy Barbosa.

"Street Roots has covered the affordable housing crisis in a more comprehensive and understandable manner than any other media outlet in town. You have done a great service to Portland in making clear the link between the severe shortage of affordable housing and homelessness."
— BOBBY WEINSTOCK
NORTHWEST PILOT PROJECT

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