

SR takes top honors from Society of Professional Journalists

BY STAFF REPORTS

Street Roots received three first place, and one second place award this weekend from Oregon/Southwest Washington Society of Professional Journalists.

Amanda Waldroupe took first place for Social Issues Reporting for her story "Return of the Dragon." The story details the increase of heroin use in Portland. During the reporting of the story, Waldroupe met with a heroin addict named "Joe," who told her and photographer Ken Hawkins his story, and also allowed them to observe and document him during a disturbing time of day in any drug addict's life — the moment when he shoots up.

Photographer Leah Nash took first place in the "Photo Essay" category with "Look at me. I am not invisible." Nash documented the lives of two Street Roots vendors (Sean and Melissa Walsh) for nearly three months, highlighting the trials and

tribulations of experiencing poverty and mental health in the Portland region.

Managing Editor Joanne Zuhl took first place in the Personalities category for her story on City Commissioner Nick Fish titled "Man of the Hour." Zuhl highlighted Fish's turbulent appearance into Portland politics, and what's behind the man leading Portland's Housing Bureau during one of the worst recessions in our history.

Rebecca Robinson took second place in the Social Issues category with "Motel limbo." This story profiles one family's struggle to exit motel life and secure permanent housing, placing their story in the larger framework of Oregon's ever-growing homeless population.

This was the second year Street Roots entered the journalism contest with the local chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. The first year, Street Roots took three awards for its reporting on the Lone Fir Cemetery, affordable housing development, and for the controversial series about drug addiction, "Addict's Almanac."



Housing programs and Street Roots team up to support vendors

BY BECKY MULLINS &
ISRAEL BAYER
STAFF WRITERS

Kristi E. Skeie came to Street Roots in early May wanting to become self sufficient and provide a stable environment for herself and her service dog Piggy. Kristi, working with Street Roots, is now about to enter a housing program with Human Solutions Inc. The Safe Home program has given women experiencing homelessness and poverty a second chance with opportunities and supports to help them maintain self sufficiency.

"I came to Street Roots and in less than three months someone finally spoke up for me. It is really something outstanding. I was determined to get help and did not want to give up. Street Roots saw that and saw also that I want to work to provide for myself. I felt built up for the first time in a long time. So often I have felt torn down."

Since Street Roots moved into a

partnership with JOIN on Portland's eastside, the organization has helped facilitate housing for 10 individuals.

This past year alone, more than 20 individuals have become housed, and scores more have prevented homelessness, while working with Street Roots.

In 2010, Street Roots will work with more than 400 people experiencing homelessness and poverty to secure immediate and basic needs, ranging from facilitating housing, to signing up for disability benefits, to connecting individuals with job programs.

Street Roots vendors sell between 14,000 and 20,000 newspapers every month — keeping 75 percent of every dollar made plus tips.

From all of us in the vendor program and at Street Roots — thank you for your support and readership. We couldn't do it without you!

What does Street Roots do?

- Gives more than 400 homeless and low income individuals the ability to secure immediate and basic needs each year
- Providing a path to self sufficiency, including skill development and resume building
- Fostering self-respect and a sense of personal worth
- Creating a safe avenue to build cross-class relationships and facilitate dialogue
- Informing and educating the general public about issues of poverty
- Bringing you alternative news you can't find anywhere else
- Advocating for real change!

Give today at www.streetroots.org



Kristi E. Skeie has been selling Street Roots outside of Albertsons at 122nd Avenue and Division Street. She recently found housing with the help of Street Roots and Human Solutions.

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