



Leo Rhodes accepting the award for Street Roots from the VFP.

Veterans honor Street Roots for ongoing coverage

STAFF REPORTS

Leo Rhodes, a Street Roots vendor, board member and columnist, accepted an award from the Portland Chapter of Veterans For Peace Aug. 4 for the paper's ongoing work to raise awareness about veterans issues.

The award was given during the Veterans For Peace National Convention held in Portland April 3-7. The Veterans for Peace conference drew around 400 people from across the country for a schedule of workshops, training and reflections on the movement.

Rhodes, himself a veteran who has been homeless, accepted the award and spoke briefly to the audience. The award recognizes Street Roots' "sustained, candid and compassionate media coverage of veterans, the true cost of war and justice for veterans and victims of war."

Over the years, Street Roots has reported on homeless veterans, Winter Soldier, and the personal consequences of war on Americans and people living in war-ravaged countries. We've covered recruitment tactics within minority communities, the U.S. application of post-traumatic stress disorder. More recently, Street Roots has produced a series of reports on traumatic brain injuries, including blasts from war zones, and their link to declining health and homelessness.



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Spreading the joy of just being human

BY LIZ FOSTER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Kurt Saindon is just as familiar with humor as he is with sleeping outside. From his sales point along Tom McCall Waterfront Park, he peppers passersby with an assortment of jokes. His goofy antics are part of his pitch to sell Street Roots newspaper, because, he says, he prefers his customers to be at leisure as he enthusiastically engages with them about the content of the paper and the

VENDOR PROFILE Kurt Saindon

joys of being a human. Spend time around Kurt and you will immediately become aware of the good-natured charisma that he brings to every conversation.

Kurt's experience with homelessness began after being released from the military. He was prescribed an array of medications for his PTSD.

"The only difference between the addicts on the street and me was I had a prescription. I was a legitimate walking dope addict." Kurt then went on a spiritual journey to rid himself of the numbness prescription opiates often bring. He started working for the street newspaper in Colorado and then was employed by the Colorado State Hospital as peer support, transitioning patients as they left the facility. He left Colorado's cold weather to seek a similar peer support position at the Oregon State Hospital. He needs to volunteer there for

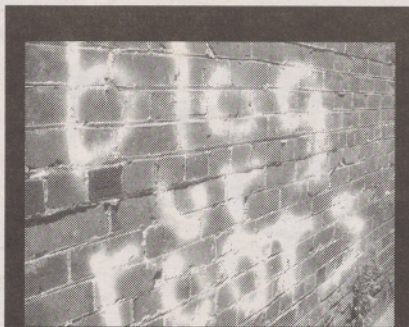


30 days and in the meantime is working with Street Roots to sustain his living. "This paper truly helps people transition; I've already seen it in the short time that I've been here"

Kurt says humor "takes some of the sting away" from the stigma of not having a home. "I just want to say thank you for all of the random acts of kindness along the way." If you ever spend a few moments with Kurt, you are sure to be a recipient of some of this kindness.

"This community fooled me, I'm so used to the government and churches being the ones to take care of those struggling with homelessness, Portland is not like that. This community takes care of this community."

Want to know a little more about your vendor? Check out www.streetroots.wordpress.com for past articles about the men and women selling Street Roots!



www.streetroots.wordpress.com

VENDOR WORK ADS

Cassidy Morse: Looking for work. Will do most anything, light and heavy. \$10 an hour, four-hour minimum. References supplied. Please call 503-224-5398 or Street Roots at 503-228-5657.

Chelsea Benedict: Painting service, interior/exterior house painting. Also specializing in custom mural artwork. Please e-mail at crbenedictmurals@gmail.com or by phone

at 971-255-0440 to speak with Chelsea Benedict. Two-person team also available for hire for general labor (moving, house cleaning, yardwork, small home repairs). Ready to work immediately.

Laura Owens: Available for domestic-type work, cleaning, dog walking, etc. Please call Street Roots, 503-228-5657 and leave a message for Laura regarding work ad.

