

## EDITORIAL

Looking past and forward,  
with joy and apprehension

Today, Leo Rhodes moves into his own apartment. If you've been a regular reader of Street Roots, you know Leo well. He is a columnist, a vendor and a member of our board of directors. He is a poet, an advocate and a regular at City Hall. He also has been homeless for the past 10 years. Leo is not alone. This past year, Street Roots, with the help of partners from multiple organizations, has helped house dozens of individuals who were homeless.

If you're a regular reader of Street Roots you may know your own vendor's story just as well, and hopefully it has a happy ending too. But we know that

isn't always the case.

**Knowing that many of our readers have the same commitment, together we will dig in and put our shoulders to the wheel.**

We've lost too many to the dangerous limbo of the streets.

As 2011 winds to a close, Street Roots reflects on the year with equal measures of joy and apprehension.

We are proud of our advocacy, our commitment to educating people through the Rose City Resource, our coverage of important stories, and our vendors who daily change the attitudes of Portland residents about their neighbors experiencing homelessness and poverty.

We have seen great strides forward, including the opening of the Bud Clark Commons and a renewed commitment by the city to preserve funding for affordable housing through urban renewal. We are invigorated by the Occupy movement and Right 2 Dream Too for spotlighting homelessness so intensely that it could no longer be swept under the rug. We now have City Hall and its contenders talking about loosening restraints on camping for people on the streets.

While it shows how far we have come, it also shows how far we have to go. Many of you know firsthand how a battered economy and sustained unemployment weighs on the lives of Portlanders and others around the country. Regardless of where one falls on the economic ladder, we have all felt the desperation.

2012, like others of recent memory, is going to be a hard year. The City of Portland, Multnomah County and the State of Oregon are facing monumental budget cuts that will affect middle class Oregonians and people living on the fringe. Poverty will continue to grow.

Street Roots is committed to working for both individual and social change to create a more just society. We are committed to working with a range of partners across political and philosophical lines to connect people with housing. We are committed to covering in-depth and complex issues in order to keep poverty in the public eye.

Knowing that many of our readers have the same commitment, together we will dig in and put our shoulders to the wheel. Together, we will work on a range of opportunities that should be given to all — jobs and a safe place to call home.

## Looking forward to an even greater year

Street Roots is proud partners with the Oregon Opportunity Network, JOIN and 211info to sponsor the city candidate forums on homelessness and housing. Last week, the first of a series of candidate forums took place with mayoral

candidates offering a range of perspectives on affordable housing and homeless issues.

We expect the next mayor to follow suit with Mayor Sam Adams and be a strong advocate for housing and

homelessness. Which reminds me, Mayor Sam Adams and his team have their plate full right now, knowing that the city is facing hard times concerning projected revenue streams. Do you know who else is facing hard times? The Portland Housing Bureau and people experiencing poverty in our fair city. We hope that in his last year as Mayor, Sam Adams will do the right thing and make sure that he does everything he can to make sure that Portland maintains its commitment to people on the streets. That means making sure that housing and homeless service are at the top of the priority list when it comes to making hard choices.

In January, look for the next candidates' forum with candidates for city commissioners. After the primary in May,

our groups will also be holding forums with anyone left standing. Look for on-going coverage from Street Roots on how poverty issues and politics collide in the City of Roses. It's true, we do want roses, but we want house keys for thousands of people too. You can't create jobs without housing and you can't have housing without jobs. It's just that simple.

Streets Roots is hoping that during the holiday season you can find it in your heart to give us a push. The organization continues to grow and gain influence. We believe that this next year will be Street Roots' breakthrough year. We continue to plan for the future and want to one day go weekly and build a broader advocacy network. We can't get there without you. Please check out this edition's editorial to see what we have been up to this year and the many reasons you should consider a donation to Street Roots.

You can give several different ways this year. In this edition of the newspaper we have attached an envelope. All you have to do is drop a check in the mail. It would mean the world to us. You can also give at the Willamette Week Give!Guide (see back page for details) or on-line at streetroots.org. Every little bit helps and we can't do what we do without you. We love your support and hope you love the newspaper and having a relationship with a neighborhood vendor near you. Thanks for the love, and have a happy holiday.

DIRECTOR'S  
DESK

By Israel Bayer

Israel Bayer is the executive director of Street Roots. You can reach him at israel@streetroots.org

WHAT DO  
YOU THINK?

Send letters to the editor to the Street Roots office, 211 NW Davis St., Portland, OR 97209, or e-mail to joanne@streetroots.org.

## Monster

By Jason Wolf

Sometimes I can't believe the things that go through my head  
I hear my own thoughts and can't believe what was said  
Wherever I go this monster will follow  
He is shallow, evil, and ultimately hollow  
At times he is in control and won't go away  
Other times I fight him and keep him at bay  
He feeds off of darkness, left wanting more  
With tricks up his sleeve, I don't want to see what he has in store  
He wants me to fail, that being his goal  
There is no success, but it takes a toll  
He tries to catch me when I am weak and down  
Wouldn't he love to just see me drown  
So it's me versus you, give me your best  
You will never win and you can put that to the test!

shosoxsa@gmail.com

## Our mission

Street Roots creates income opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and poverty by producing a newspaper and other media that are catalysts for individual and social change.

Street Roots publishes every two weeks, launching on Fridays, and is available exclusively through our street vendors or by subscription. We are proud members of the North American Street Newspaper Association and the International Network of Street Papers.

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## Board of Directors

Bruce Anderson (Chairman), Michael Anderson (Vice-chairman), Heather Stadick (Treasurer), Eddy Barbosa (Secretary), Rich Rodgers, Brad Taylor, Leo Rhodes, Ken Hawkins

## Volunteers

Christine Gadeholt, Mary Pacios, Leo Rhodes, Jan Bayer, Eliese Baker, Sue Zalokar, Tave Drake, Michael Moore

## Street Roots Rose City Resource

Street Roots publishes the Rose City Resource, a comprehensive booklet of services for people experiencing homelessness and poverty. To inquire about getting an order of the Rose City Resource for distribution, please write to pdxrosecityresource@gmail.com. Resources are also available online at www.rosecityresource.org.

## Vendors

Street Roots vendors buy the newspapers for 25 cents each and sell them for \$1, keeping the 75 cents in profit for themselves. In order to keep the cost low to our vendors, we receive additional support from donations and in-kind contributions.



75¢

goes directly to the vendor who sold you the paper

25¢

goes toward printing costs

Vendor orientations are at 1 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Street Roots office.