

EDITORIAL

Staying connected,
we stay on course

It's easy for the media and the rest of us to get caught in a cycle of only producing and reflecting on the bad news surrounding our world — budget cuts, death, despair, war, etc.

What doesn't get covered nearly enough in Portland is the beautiful stories of human connection and the people that work toward a common good.

Street Roots witnesses the positive connection between human beings at a very basic level each day. The relationships built between customers and vendors

are something that keeps hope alive. Countless vendors talk about their regular customers and the many great things they provide to ensure that people who are struggling are cared for and receive a hand up.

But really it's more than this. We see people coming together

every day for the betterment of our community. Maybe it's donating one's expertise to a local neighborhood or government committee. Possibly it's participating in Portland's democracy by donating time and energy. It could be someone giving a donation to any number of great nonprofit groups that do amazing work for Portland. We see all of these combinations and more.

We see it in young people and elders alike, and believe that together we can build a better community. We see it in people who have lived here for decades, and others that have just come to call Portland home.

Regardless of politics or someone's lot in life, we see positive relationships between people who come together each day to make Portland better. That's what we ask of our elected officials and others in power.

It's very easy to think that during these hard times we aren't all on the same page. There will always be the naysayers and pessimists who believe we are doomed. By and large, though, the Portland we love and care for does believe in something more, something better.

We aren't single-issue beings that care for issues — such as art, housing, education, public safety, and transportation, to name a few — in a vacuum. We believe that we should find a way to have healthy schools and housing, public art and libraries, jobs and more. For the most part, we are a city that believes we are all interconnected.

Street Roots is proud to be among hundreds of local nonprofits and businesses that believe in positive change. We know that together, regardless of all the noise and confusion, we can rise above. That doesn't mean we aren't critical, or that we shy away from very serious issues, or that injustice doesn't play out on our streets. It does mean, however, that we come from the work we do with respect and the understanding that we all come from different perspectives. It means that above all else, good can prevail and together we should be proud to call Portland our home.

A rally, barbecue and pie — oh my!

Street Roots delivers some of the best grassroots journalism the Pacific Northwest has to offer, while giving more than 250 people experiencing poverty a hand up.

But the reality is free speech isn't free, and in order to maintain Street Roots as a leading voice on social justice issues in the Portland region. We need your help.

We're counting on

Portland to help raise \$10,000 this spring and summer with the organization's first ever Summer Rally. The idea behind the Summer Rally is to help raise money online by creating your own team and helping raise money for Street Roots through your own network. It's super easy and fun. You can be a team of one, or one hundred — organizing your friends, family and coworkers to help support grassroots journalism and economic opportunities for those on the skids. The Summer Rally fund raiser will last from May 25, through Thursday, June

21. You can create a team at any time between these dates.

If you don't want to create a team, but want to support one of the many teams that are created, you can still go and give through the summer rally, or give online to support our efforts.

Then on Sunday, June 24, Street Roots will be hosting a barbecue at Fremont Park with team members, and the Street Roots crew. It will be a great chance to get to know Street Roots better, plus you'll have the opportunity to throw a pie in my face and Managing Editor Joanne Zuhl's.

You can find out more information by visiting rally.streetroots.org, or by checking out the back page of the newspaper.

We can't thank you enough for your support. We realize many readers support the newspaper and vendors every two weeks when purchasing a newspaper. In order to build toward the future, to maintain the quality of the newspaper and offer people experiencing homelessness opportunities for better lives, we need your love more than ever.

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 by e-mail to joanne@streetroots.org.

A Troubled Mind

By Leo Rhodes

A troubled mind and yet I'm blessed
For knowing so many

A troubled mind for going through what I had to
For fighting for the less fortunate

A troubled mind for seeing what I have seen
The tears, the hurt and pain in the facial expressions,
The loss of hope in their eyes

A troubled mind for hearing what I heard
Their mournful cries of why won't they let us in
Why do they call us baby killers

A trouble mind for knowing what I know
The human aspect of homelessness, and the
Political side of homelessness

Bully us Homeless

By Florence Hall

We sleep on the street,
We do business in the neighborhood
You see us all the time
So why are you hollering at us
Early in the morning?
Wake us up for no reason!
You know we could know.

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

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Mary Pacios, Leo Rhodes, Jan Bayer, Eliese Baker, Sue Zalokar, Michael Moore, Robert Britt, Cynthia Kiehl, Hannah Schultz, Robyn Wirkes

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.