

EDITORIAL

Catholic Worker legacy alive
and well in Portland

It's been more than 30 years since Dorothy Day died, but her spirit remains alive and well. She was the founder and virtual personification of the Catholic Worker movement that said hospitality will triumph over hostility, and that violence isn't necessary for, and in fact impedes, great change. It is a concept for organizing and empowering the poor that is incorporated in the foundation of many grassroots groups here in Portland, including Street Roots.

However, the civility of the movement should not suggest that Day herself was anything resembling a shrinking

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violent in the face of injustice. To the contrary, she was arrested for civil disobedience on multiple occasions, including standing up for women's suffrage, supporting civil and labor rights,

protesting the Vietnam

War, and finally, at age 75, in her solidarity with United Farm Workers in California.

In the throes of the Great Depression, the nation was figuring out how to live with a new – and massive – population of poor and homeless on its streets. There was charity, but no solidarity. Day's initiative in establishing houses and communities for people who were homeless inspired newly energized supporters to offer what they could to this new social stone soup. The Catholic Worker movement also used its own newspaper to broaden the dialogue around economic justice and equal rights. She wrote about not just tending to those in need, but ending the root causes of inequality. She once questioned, early in her life, why so much was done remedying social ills instead of avoiding them in the first place?

The question resonates today.

Our nation's poverty rate remains at 15 percent, unchanged from last year and still at the highest levels in the past 50 years, according to the U.S. Census figures released this month. That's more than 46 million Americans living in poverty, with more inching closer to the threshold as the median family income dropped slightly between 2010 and 2011. Equally disturbing in this land of plenty is the report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that more than 50 million Americans struggle with hunger. Our markets and corporations have recovered from the crash of 2008, but the people have not.

So as the Catholic Worker movement approaches its 80th anniversary next year, the need for hospitality, empowerment and public awareness remains as imperative as it was when Day first opened her doors. Since her death 30 years ago, the movement has continued without any figurehead or national leader. But the practice of hospitality and opportunity over aggression and segregation remain in practice throughout Portland. The doors are open. Get involved. Learn more about the remarkable work in our community that is making a profound difference in people's lives and the health of the community. It is truly better when we share.

The change is in your hands – and your pocket

When supporting Street Roots, where does your money go?

By purchasing from your local neighborhood vendor in front of local establishments, your dollar is going to improve people's quality of life. That includes day-to-day survival, paying for health care costs, housing and the opportunity to eat the food they choose. Your support is

improving the lives of dozens of people week in and week out.

Street Roots publishes 26 editions of the newspaper each year, generating sales of more than \$300,000 that goes directly into the hands of vendors. Amazing.

Street Roots' annual budget is \$260,000. What does the organization do with that money?

When supporting the organization, the vast majority of your money is going to support the newspaper and vendor program. Forty-seven percent of the Street Roots budget comes from readers support, with the remaining amount coming from grants, sponsorships and advertising. The organization is truly people powered.

Having the resources to publish a newspaper with quality journalism and

content is extremely difficult for a non-profit in a small market. The vast majority of the money that comes from readers to the organization goes right back into producing the newspaper and supporting the vendor program. It's a beautiful model that elevates public consciousness, while also offering an income for people experiencing poverty. Throw in a successful advocacy model and the publication of more than 100,000 copies of the Rose City Resource, and you should feel proud about supporting Street Roots.

This past year, Street Roots spent 11 percent of its income on administrative duties (grant writing, fund raising). We are doing everything in our power to make sure that the money we spend goes to leverage the best possible products available to the people we serve – and the general public.

We are a group of odd ducklings in the community who believe that together we can create social change – one newspaper and one conversation at a time. We dream big and expect a lot from ourselves. It's your support that keeps us going. We can't thank you enough for all the love. We humbly appreciate your support of grassroots media and the love you show for your local neighborhood vendor.

For more information about our programs, finances and partners, check out our annual report on our blog at www.streetroots.org

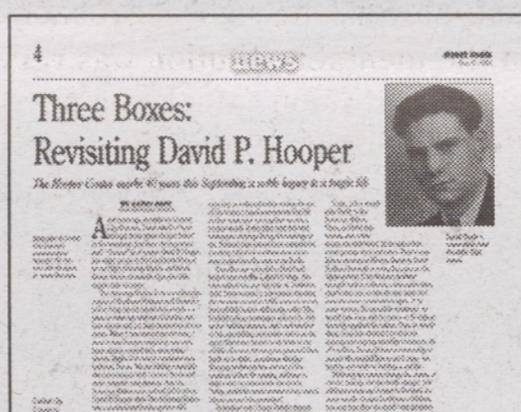


Israel Bayer is the executive director of Street Roots. You can reach him at israel@streetroots.org

DIRECTOR'S
DESK

By Israel Bayer

LETTERS

Story of David Hooper puts
perspective on center's role

Thank you so much for writing this article (Three Boxes, Street Roots, Aug. 31). It never occurred to me that Hooper was named after a person. This wonderful program and opportunity is a lasting memorial to the tragedy of one man's alcoholism, but also to the victory of recovery he could not receive but is now there for all who seek it.

— SHARON,
Portland

WHAT DO
YOU THINK?

Send letters to the editor to the Street Roots office, 211 NW Davis St., Portland, OR 97209, or e-mailed to streetrootsnews@gmail.com.

Vendor's commitment leaves lasting
memory for reader

I've been getting Street Roots sporadically from vendors for years. As I was leaving the Whole Foods in the Pearl last week, I was caught by the cover and interested and so approached the vendor to get one. I asked if he had change for a \$5 and he'd just started working so he didn't, so I just told him to keep the change. It would've been easy for him to say thank you and let me be on my way, but instead he stopped me and gave me three more papers to give to friends. For someone in need, I thought that was an impressive display of commitment to his job since this was a windfall that was coming out of his pocket. I didn't get his name, but I thought he deserves some recognition.

— SCOTT
Portland

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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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