

## EDITORIAL

## So many reasons to celebrate this year

Most of us will be gathering together with friends and family this time of year to celebrate, well, friends and family, above all else. And even in the manic state the holidays bring, this is also a time when people give pause for those who are struggling in their lives, through poverty or homelessness, isolation and despair.

In this edition, we reflect on the life of someone who knew all of those trials, and many more. Ted Jack was a well-loved vendor and volunteer with Street Roots who passed away earlier this month. Most people in

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Portland knew him as a smiling, soft-spoken man, ready with a paper and a kind word. Only the tattoos on his hands gave the slightest hint to passersby of the tragedies and pain he worked so hard to keep at bay.

Every tragedy is personal, but Ted's life is a mirror to so many people who have experienced the streets. Many who rise above, like Ted, and others who never find that respite in the storm.

Still, there are so many reasons – and people – to celebrate.

We celebrate George, Charles and the young couple who just recently started vending the paper, all of whom came into the office this year holding the keys to their new apartments, taking them off the streets. Right behind them are many vendors who have just started navigating the course to getting inside.

We share the joy and pride of vendors who proudly announce the anniversary of becoming clean and sober, or any of the countless milestones reached by the men and women who cross our threshold.

We celebrate this season among people who didn't give up on themselves, even though the darkness and isolation would have made it easy to do so. They didn't give up because someone didn't give up on them, whether it was family, friends, a fellow vendor across the office table or a customer who shares a smile and a laugh through the rain. The power of that connection can fuel hope and potential after even the worst night.

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That's what Ted Jack was a part of. He would spontaneously show up some mornings with a hot plate, pancake batter and a bowl full of sausages to serve the crew. He volunteered at the front desk with a gentle voice and a smile, a mentor of sorts to people going through what he already had. We can never forget that.

And far beyond our doors, people will remember the stranger with the smiling eyes who handed them a fresh sandwich when few others would look them in the face. That's worth celebrating every day.

## Jump on board the Street Roots train!

The rainy season has arrived. We want to thank our brave vendors for being out and about during the stormy season bringing readers the latest Street

Roots. We also would like to thank you for taking the time to stop and purchase the newspaper – even if it means getting a little wet.

We're asking readers to dig deep this winter and

support Street Roots. Donations go directly toward supporting the newspaper and helping the many vendors experiencing homelessness and poverty.

The loose change you have around your

house or the extra cup of coffee you will buy this week for a friend can go to help get people off the streets, one corner at a time.

Street Roots is people-powered by folks just like you, and we need your support this year to maintain the quality content you've come to expect and to help give more than 400 individuals a hand up on life. It's for real.

We can't thank you enough for taking the time and for pitching in. We realize how much this means in today's busy world when it feels like a million things are coming at you. It really does mean the world to us.

Give by going to [www.streetroots.org](http://www.streetroots.org), or through the Give!Guide at [www.wweek.com/giveguide](http://www.wweek.com/giveguide) or at 211 NW Davis, Portland, OR. 97209



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## DIRECTOR'S DESK

By Israel Bayer

## Heartbreak is prison break

By Marlon Crump

A state of depression  
A world of hurt  
On God's Green Earth  
What does one do locked inside walls?

Someone enters them to perish you  
Not to rescue you  
Behind or even outside bars

Patty Smyth, "The Warrior," sang:  
"You run, run, run away!"  
It's your heart that you betray!"  
How does one heal to hurt others?

Like a temp job for you to perform  
With no lifetime career of happiness.  
For an unsheltered heart hit with a thunderstorm  
Loneliness, a holocaust to the heart  
Murderous to the mind, savage to the soul  
A spear to the spirit.

Fake heat from a cold heart becomes a blizzard  
For misery in a lifetime motion as a social misfit  
Love in its truest definition like a high stakes poker game  
Only there are no winnings if it was just a bluff  
Or a tell for selfish gain.

What does one do when trapped in crap tables?  
Choreographed into betrayal built for bondage?  
A winning card caught in a deck of demons  
Carrying chaos and carnage

A cold climate creating a culture complacent  
To isolate self even wider  
Self is the provider  
Our own demons are the divider

## 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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## 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](mailto:pdxrosecityresource@gmail.com). Resources are also available online at [www.rosecityresource.org](http://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.