

EDITORIAL

Invest in Portland from the grassroots up

Experiencing a city like Portland doesn't just happen by accident. From our creative neighborhoods to our lush urban forests, we are proud of the environment in which we live. We have some of the best music and arts on earth. We are humane and care for one another. We ride bikes and offer random acts of kindness to strangers. We love animals.

Portland is an ever-changing city made up of immigrants and innovators, entrepreneurs and freaks, geeks and truth seekers — all collectively working to make the city and the world we live in a better place. We live in

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neighborhoods that connect to one another, doing the best we can to take on some of the toughest issues that make up a great society. Many of these issues are taken up by Portland's robust nonprofit sector.

Is all of this enough to be content? Absolutely not. We have miles and miles to go on a long journey to achieve real greatness and equality. We will continue, one generation to the next, seeking justice and a better quality of life.

Thousands upon thousands of individuals contribute in small ways to make Portland what it is. Possibly, you work or give to a good cause yourself. Possibly, you have a friend or family member dedicated to improving the world around us and you support them by giving a donation to something they work so hard towards. Maybe it's political, or a feeling of social responsibility.

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According to a recent report from the Oregon Community Foundation, individual giving by Oregonians shows signs of recovery from the recession. Oregonians, across income levels, are giving more generously than national averages. Oregon continues to rank in the top 20 states for charitable giving. In 2010, Multnomah County residents gave nearly \$765 million to nonprofits. That's impressive.

If you are a longtime philanthropist, or this is the first year you have given a donation, thank you. Your amazing efforts continue to inspire.

If you have never given before, or are on the fence this holiday season, we challenge you to step up to the plate this year and give a donation to your favorite cause. Even a modest figure makes a real and concrete difference to the city you live and the peers you admire.

Engagement and support doesn't always mean money. It can begin by simply paying attention to your peer network's social media posts or having a conversation over beers with friends about their favorite groups. You can check out local foundations website or tune into projects like Willamette Week Give!Guide where more than a hundred nonprofits are highlighted.

The reality is that giving is fun. It's easy, and there's not a person alive who doesn't feel good after giving a donation to a group they are connected to. More importantly, it's contributing to making the city we love a better place.

New projects to engage, enlighten this holiday season

Street Roots will be experimenting next week with a new way of giving Portlanders and others a look inside the issue of homelessness. On Thursday,

Dec. 13, Street Roots will have a group of reporters out for a 24-hour period covering homelessness on Twitter. We hope to bring Portlanders a look at what's happening on the ground through

interviewing people on the streets, policy makers and people working on the front lines. Tune in next week to the coverage on Twitter @StreetRoots with hashtag #SR24. Also look for extensive coverage in the next edition of Street Roots.

The following week, Street Roots will be launching our long-awaited news website. In the next year, Street Roots will be creating more of presence online. The goal is continue to educate people on social justice issues while having a conversation about important issues affecting our community and highlighting the voices and stories you simply aren't going to find anywhere else in the city or state.

People support Street Roots for different reasons. Many people support the idea of giving vendors experiencing homelessness and poverty a hand up through the sales of the newspaper. Others love the journalism, and/or the commentary and poetry, and

believe the vendor program is a great perk. One supporter recently told me he actually hates the newspaper, yet loves the idea of people doing something for themselves. Regardless of why you arrive around the proverbial campfire that is Street Roots — we are glad to have you.

We work hard to present stories and narratives that spark provoking conversations for readers. We aren't shy about tackling tough issues and giving readers a look inside a world they may or may not completely understand. We believe in providing a roadmap for important social justice issues, focusing on solutions instead of engaging in sensationalist journalism that will sell more newspapers.

This holiday season we ask you to dig deep for Street Roots. Maybe you're a regular donor, or give once in a while. Maybe you've never given to Street Roots before, or to any nonprofit. At the end of the day it doesn't matter why you give to Street Roots. What matters is that people know that we are working hard to give people an income, hope and dignity. We are also creating real change in our community. It's not easy putting together a newspaper that pound for pound competes with any media outlet in Portland. It's your support that will keep Street Roots fresh and moving forward, unafraid of risk or change, but instead embracing new ways to engage the community. It's your support that makes Street Roots, plain and simple. We thank you!



DIRECTOR'S DESK

By Israel Bayer

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

Fond memories of Ted Jack

Several of you wrote in response to our memorial on Ted Jack, a vendor, volunteer and friend to Street Roots. Ted passed away in November.



Not many people have made such an impression on me as Ted did. My name is Marty. I work for PGE and I so looked forward to visiting with Ted on my daily walks. Always a smile, a warm hello and a

lively conversation, even if brief, Ted always displayed such a positive attitude. I found myself going out for a walk, if nothing else, to visit with Ted. His wide array of figurines that he displayed so proudly brought many conversations, to the point that I brought him one of my treasured ones. I worried, as I didn't see him for a few

days, but when he returned he was so delighted with the figurines I gave him! We laughed together, shared some stories and generally had me smiling all the time. I heard recently that he moved to Alaska in search of his dream. I understand that his dream was short lived, but I know with the positive attitude that Ted had, it was a wonderful time. He will always remain in my heart as a dear friend.

— MARTY

What a wonderful writing! I feel I've been honored with the privilege of reading it. Thank you so much for telling us, the readers, about Mr. Ted Jack's short, tumultuous, inspiring and extraordinary life. It couldn't have been told in a better way.

Somehow here I will also be paying my respects to someone that has left a legacy.

— JAIRO VARGAS

I just finished your article on Ted Jack, and I must say how comprehensive and well-written it was. Very fine work. Congratulations.

— CHUCK

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.