Transition Projects
believes no one
should have to be
homeless.

Transition Projects
650 NW Irving St.
Portland, OR 97209
503.280.4700
www.tprojects.org

CENTRAL CITY concern

Ending homelessness and achieving self-sufficiency - now roasting and distributing craft coffee.
Available for purchase at:

New Seasons Market
Green Zebra Grocery
Food Front Cooperative Grocery
Chuck's Produce

Call us for office coffee accounts!
503-784-9263

CENTRAL CITY COFFEE
www.centralcityconcern.org
facebook.com/CentralCityCoffee

Portland HomeGal .com

Kristina Wright | Real Estate Agent
Bellmoore Realty
503/479.5764
Kristina@PortlandHomeGal.com
"Like" on Facebook @ Portland Home Gal

- a knowledgeable marketer
- with a designer's eye
- a professional photographer
- and a responsive agent

All wrapped into one person

REALTOR®

Injury inspires vendor to help others' lives

BY SARAH HANSELL
STAFF WRITER

It's not always easy to stay positive when you don't have a bed to sleep in, a roof over your head, or a job to support you. Evan, however, doesn't seem to have trouble keeping a smile on his face throughout the short time I sat down to chat with him.

"I know people out there who got it a lot worse than I do," he says.

This humbleness characterizes Evan's relaxed, easygoing personality, which has stuck with him through his relocation from Brooklyn to his new adopted family in Portland when he was 12 years old; through a head-on collision in high school from

VENDOR PROFILE
Evan Elston

which he suffered a massive concussion and endured a blood transfusion; and through living in a friend's van today.

Evan grew up in a big family, now having eight sisters and five brothers spread across the U.S.

Ever since he was a kid watching "Emergency!" on television, he wanted to help people – a desire expanded by the car crash he experienced as a teenager.

"I always say to myself that before I die I hope I get to save somebody's life," he says.

In high school he worked with Yamhill County Search and Rescue, and planned to be a medic in the army, but was unable to because of plates left in his legs from the surgery after his collision. He even took some paramedic training. Now, he participates in blood drives and hopes to possibly work with the Red Cross doing disaster relief in the future.

"I've been helped, so I'm lucky to be here, so I want to return the favor," he said.

Evan's been without a home since he lost his last steady job, but he found Street Roots in April.

"At least it's something," he said. "I'm doing something at least, and people appreciate it."

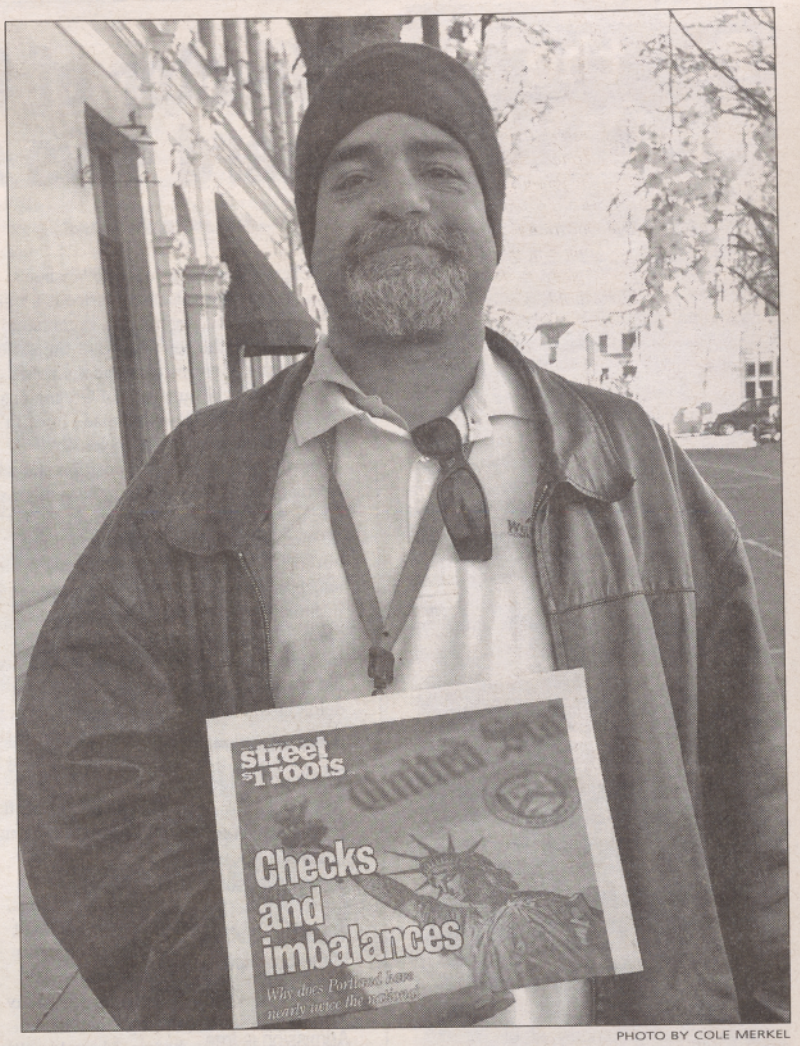


PHOTO BY COLE MERKEL

Working at Street Roots has given Evan a small source of steady income – he's made money every day since he started, he said.

Having worked various jobs, he knows that work doesn't usually just fall into your lap. He's worked at many places, such as at Fred Meyer, Chevrolet and in crowd management services. He was recently hired to work the food and beverage station at Cirque du Soleil, which just came to Portland on March 27.

"Like somebody says, don't you want to do something with your life? And I say, yes, but you know, it takes time," he said. "It doesn't happen so quickly."

Whatever he does, Evan advises other people in similar situations not to give up, which makes him think of a quote by Milton Berle about opportunity knocking.

"Somebody says, 'well, what if it doesn't knock?' Milton Berle said, 'If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door,'" he said. "That's pretty cool. Like anybody would say to me, don't give up."

Evan hopes to move inside as soon as he gets a steady income, with the help of JOIN and his optimism to keep going.

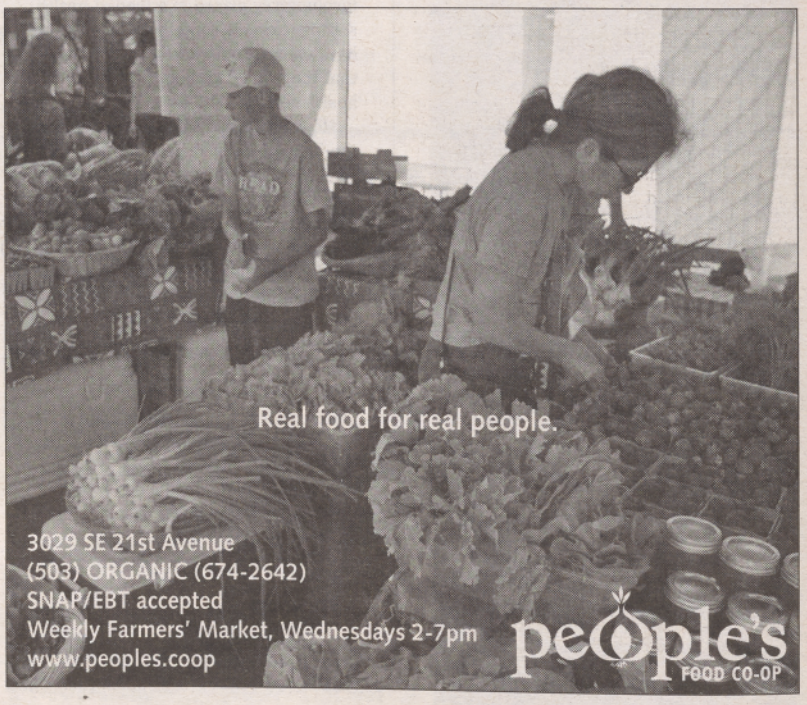
"I wake up every day so that's good. I thank God for that," he said. "It'll work out."

You can say hello to Evan at his sales site in front of the Zupan's on Southeast 33rd Avenue and Belmont.

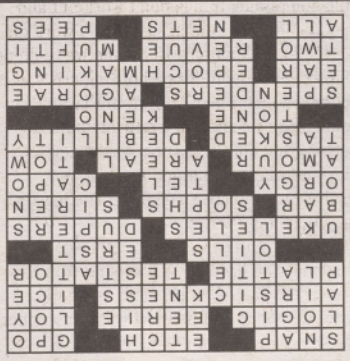
Vendors are regular contributors to Street Roots' content, as columnists, poets and artists. Look for your favorite vendor's writings in each edition of the paper.

VENDOR WORK ADS

Bicycle delivery by Farmer Shaun
Small packages $2/mile
Large packages $5/mile
Extreme feats and impossible tasks on a case-by-case basis. Bicycle detailing $25/bike. 971-222-9938.



Answers to puzzles on page 15



3	4	9	5	7	2	6	8	1
8	2	6	3	1	9	5	7	4
5	1	7	6	8	4	2	9	3
4	6	2	9	5	7	3	1	8
7	5	3	8	2	1	9	4	6
9	8	1	4	3	6	7	5	2
2	9	4	7	6	8	1	3	5
6	7	5	1	4	3	8	2	9
1	3	8	2	9	5	4	6	7