

EDITORIAL

Street Roots endorses
ballot measures

Measure 86 would create funds for Oregonians pursuing post-secondary educations. It would also allow the state to borrow money for a scholarship fund for Oregonians pursuing college or career training. This measure is an essential step in maintaining a healthy society that believes in giving its own citizens the skills they need to thrive in today's modern world. **Vote yes on Measure 86.**

Measure 88 upholds four-year driver's card for those who cannot prove legal presence in the United States. Oregonians can't wait for the national immigration reform. This measure would give all working Oregonians the same access to driving privileges. Not to mention it goes a long way in supporting people experiencing poverty to have the necessary identification to access a home. **Vote yes on Measure 88.**

Measure 91 would legalize recreational marijuana use. Street Roots has long advocated for the legalization of marijuana. For Street Roots, it's simple. Legalizing marijuana will help deter the targeting of poor people when it comes to minor drug offenses. Not to mention that it will bring a multi-billion dollar industry out of the shadows. That means more money for schools and treatment programs. The time is now. **Vote yes on Measure 91.**

Measure 92 would mandate labeling of food that contains genetically modified organisms in Oregon. It's hard to believe that in 2014 we are still left guessing what ingredients are in the food we consume. Voting to support genetically modified labeling in Oregon is a no brainer. **Vote yes on Measure 92.**

Measure 26-159 is a bond measure that would allow the city to continue support of Portland Parks. The measure is not expected to increase tax rates because the new bond authorization would replace the 1994 parks bond, which will be paid off in 2015. This measure would continue to maintain one of the best park systems in the United States. **Vote yes on Measure 26-159** to support Portland Parks. It's a win-win for Portlanders.

Having compassion can be hard work

One of my first mentors on the streets was the great Genny Nelson, co-founder of Sisters Of The Road. Genny has mentored dozens of organizers, agitators, policy makers, writers

DIRECTOR'S
DESK

By Israel Bayer

Israel Bayer is the executive director of Street Roots. You can reach him at israel@streetroots.org or follow him on Twitter @israelbayer.

and artists over the years. Her life's work has a footprint on both Portland politics and how we work with people experiencing homelessness. Genny once told me, "Israel, offering compassion without judgment is one of the most challenging things you'll ever do when working with the poor. Keeping at it day after day, week after week, and maintaining that compassion will be the hardest. The only way to find the space to carry on is to practice non-violence and to believe in love."

At the time, I was an angry young man. I had grown up in industrial middle-America where violence was often times a way of life. The idea of accepting non-violence was new to me. Offering unconditional love to complete strangers was challenging.

Street Roots is built on the premise of meeting people experiencing poverty where they are at. It's not easy. Poverty is cruel and inhumane, it's violent and irrational. Regardless of people's circumstances or experiences — individuals and families can find a home at places like Street Roots and Sisters Of The Road.

Saying that, it's not just Street Roots. There are a lot of social service agencies in Portland that believe in these basic premises

and were influenced by Genny Nelson and Sisters — Saint Adre Besette, JOIN, Right 2 Dream Too, Dignity Village, to name a few.

Thousands of people experiencing poverty and those who have dedicated their lives to the work carry out these philosophies and are tied to a larger historical movement, regardless if they know it or not. The idea of offering hospitality in the form of compassion and love, regardless of the situation is something that runs very deep in the experiences we have and of those that came before us.

These ideas and philosophies were born out the Catholic Worker movement and the work of Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin in the 1930s and 40s. They were influenced by the work of those before them dating back to the Civil War and before.

The great agitator and organizer Utah Phillips once said, "The long memory is the most radical idea in this country. It is the loss of that long memory which deprives our people of that connective flow of thoughts and events that clarifies our vision, not of where we're going, but where we want to go."

Together, we are a part of something bigger and working towards a better tomorrow. That includes you, that includes me, that includes all of us embracing something more. Something that gives people that opportunity to be successful, regardless of their circumstance. That means offering hospitality and compassion without judgement. It means accepting non-violence as a way of life. It means embracing love.

Room With a View"

by Dan Newth

Mars laid heavy
in the western sky
the hour before dawn.

Moonlit white buffalo
stampede onto shore,
wrecking themselves on rock
spending themselves in sand.

Such are the moments of life.

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 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 guides, call 503-228-5657. Resources are 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.



75c
goes directly to the vendor
who sold you the paper

25c
goes toward
printing costs

Vendor orientations are at 1 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Street Roots office.