

Friends and family



"Street Roots has been very, very good to me. I am grateful to all my customers for showing their support. Thank you."

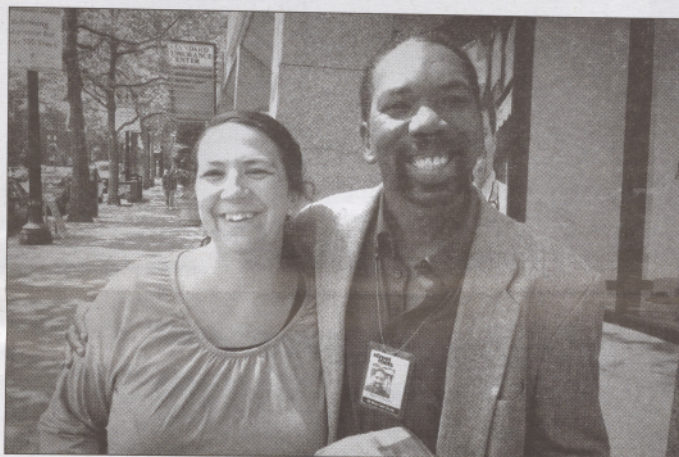
DANIEL COX



"I would like to say thank you for taking the time to listen to the stories that are in Street Roots, taking the time to get to know us and be regular customers and say hi and help us out and just do the sweet little things that you do. I really appreciate that. It helps a lot, especially in our circumstances."

MELISSA SAYSON

I count my blessings each day



"Have a very happy holiday, and thank you for being my customers."

DAVID FERGUSON

Truly great

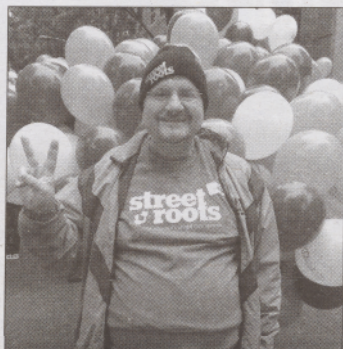
"2015 was a year that I faced so many challenges, on positive and negative levels. Every year, the communities support me with immense love and support. This year, they really came through for me when I was homeless for a few months. Give thanks to the employees of the Standard Insurance Building, public defender's office, communities of the Mississippi and Shaver neighborhood, Ash St. Bar, my friends, and my family of Street Roots as well. Much mad love to my favorite karaoke bar, the Boiler Room, this holiday season and many more."

MARLON CRUMP, AKA "MAD MAN MARLON"

I love my customers

"Weekly lets me focus more on my customers and become a greater part of my community."

DUANE WAGNER



"I want to thank you all much for all your support and your love. You've recognized the fact that there are people out here trying to get back on their feet so all your help is very much appreciated. Thank you!"

BRENT B. LUSTED



See GRATEFUL, page 12

International vendor spotlight

Manuel

Mi Valedor, Mexico City

What is the best Christmas present you've ever received?

Manuel used to dictate his Christmas list to his father; he would then put it in a shoe under the tree, and the Three Wise Men (los reyes magos) would bring him gifts.



MI VALEDOR

How do you plan to spend Christmas?

This year, he'll be spending time with his family; his mother, who has always supported him, and his sisters. For him, being with the family is the most important thing about Christmas. They celebrate with hugs and they say "cheers" to each other. There are decorations for the tree.



KATRIN SCHMOLL

Evelyn and Georg

Apropos, Salzburg, Austria

Evelyn, 47, has sold Apropos since 1999 and Georg, 46, since 2007.

They've both been homeless at some point and struggled with alcohol addictions. Georg spent seven years in prison for robbery. He met Evelyn three months before he was arrested, and she waited for him until he was released. They wrote each other more than 1,000 love letters and were married after his release.

How do you plan to spend Christmas this year?

Just the two of us in our small flat with our pets (two cats and a dog), cozy and quiet with good food. We are very busy before Christmas with paper sales and other projects, and on Christmas Eve we like to enjoy some peace and quiet.

If you did not sell a street paper, how do you think you might be spending Christmas this year?

Georg: Honestly, I think my whole life would be different. Maybe my wife and I wouldn't even be together anymore. Apropos is a huge part of our lives and it's keeping us together. I don't know what I would do without it. I don't even want to think about it.