

### Cactus

by Larry Richer

I heard rustic rivers cry  
 Oasis in the desert dry  
 Holocaustal visions came  
 The color of the sun had changed  
 Toxic levels rising in the air  
 I asked the cactus if it cared

I stared through the summer sky  
 To see if the black hole was a lie  
 A strange fog lay on the ground  
 Not a living thing left to be found  
 It caught the people unprepared  
 I asked the cactus if it cared

## VENDOR PROFILE

### Ron Sanford

BY COLE MERKEL  
 VENDOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

After spending the better part of a decade homeless on the streets of Portland and Las Vegas, longtime vendor Ron Sanford has obtained the keys to his very own Old Town apartment.

"It's beautiful," Ron said.

"It's a one-bedroom with lots of space. It's clean and it's quiet, I don't hear a lot of traffic and noise outside."

"It feels overwhelming almost. At first I'm going to rest a little bit. My first few nights had a nice bath and got cleaned up, got a haircut."

Ron got a haircut at Night Strike, a service for homeless individuals that meets under the

Burnside Bridge on Thursday nights. He used to be unable to attend Night Strike due to the 7:30 p.m. check-in time at Portland Rescue Mission, where he had been staying.

Ron was able to obtain his housing voucher for medical reasons with the help of

Central City Concern's Old Town Clinic and Home Forward.

"Health care is connected to housing, and it will save a lot of money in the end and it will contribute to me being healthier and having the stability to have housing," Ron said.

"It's awesome to have had this opportunity. I wish more people could have it. I waited two and a half years on the Home Forward list, and that's one of the toughest things, being patient and persistent. I'm just so glad for all the help I got from not only Street Roots, but churches, local charities and Central City Concern and Old Town Clinic. My friends and family have helped, too."

So what's next for Ron? He wants to keep enjoying life.

"I'm still playing Scrabble, still trying to get back into drumming, still writing."

And, after spending years receiving the help of area social service agencies, he's considering ways to return the generosity.

"I feel so blessed," he said, "that I want to give back to the community in some capacity, like volunteering, even if it's small."



### Answers to puzzles on page 15

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

M	A	R	T	I	N	V	A	N	B	U	R	E	N	D
L	N	O	N	N	J	L	V	A	N	B	U	R	E	N
E	O	N	N	N	A	D	N	O	B	X	S	O	B	E
I	N	O	N	N	A	D	N	O	B	X	S	O	B	E
S	I	N	O	N	N	A	D	N	O	B	X	S	O	B
F	I	N	O	N	N	A	D	N	O	B	X	S	O	B
R	A	F	R	O	V	A	N	B	U	R	E	N	D	
A	V	A	N	B	U	R	E	N	D					
G	A	V	A	N	B	U	R	E	N	D				
W	A	V	A	N	B	U	R	E	N	D				
A	V	A	N	B	U	R	E	N	D					
S	B	O	B	X	S	O	B	E	N	D				
R	E	S	B	O	B	X	S	O	B	E	N	D		
M	A	R	T	I	N	V	A	N	B	U	R	E	N	D
J	A	B	A	O	N	D								
A	G	E	O	R	G	E	B	U	S	H	J	M	A	R
Y	L	L	I	A	M	C	K	I	N	L	E	Y		

R	E	D	S	T	Y	P	O	S	A	P	E	S								
E	I	R	E	O	V	A	T	E	L	E	E	S								
T	R	A	I	N	I	N	I	N	G	O	L	L	E	G	E					
E	Y	E	S	O	R	E	E	L	L	I	S	O	N							
D	E	B	U	G	T	R	A	I	T											
H	S	G	N	A	S	H														
S	K	Y	A	R	E	A														
A	C	K	N	O	M	O	N	G	E	M	E	N	T							
S	O	U																		
T	W	I	G	S	A	L	V	A	M	S	O	N	I	N	W					
E	A	S	S	E	T															
A	N	D	R	O	I	D	O	A	T	M	E	A	L							
C	O	U	R	T	M	E	N	T	I	A	L	L	E	D						
I	O	U	R	A	V	E	N	S	E	L	E	A	U	R	A					
P	S	S	T	S	E	P	I	A	S	E	P	I	A	S	E					

**CENTRAL CITY COFFEE**  
*Drink well. Do good.*

Sourcing & roasting craft coffee to benefit programs at **Central City Concern.**

**IN STORES**  
 New Seasons Market, Whole Foods, Food Front Cooperative Grocery, Green Zebra, Chuck's Produce and Will Leather Goods.

**AT YOUR OFFICE**  
 Interested in serving Central City Coffee at your office? Get in touch with us and we can help you make that happen. 503.226.7387

**ON OUR WEBSITE**  
 Buy Central City Coffee online and have it shipped directly to you or a friend.

Follow our Facebook page for updates and specials.  
[centralcitycoffee.org](http://centralcitycoffee.org) [facebook.com/CentralCityCoffee](https://www.facebook.com/CentralCityCoffee) [coffee@cccconcern.org](mailto:coffee@cccconcern.org)

alberta coop  
grocery

small carts  
big hearts

good.local.food  
 1500 ne alberta st.  
 albertagrocery.coop  
 503 287 4333  
 open to all 8:30am- 10pm daily

Holistic • Self-Empowerment  
 Physical & Emotional Well-Being  
 Curiosity • Engagement • Choice

"Nothing happens until something moves." -Alb. Einstein

**Intentergy**  
 (888) 391-5059  
 SE Portland Office

[conscious-intent@outlook.com](mailto:conscious-intent@outlook.com)

Veterans/Military/EMS personnel  
 Sliding scale (first session, free)