

Answers to Page 15 Puzzles



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

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

VENDOR PROFILE

Karen

BY LEONORA KO
STAFF WRITER

Street Roots vendor Karen is positive, strong and turning her life around. "I'm a redhead," said Karen with a smile. "And I'm Irish, German and Chippewa Indian. We have a lot of the stubborn thing going on. I just refuse to give up."

Karen was born and raised in Portland. As an adult, Karen worked at various jobs and became a caregiver to her ailing mom and then her aunt. When both passed away, Karen was unable to find another job and became homeless.

"It's terrifying," Karen said in a low voice. "You never know where you're going to sleep. I ended up here, downtown, at the Portland Rescue Mission in 2014."

While on the street, one of Karen's first stops was Street Roots. She needed some extra money and decided to jump in. "One of the lessons I've learned is: Don't depend on the system," she said. "Portland has a lot of great programs, but if you wait for somebody else to solve the problem, you're going to still be standing there."

"(Joining Street Roots) was probably one of the best decisions I ever

made because I had shut down emotionally," said Karen. "I didn't smile or make eye contact with people. I just kind of went down into a really bad depression. Not only because I was homeless, but also for the grief for my family members."

"They built me up. They've encouraged me."

Karen became clean and sober last June. She said, "I got tired of being drunk. I looked at myself and I realized I was becoming like my father, who died homeless here in downtown."

Karen worked with a Central City Concern counselor to apply for housing. This March, Karen found permanent housing with Transition Projects.

"I went and did the happy dance like you wouldn't believe," recalled Karen. "I had (a collection of) lighthouses at a friend's house in storage. All sizes, shapes and forms. My friend helped me move all my stuff in and I started

unwrapping the lighthouses. I sat there in the middle of my little room and bawled. "It's probably the first time in years I allowed myself to truly cry. When you're homeless you're so busy just trying to survive. And out here, showing weakness is not always a good thing."

Lighthouses have a special meaning for Karen. When her mom died, Karen said she received a sympathy card with "a beautiful lighthouse."

"The card says: even in the darkest days, there is always light," said Karen. "I still have that card. Whenever I get down, whenever I get worn out, I think: I just have to keep moving toward that light. I know my mom and my aunt would never want me to give up."

Karen continues to look at the bright side. "I'm celebrating staying clean, staying sober," said Karen.

"I'm celebrating that I've been able to build my relationship with my brother. There for a while we had little to no contact. Over the last few months, we've been able to reconnect."

"I'm celebrating that I'm doing Street Roots." For Karen, it also comes down to being grateful.

"A couple years ago, I was living at the Portland Rescue Mission," she said, "and I was thankful for that. I was living in a dorm with 16 other women. Now I have my own little room. I don't look at what I don't have. I look at what I've gained, you know? It may not be much, but I have it and I've earned it."

Karen said her next step is to find a more stable job and "keep moving forward."



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