

# Norm's miracle dog

*Heidi is a love-magnet and popular with the Street Roots customers she meets*

**BY NORM CHAMBERLIN**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I've owned a dog of some kind since I was 10 years old. All my dogs were special to me. I loved them all with what I had to give. They were all unique. They all died a natural death.

Ten years ago, for the first time ever, I adopted a 7-year-old rescue dog from the Oregon Humane Society. He was a grand dog loved by all.

There is an old saying that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. I proved it wrong. I named this dog Dusty after an old friend, because he was anxious to learn, anxious to please much like my friend. I taught him to fetch, sit, lay down, roll over and heel. There was one drawback: he hated other dogs.

At the end, Dusty's hip gave out. He was in terrible pain. He cried all night for two days. To help me decide what to do, I took him to Dove Lewis. The vet said he would continue to suffer and recommended that he be put to sleep.

Dusty gave me seven good years and putting him down was not an easy thing for me to do. The vet asked me if I wanted to hold him while he took his last breath. I could not.

For seven days, I cried. Then a miracle happened. A lady named Stephanie, who

worked downstairs, was outside taking a break. She looked up and saw a man walking a chihuahua. She told the man he had a fine-looking dog, to which he replied, "I have six dogs to sell."

It was Monday. I called him and ordered one pup to be delivered on Friday. Heidi was about to come into my life. Thursday morning, Stephanie called me on the phone. She said, "Norman, I need to see you right away."

It was a very cold day in February - Feb. 1 to be exact. I went outside to see Stephanie. She told me to close my eyes. When I opened my eyes, there was a man standing there with two 8-week-old chihuahua puppies and a photographer.

I reached out to both pups. Heidi came to me first.

"I'll take this one."

I gave the man \$200 and put the puppy in my shirt pocket. She stuck her nose out of my coat. I looked at my dog, thought of my friend and decided to name her Heidi.

A year later, I started selling Street Roots. I would put Heidi in my coat and take her to work with me. She became very popular with my customers. People started tipping me.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORM CHAMBERLIN

*Norm Chamberlin and Heidi make friends everywhere they go. Heidi hangs out in Norm's pocket while he sell Street Roots in the spring, summer and fall. Winter is too cold for her.*

Heidi was a love magnet.

I take Heidi to work with me in the spring, summer and fall. Winter is too cold for her. Like Dusty, Heidi is all personality, lovable beyond my wildest dreams. She draws people to me, making friends everywhere we go.

I don't know what I would do without her. She has changed my life for the better. And that is my story how my miracle dog came into my life.

In the spring, summer and fall, the pair of us can be found at 34th and Belmont, selling Street Roots and giving away puppy love for free.

## Need health insurance?

CareOregon's goMobile Team makes it easy for you to get dental, mental and physical health care under the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). Our community partners host us on these dates, where we can check your eligibility for OHP, enroll you in Medicaid/OHP and make your doctor appointments!

### MULTNOMAH COUNTY

#### CAREOREGON

315 SW 5th Ave, Portland

► July 11..... 9-11 a.m.

► July 18..... 9-11 a.m.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

50 SW 2nd Ave, Portland

July 3..... 9-11 a.m.

July 10..... 9-11 a.m.

July 17..... 9-11 a.m.

July 24..... 9-11 a.m.

July 31..... 9-11 a.m.

#### HOME FORWARD RESOURCE FAIR

16126 SE Stark St, Portland

July 19..... 3:30-7 p.m.

#### JOIN

1435 NE 81st Ave, Suite 100

Portland

July 12..... 12-2 p.m.

#### MOUNT HOOD FARMERS MARKET

38600 Proctor Blvd, Sandy

July 13..... 3-7 p.m.

July 20..... 3-7 p.m.

#### PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION

111 W Burnside, Portland

July 12..... 8-10 a.m.

July 26..... 8-10 a.m.

#### ROSEWOOD FAMILY INIATIVE HEALTH CENTER FAIR

8935 SE Powell Blvd, Portland

July 26..... 1-5 p.m.

#### UNION GOSPEL MISSION

3 NW 3rd, Portland

► July 24..... 2-4 p.m.

### WASHINGTON COUNTY

#### BEAVERTON LIBRARY

12375 SW 5th St, Beaverton

July 11..... 1-3 p.m.

#### PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

6701 NE Campus Way, Hillsboro

July 27..... 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**NEW!**

► SNAP Assistance available at these locations

For information, or to host our team, call Tamara at 503-416-1479 or Caleb at 503-416-4883.

[careoregon.org/gomobile](http://careoregon.org/gomobile)

