



**Legal Help at the Jail House** Rosa Parks was booked at the Montgomery, Ala. police station in 1955 and was bailed out of the city jail by friend E.D. Nixon (left) and a white attorney and supporter, Clifford Durr. Parks' arrest was used as the basis of a challenge to bus segregation laws, spurring a 281-day bus boycott. Her case resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that segregated bus service was unconstitutional.



# Making Strides for Housing Equity

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economic prosperity were made in the past, like during the Great Depression of the 1930s when the WPA "put people to work in jobs they could do. I'm sure the president had people around him who reminded him that this is a national problem and we're all in this together. That attitude is missing today."

Instead, as the Hurricane Katrina disaster showed, there was indiscriminate use of resources to help people. "Where was the strategic planning?" Nelson asked.

In the last year, Nelson worked on an ongoing project, a survey of 600 homeless and formerly homeless people. The results, she said, are "disheartening, to say the least. It's startling to hear how many people have been homeless since their early youth."

Nelson once served as director of the West family shelter in northwest Portland and

she said, "The kids who passed through there, I see now as adults at the cafe. It reinforces what I've always said: If we don't cherish our children, if we don't intervene at an early age, we reap the whirlwind later."

Another sore spot concerns street panhandling.

"Our results show that a very

passionate. It's not fair to have one response for the privileged, another for homeless people." At Sisters of the Road, lunch can be bought for \$2.50 and people can volunteer to earn a lunch ticket, a system that Nelson says was initiated by those receiving help.

drugs?" Well, check your assumptions. Do you assume he's an addict because he's disheveled? Homeless people often are. If he's obviously strung out, consider if you had a relative who was an addict, how would you want him to be treated? You wouldn't give him money, but you could be com-

"They're saying, 'Hold me accountable,'" she said. The idea that people are entitled to be taken care of "is a mind set created by institutionalizing homelessness. Whenever I see people come from the place of 'I'm owed,' it makes me sad. It's not the people I blame, it's the system that puts people in that position."

Nelson said, "human beings inherently want to maintain their dignity."

She admits that at times she has gotten discouraged.

"I've always believed that homelessness was solvable," she said. "I've been working at this for 33 years and it's only gotten worse."

The good part, she said, is that there has been politicization among the homeless.

"I've seen people move from a place of shame to a more political place," she said. "They understand how the system works."

*Human beings inherently want to maintain their dignity.*

— Sisters of the Road Café Director Genny Nelson

small percentage of homeless people panhandle, and that what they mostly use the money for is food, cigarettes and hygiene items. Now, do some people panhandle for drug money? Absolutely. I'm masked by business people. 'What if I see someone panhandling for

passionate. It's not fair to have one response for the privileged, another for homeless people."

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## TriMet Adjusts for MLK Holiday

Service to match expected ridership demand

TriMet will operate on a modified Saturday schedule to match the expected demand on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Monday, Jan. 16.

Because the public transit system carries more riders on the MLK holiday than any other holiday, the agency has decided to provide more service than a typical holiday/Sunday schedule. Based




on last year's figures, Monday's ridership is anticipated to be 75 percent of a normal weekday.

To adjust for the influx, MAX and

most bus lines will run on Saturday schedules with extra service for morning and afternoon commutes; 34 of the most heavily traveled bus lines will run on weekday schedules and all weekday express lines will be canceled, including the five lines serving Marquam Hill. Other canceled lines are: 41-Tacoma, 81-Kane Road/Tacoma, 81-Kane Road/257<sup>th</sup> Ave and 84-Kelso/Boring.

For specific information on routes and schedules visit [trimet.org](http://trimet.org) or call 503-238-RIDE.




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