

# Poverty and Civil Rights

## Street Roots puts homelessness in focus

BY JAKE THOMAS  
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

On a wet morning in Portland's Old Town neighborhood, a small parade of scruffy men—some wearing beards or mustaches, some with ponchos and knit caps—scuffle in and out of an office carrying stacks of papers wrapped in plastic.

This is the office of Street Roots, Portland's very own "street paper." For about 10 years, the paper has grown from its humble origins into a sharp paper that has helped scores of down-and-out people.

Street papers are unique social enterprises that have been steadily springing up in cities in almost

every continent. The model of such ventures is simple: They sell stacks of papers to the homeless and indigent, who then sell them on street corners at a higher price. Vendors pocket any profit made, and sometimes use it as a stepping stone to get off the street.

*continued* ▼ on page 40

Fourth Annual Drum Major  
 Ecumenical Service  
 Presented By Vancouver Avenue  
 First Baptist Church,  
 J.W. Matt Hennessee, Senior Pastor

# Living the Dream



Honoring the lives and legacies  
 of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,  
 Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks,  
 Yolanda D. King

Sunday, January 17, 2010  
 3:00 p.m.

Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church  
 3138 N. Vancouver Ave., Portland, Oregon 97227

### Featuring:

Keynote speaker: Oregon Attorney General  
 John Kroger • 2010 Drum Major Awards •  
 Faith Community Representatives •  
 Dignitaries • Local Musicians

Free-Will Offering Supports The Drum Major Scholarship Program  
 For Information Contact Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church  
 at 503.282.9496 • [www.vancouveravechurch.org](http://www.vancouveravechurch.org)



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
 Homeless veteran Larry Reynolds sells Street Roots for extra income. The paper sells for a buck, which helps people like Reynolds stay afloat.

## Police Taken to Task

*continued* ▲ from page 2

dent reveals greater danger to Portland's black community.

"Is it safe for a Black American to be in Portland, Oregon?" Henry asks.

The letter requests written answers for a series of questions concerning the incident, as well as whether or not the police

union was permitted for the march and if it violated any contracts or codes by marching.

"OABA believes that this display of a police march and rally was designed to question civilian authority over them.

When police officers take this approach, all citizens' civil right come into question," concludes the letter.

## Students Honor King

*continued* ▲ from page 17

variety of projects are being planned with the help of Hands On Greater Portland and the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette.

The projects include refurbishing schools and community centers as well as supporting organizations such as the Humane Society, Oregon Food Bank, Community Cycling Center, and Oregon Mentors. Many community organizations use the day as a springboard for

year-round civic action, including signing up mentors, tutors and youth to take pledges of nonviolence.

Area colleges participating in the service day include George Fox University, Lewis and Clark College, Washington State University-Vancouver, Linfield College, Mt. Hood Community College, Multnomah University, Portland Community College, Portland State University, Reed College, Willamette University, University of Portland and Warner Pacific College.