

SistersVOICE

A Quarterly Newsletter of Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc. 133 NW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97209

Volume 6, Issue 2: Summer, 2003

Community Organizing Project Update

by Jamie Manuel



L-right, Rachel Langford, Genny Nelson & Terry Prather performing Street Theatre at Pioneer Square. Photo Debbie Fox

This newsletter marks our Community Organizing Project's second spring. For the research portion of the project it marks a halfway point. Within the last year and a half we have completed 439 interviews with men and women who have experienced homelessness in the City of Portland. By this time next year, we will have completed and transcribed all 600 interviews.

We began analysis on our early transcripts in April. As I write this, there are several Portland State University students in our office coding those transcripts. The students are here as part of the University's Capstone program, through which senior students apply their skills to social projects in the greater community. This partnership is a great aid to us. The coding process will identify recurring themes and trends in the interviews, providing a framework for our research results and

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Our Mission:

Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc. exists to build authentic relationships and alleviate the hunger of isolation in an atmosphere of non-violence and gentle personalism that nurtures the whole individual toward changes that will reach the root of his or her homelessness and poverty and end it forever.

Enjoy a meal at Sisters Of The Road Café. The Café is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 3:00pm. The last meal of the day is served at 2:45pm. Our administrative office is open 9:00am to 5:00pm.

E-mail us at:

info@sistersoftheroadcafe.org.

call (503) 222-5694, or

FAX (503) 222-3028

www.sistersoftheroadcafe.org

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"At Sisters Of The Road Café, there are no strangers, just friends we've never met."

Community Organizing Project

Continued from page one.

publications. Look for more about those publications in our future newsletters.

In February we started the Homeless People's Council, the steering body of **crossroads**. We began the Council by electing three Councilors; we've had one resignation, and added three more councilors in April. All of our Councilors are people who have experience with homelessness, are active with **crossroads**, and available to fulfill the responsibilities of their position.

February also marked **crossroad's** relocation to a space right around the corner from the Café, on NW Davis. The new office has better facilities for recording interviews, direct on-street access, and the proximity to the Café is very helpful. Stop by and say "hi" to us at our new location, 618 NW Davis!

In March, the day the war with Iraq formally began, **crossroads** did a Teach-In on Homelessness at Portland State University. About thirty community members listened to **crossroad's** members presentations and participated enthusiastically in a dialogue afterwards. The Teach-In was a good example of our belief that we need to bring the personal experience and wisdom of homeless people in their words to the larger community. In April we brought the Teach-In to a **crossroads** led workshop at South East Uplift's Community Dialogues Conference.

We are currently engaged in a Right to Sleep campaign and sleeping bag drive, busily collecting donations of sleeping bags and building community ties. We will give the sleeping bags away at a public event once we have collected a critical mass of bags. We performed a street theater event on May 7th in Pioneer Courthouse Square to raise awareness about Portland's anti-camping ordinance. If you are interested in this one act play, call the **crossroads** office (503-222-5694 ext14) and ask for the Theater of Social [In] Justice.

Stop The War Against The Poor

By Genny Nelson

Do you know that over 1600 people sleep on the streets in Portland on any given night? A Street Count on April 22, 2002 found 1672 unduplicated people sleeping outside. This is in addition to 370 year round emergency shelter beds for single men and women dealing with homelessness. (Information Sheet on Homelessness in Portland (FY 2001-2002) from the Bureau Of Housing And Community Development) And do you know that Portland's anti-camping ordinance makes it illegal to sleep outside in public spaces even when there is no other available option?

14A.50.020 Camping Prohibited on Public Property and Public Rights of Way.

A. As used in this Section:

1. "To camp" means to set up, or to remain in or at a campsite, for the purpose of establishing or maintaining a temporary place to live.

2. "Campsite" means any place where any bedding, sleeping bag, or other sleeping matter, or any stove or fire is placed, established, or maintained, whether or not such place incorporates the use of any tent, lean-to, shack, or any other structure, or any vehicle or part thereof.

B. It is unlawful for any person to camp in or upon any public property or public right of way, unless otherwise specifically authorized by this code or by declaration by the Mayor in emergency circumstances.

C. The violation of this Section is punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of not more than \$100 or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed 30 days or both.

Please join Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc. in writing Mayor Katz, urging her to repeal Portland's anti-camping ordinance. When any law unjustly penalizes our fellow citizens simply for trying to survive, the real crime is to enforce it. It behooves the City to seek a solution that better serves the needs of all concerned parties. **Crossroads**, currently a project of Sisters, has attached a postcard (see page three) to be cut and sent to the Mayor. Please help us create overwhelming public support to end this dehumanizing law by letting the Mayor know how you feel (see next page).

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MAYOR:

The Mayor's Address:

*Mayor Vera Katz
1221 SW 4th Ave., Suite 340
Portland, Oregon 97204-1995*

Dear Mayor Katz,

crossroads, a local homeless people's organization, has made me aware that Portland's anti-camping ordinance makes it a crime to sleep outside when there is no other option. Right now, local emergency shelter capacity meets less than 15% of the total need.

When any law unjustly penalizes our fellow citizens simply for trying to survive, the real crime is to enforce it. It behooves the city to seek a solution that better serves the needs of all concerned parties. Please repeal Portland's anti-camping law.

Sincerely,

Glasker's Story

My name is Glasker Rankin. I first started working as a cashier at Sisters of the Road Café in November 1998 and first came to the Café for meals and barter work when it opened in 1979. My job goal at that time was to assist others in anyway possible because I could relate to the people's needs who were experiencing homelessness. A big portion of my own homelessness stemmed from using drugs and alcohol. As of today I have continued my goal of being a positive respectable person to this community and would like to help others on that road of recovery. In order for me to continue on and keep what I have, sobriety, I have to give that gift away to others.

I left Sisters in 2000 for personal reasons and to attend school for my GED. I returned to Sisters as a cashier in March 2003 to fulfill my place in the community and to be a mentor and an inspiration to others that would like to change their life such as I did. I try to be as of much assistance to people as I can each day at Sisters. Sisters has always been a



part of my life and I feel drawn to this place and always feel the need to come back here. In closing, being here everyday helps me learn patience, communication and helps keep me clean & sober.

Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc.

2003 Events Calendar

Please Join Us!

Regular happenings at the cafe:

- Second and Fourth Wednesday, 5:00 – 7:00 pm Volunteer Training
- Second and Fourth Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 pm *crossroads* meeting – Come by!

*Sponsor a House Party or Hold a Garage Sale
to Support Sisters this Summer!*

Thursday, May 29th from 5:30 – 8:30 Speakers Bureau Training at the Café. Would you like to table or give presentations about Sisters? Then this is the training for you! We need more volunteers to go out in the community and spread the word about Sisters.

Saturday, May 31st from 9:00am-12noon Gentle Personalism Part II: Deepening our Commitment. Call or email Monica to sign up, 222-5694 ext. 19 or Monica@sistersoftheroadcafe.org

Sunday June 1st Winterfolk XV CD Release Party: Horse Brass Pub 4534 SE Belmont Starts at 7:00pm with performances by Tom May plus very special guests. It's FREE.....donations to Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc. are gladly accepted. Come by for music, food, drinks and to pick up your Winterfolk XV CD! If you can't make it to the show we will mail your copy the week after the show. Or you can make arrangements to stop by the Café and pick it up. For more information contact Debbie Fox @ 503-222-5694 ext 15 Cheers!

Sunday June 29th Guitar Jam Band! Set the Guinness World Record! See Registration Form on page six for more information.

Saturday, July 27th from 9:00am-12noon Introduction to Community Organizing. Call or email Monica to sign up, 222-5694 ext. 19 or Monica@sistersoftheroadcafe.org

September 12th, 13th & 14th Sister's First Annual Bluegrass and Old Timey Music Festival! Join us for a toe tappin', good time and raise funds and awareness for Sisters! The Flat Mountain Girls, Fog Horn Leg Horn and Sam Hill are performing. Bill Martin, square and line dance caller extraordinaire will lead Friday Evenings Hoedown, Square Dance with live Old Time Music.

Saturday, September 20th, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon Introduction to Non-Violence. Call or e-mail Monica to sign up, 222-5694, ext. 19 or Monica@sistersoftheroadcafe.org.

We are too often trying to be heroic instead of just ordinarily good and kind.

- Dorothy Day

Sisters Wins Merit Award

by Monica Beemer



Terry Prather leading a workshop at the OR Coalition on Housing & Homelessness annual meeting. Photo Monica Beemer

Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc. was given the statewide Award of Merit for outstanding service at the annual meeting of the Oregon Coalition on Housing and Homelessness on May 1st in Hood River. Co-Director Monica Beemer and Homeless People's Council/crossroads member Terry Prather accepted the award for Sisters.

Terry and Monica also facilitated a three-hour workshop for the conference attendees titled *Community Organizing for Systemic Change*. "One of the women that attended our workshop is excited to suggest to her co-workers and staff that its okay to share something personal, like how their day has been going, with the people they interact with- similar to how we share ourselves at Sisters. This helps build relationships and trust and opens us up to each other in a positive way," says Terry about his experience leading the workshop.

"This helps build relationships and trust and opens us up to each other in a positive way"

10 Ways to Build Community and Support Sisters Over the Summer!

1. Have a summer house party to raise funds and friends for Sisters! We can provide a speaker and materials.

2. Have a garage sale for Sisters! Ask your friends to help and to donate items. We'll provide brochures and a sign that says "This sale to benefit Sisters Of The Road Café!"

3. Are you in a bowling or soccer league (backgammon or dominoes?). Rally your team to do a car wash for Sisters!

4. Hike Against Hunger - July 15 to August 15, 2003 This campaign is being led by the Oregon Food Bank and will involve individuals and groups across the state to both raise funds and deepen understanding of hunger issues. We will provide more information on how you can be involved soon.

5. Ask your friends and family to make a donation to Sisters as an alternative to gifts for a birthday, graduation, or other important life event. All sizes of gifts are a great help to us!

6. Join the Guitar Jam Band and bring your friends! We will set the Guinness Book of World Records on Sunday, June 29th and have a great time together doing it (see enclosed registration form).

Other important ways to invite the community to Sisters!

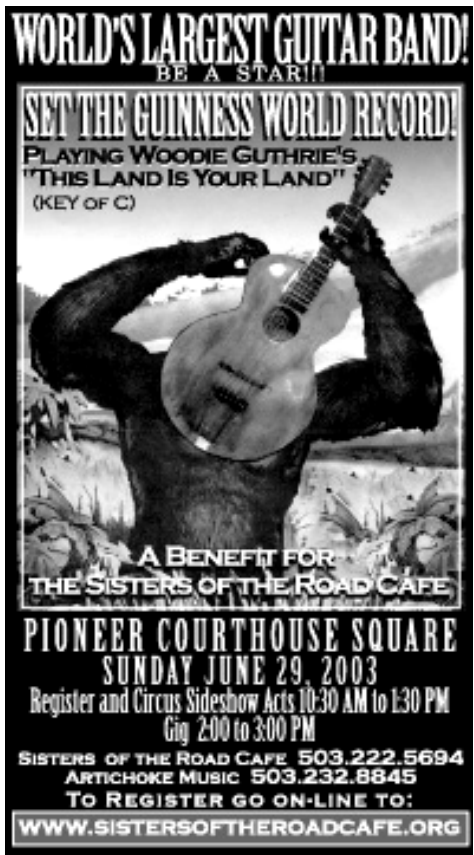
7. Hold a hygiene supply drive in your office, neighborhood, faith community or book club! We provide this service to our customers every day that the Café is open.

8. Sponsor a day in the Café by gathering your co-workers, family, others to come volunteer a day together!

9. Invite us to your neighborhood street fair, faith community, service club or anyplace where folks would like to hear about Sisters.

10. Anything else you can think of – give us a call to check it out!

We would love to talk to you about partnering with Sisters to spread the word about the good work of Sisters and get the community involved!



Come Join...THE WORLD'S LARGEST GUITAR JAM BAND!!

A Benefit for Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc.

Come join the fun as we set the Guinness Book World Record for the most guitarists playing one song at one time, Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land" (key of G) – AND support the great work of Sisters Of The Road Café!

When: Sunday, June 29th, 2003

Check-in/Registration 10:30am to 1:30pm
Jam Time 2:00 to 3:00, Face Painting, Clowns, Balloons and Other Big Fun 11 to 1:30

Where: Pioneer Courthouse Square
SW Broadway and Yamhill, Portland

REGISTRATION FORM – Bring a Team of Friends & Join the Fun!

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Enclosed:

\$10 registration fee Additional tax-deductible donation of \$_____ to support the good work of Sisters, the Guitar Jam and scholarships. Please send me #_____ Tickets for the Guitar Raffle (\$5 per ticket)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

I would like to register for the Jam Band and apply for a scholarship

Instructions:

1. Call your guitar playing friends and make a team of 10!
2. Fill out and mail this form (one for each person), with registration fee, to:
Sisters Of The Road Café, 133 NW Sixth, Portland, Oregon 97209
3. Go to www.sistersoftheroadcafe.org and print the music to practice (there are only three chords!)
4. Check-in at the Pre-Registered Table at Pioneer Square @ SW Broadway & Yamhill on June 29th between 10:30am and 1:30 pm. Hardcase guitar check available for \$2. We encourage you to bring soft shelled cases. Have a Great Time -Thank you for your Support!

If you are interested in volunteering on the Guitar Jam committee (2hrs/wk), volunteering/performing the day of the event or sponsoring the event please contact Debbie Fox at 503-222-5694 ex. 15

We would love your involvement!

A Special Thanks to our Sponsors-Artichoke Music, KBOO & Willamette Week

WAYS to GIVE

How Can I include Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc. in My Estate Planning?

Charitable bequests by our committed partners through their estate planning is an important source of support to Sisters Of The Road Café. There are several ways you may include us when you update or create your estate planning documents. An outright bequest can be made for either a set amount or a percentage of your estate or a percentage of any remainder after other distributions.

To ensure your requested funds will revert to Sisters, we encourage you to use the following language in your estate planning documents: “I devise to Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc., whose legal name is Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc., an Oregon Non-Profit Corporation, the sum of \$___ (or___%) (or all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate) to be used for carrying out its mission.” Our tax identification number is 93—0748169.

In all planned gifts please consult your legal council and indicate your intention to include Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc. in your estate planning. Also, contact Monica Beemer, Director of Development and Finance at (503) 222-5694, ext. 19 or Monica@sistersoftheroadcafe.org to share your intention. We would also be happy to talk with you and your attorney to structure the type of gift that will benefit you and your loved ones and Sisters’ services and mission. Thank you for your continued commitment to Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc.!

Why Sustaining Membership?

If the majority of our committed partners donated between 50 cents a day (\$15/mo) and \$1 a day (\$30/mo) the vital services of Sisters would be sustained on a day-to-day basis, regardless of the economy. It’s Easy & Safe!

If you are already a Sustaining Member—THANK YOU!

For more information, call Marilyn for a brochure at (503) 222-5694, ext. 12. or go to our website at www.sistersoftheroadcafe.org. If you are ready to become a Sustaining Member—fill out the attached return envelope and return it to Sisters Of The Road Café. You will help sustain Sisters day-to-day. Thank you!

Donate Safely On-Line



Donate safely on-line You can donate securely to Sisters on-line. Just go to Sisters website at

www.sistersoftheroadcafe.org and click on *ways to give*. Then click on the *donate now through the network for good (see above)* button and directions will follow—you just need a credit card, debit card or bank account number to donate. 100% of your donation comes to Sisters.

Thanks to our Spring Direct mail donors

A great big thank you to everyone who responded to our Spring Direct Mail letter. We have had an overwhelming positive response from Trillia’s story. If you haven’t had a chance to give this spring, an envelope is included in the newsletter. Thanks for giving to Sisters. We couldn’t do it without you!

Gifts of Stock

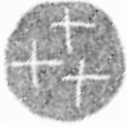
Don’t forget Stock Gifts. Stocks are a great way to donate to Sisters! Call Debbie Fox (503) 222-5694 ext 15 for more information.

Sister’s Wish List:

- A small fridge
- A folding table & chairs for tabling events
- Hygiene items especially razors, diapers, and feminine hygiene items

When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won.

—Mahatma Gandhi



Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc.
 133 NW Sixth Avenue
 Portland, OR 97209

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Donation & Meal Coupon Order Form

Yes,

I want to help Sisters work toward alleviating hunger and building supportive community in Old Town/Chinatown by making a donation.

\$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other \$ _____

Yes,

I want to respond to the needs of the growing number of homeless and hungry people in our community by purchasing and using Sisters Meal Coupons.

Send me _____ Meal Coupons.

(\$2 each; include \$.37 postage for 1-19 coupons and \$1.00 postage for 20-50 coupons.)

Please note change of address.

Name: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

My check is enclosed. Please charge my VISA/Mastercard.

VISA/Mastercard No.: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please help us expand our mailing list. Pass on the name of a friend or relative who would like to learn more about Sisters.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Sisters Of the Road Café, Inc. 133 NW Sixth Avenue Portland, OR 97209 503.222.5694

Thank you for your support of Sisters Of The Road Café!