

SistersVOICE

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

Volume 7, Issue 4: Winter, 2004

Matching Grant Challenge is Back, Better than Ever!

By Monica Beemer

November 1st kicks off the tenth anniversary of the Holiday Matching Grant Challenge for Sisters Of The Road, during which we challenge and excite our entire community to join together to raise \$210,000 to sustain the vital work of Sisters Of The Road throughout the entire year! During the months of November and December all gifts to Sisters Of The Road will be matched 50 cents on the dollar by a group of generous individuals and businesses – a \$1 gift becomes \$1.50, a \$100 gift becomes \$150 and a \$1,000 gift \$1,500!

Announcing a New Donor Challenge Grant from the Collins Foundation!

The Collins Foundation, long-time supporters of Sisters Of The Road, have upped the ante by offering to match all donations from people who have never donated to Sisters before! If you are a new donor to Sisters, your donations will be matched 1:1 by Collins and then matched again by the Holiday Matching Grant Challenge Pool. Your

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Sisters Welcomes Tamara Brauchler to the Family

By Lisa Hawash and Monica Beemer

Tamara joined Sisters Of The Road this past April as the cook. She was cooking dinner for women at an inpatient drug and alcohol treatment facility through a vocational rehabilitation program at Volunteers of America, when her sponsor in recovery suggested she apply for the cook position at Sisters. Tamara applied and had an interview in which she felt she “had” to work at Sisters. “I felt like I would belong here. And I do.” Tamara had come a long way in her recovery; she understood



Tamara Brauchler

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Our Mission:

Sisters Of The Road 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@sistersoftheroad.org

call (503) 222-5694, or

FAX (503) 222-3028

www.sistersoftheroad.org

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“At Sisters Of The Road, there are no strangers, just friends we’ve never met.”

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\$100 donation will become a \$250 donation! There's one catch, we must receive at **least** \$10,000 in new gifts to receive the match. Let's do it!

The Matching Grant Challenge started in October, 1994 with one anonymous gift of \$4,000. That gift came with some interesting strings attached—it was to be used to match donations at the rate of 50 cents to the dollar and they must be received between November 1st and December 31st. The challenge began!

The funds raised during this holiday campaign are crucial to Sisters throughout the year. They help us meet the ongoing costs of operating the Café as well as keeping our other programs, job training and community and self advocacy going.

Join us in the challenge! Help make this the most successful Matching Grant Challenge yet by sending your holiday gift to Sisters now. Gifts in any amount are welcome, and a donation made in the name of a friend or relative is a wonderful gift idea. For questions or more information, contact Marilyn Lipko at 503-222-5694, ext. 12 or at marilyn@sistersoftheroad.org.

We're looking forward to a great campaign and are excited that this year's Challenge will encompass Sisters 25th Anniversary Grand Finale Celebration on November 8th (see related article). The 2004 Matching Grant Challenge ends on Friday, December 31st so hurry and get your donation in today – thank you!

Holiday Matching Grant Drop-Off Sites

Once again this year, these businesses have generously offered to receive Holiday Matching Grant Challenge donations from November 1st to December 31st. If you leave your donation with their handy staff, they will turn it over to Sisters Of The Road for the Matching Grant Campaign.

The Horse Brass Pub

4534 SE Belmont Street, (503) 232-2202
11 am-2:30 am Weekdays, 10 am- 2:30 am Weekends

Food Front Cooperative Grocery

2375 NW Thurman, (503) 222-5658, ext. 133
8 am- 9 pm Every day

Touchstone Coffee House

7631 NE Glisan, (503) 262-7613
Hours: 6:30 am- 9 pm, Monday-Thursday
6:30 am- 10 pm Friday

7 am- 10 pm Saturday
8 am- 6 pm Sunday

People's Food Co-op

3029 SE 21st Ave.
(503) 232-9051
Hours: 8am-10pm
Every day

Would your business like to be a Matching Challenge Grant drop-off site? Call Monica @ 503-222-5694 ext. 19!



Cesar Chavez



Dorothy Day

MLK Rally Back in the Neighborhood!

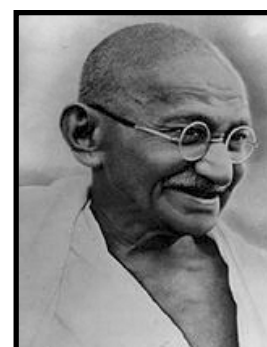
by Mary Kay McDermott and Genny Nelson

Please join us on Saturday, January 22nd to celebrate the practice of Non-Violence, and the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and other non-violent warriors. In 2005, we're bringing this annual event back to Old Town/Chinatown. Though traditionally held on Dr. King's birthday, our new date of January 22nd was chosen so that we could celebrate in the afternoon, and provide a meal for our community on an otherwise bleak food day.

We are still in the process of planning this celebratory event, more details to come.



Martin Luther King Jr.



Mahatma Gandhi

Tamara, continued from page one

what it felt like to have a loss of dignity and how one could feel like a misfit in this society. During the interview, Nikki Jardin, Assistant Operations Manager, described the philosophy and mission of Sisters and Tamara realized how the philosophy jelled with her own beliefs. She knew this was a place she wanted to be. She was thrilled to be offered the job and felt it was a gift.

Born and raised in Mansfield, Ohio where most of her family still lives, she graduated from Ohio State University, with a degree in psychology. Tamara came to Portland when her older brother Brock asked her to join him. "My second year in Portland I discovered methamphetamine which took me to places I never knew there were and not in a good way. But I had the mentorship of a lot of strong women that helped me to pull myself out of my pit and here I am."

Courage is the price that Life exacts for granting peace.

-Amelia Earhart

Tamara's only formal cooking training was with the VOA women's program, while she also learned by watching friends who were chefs. One friend/mentor was a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in New York. "I appreciate the freedom and creativity that the Sisters' staff gives me in meal planning and preparation. It's a place where people think outside of the box and allow for flexibility in their work," states Tamara. "I embrace Sisters views on human rights and dignity for all and the community and self advocacy which takes place at Sisters. The philosophy at Sisters is the way I'm trying to live my life."

Tamara also volunteers during her free time in the community. She works alongside a county health worker in a Hepatitis C and HIV harm reduction project distributing condoms and clean needles in the community. She is also a member of the Ryan White Title I Planning Council for the Portland/Metropolitan Area. As a Council Member, she assists in decision making as to where funds should be allocated for services to HIV+ community members. "Working at Sisters has broadened my vision. I'm not so tunnel vision about people's needs. I'm learning so much from being at Sisters that I can apply to all parts of my life."

DejaBlue, Great Northern Planes and Adam & Kris to Play the 25th Anniversary Grand Finale

by Monica Beemer

Please join us Monday, November 8th from 6:00 - 9:00 pm for our **25th Anniversary Year Grand Finale Celebration!** Music (more great bluegrass & folk music!) food and presentation of the Sisters' 25th Anniversary Quilt and History Book will take at the Roseland Theater located on the corner of NW 6th and Burnside. This event is free, donations will gladly be accepted. We will be kicking off our Matching Grant Challenge Campaign as well! All donations in November and December to Sisters Of The Road will be matched 50 cents per dollar donated by a pool of generous individual and business donors (see front page article).

Plus! Drop by on your way to the Roseland and see the new Café renovations. Tours will be given from 5:30 - 7:00 at the Café, 133 NW Sixth Avenue, which is just up two blocks and across the street (6th and Davis) from the Roseland. Stop by!



Deja Blue Bluegrass Band

Holiday Donations

by Gwen Ivory and Orion Gray

One of the things Sisters supporters like about us is that we don't work from a charity model. We feel that the charity model leads to a flood of giving during the holidays, and scarcity the rest of the year. Giving all-year round, as well as going directly to people to ask what they need, are other ways to let shine your most generous instincts. That being said, people feel a keener sense of social consciousness during the holidays, and we all like to give. So we have carefully re-vamped our donations intake to reflect what our customers repeatedly say they need most.

Items we would love to accept (and distribute throughout the winter):

#1 Razors; Deodorant; Toothpaste & Socks!

These are the Big Four. For hygiene reasons, it's very important that all of these items are new.

#2 Phone cards and bus tickets/bus passes

#3 Other new hygiene items, including lotion, shampoo and conditioner.

Please **do not send**: panty hose, shower caps, cosmetic bags, fingernail polish, perfumes, and earrings.

Other things we'd love:

- * New hats, gloves, or scarves
- * New or nearly new tarps, clean blankets, and sleeping bags
- * New school supplies and children's art supplies
- * New coloring books
- * Nearly new or new children's books (ages 0 to 18 years)
- * Food: Turkeys, hams, USDA meats, large-quantity fresh veggies and canned goods
- * New, non-violent toys (no guns, swords, army sets, please)

Ask before you drop—Please call ahead of time to talk about whether your donation can be used! We may be able to tell you where to send items we cannot use.

Items we cannot accept:

- * No clothes and coats. You may send women's clothes to Rose Haven (503-248-6364), and men's and women's to Downtown Chapel (503-228-0746) or FISH Emergency Services (503-233-5533). Please call first to learn good drop-off times.
- * No party leftovers. Sorry, for health code reasons,

we're not allowed to serve these in the café.

* No small canned goods. We can only use these in the kitchen if we have a full case of one kind.

* No home-baked goods. For restaurant health code reasons, only staff may enjoy these.

Please **call** Union Gospel Mission of Portland (503-274-4483) or Blanchet House (503-226-3911) to inquire if your party left-overs, home-baked goods, or non-bulk food can be used. FISH Emergency Services may also take non-perishable food (503-233-5533). Thank you for your giving spirit and warm thoughts this season and all year round!

True generosity requires more of us than kindly impulse. Above all it requires imagination - the capacity to see people in all their perplexities and needs, and to know how to expend ourselves effectively for them. - I.A.R. Wylie

Hoe Down A Darn-Tootin Success!

by Monica Beemer

Yee haw!

The Second Annual Hoedown and Auction held the first weekend in October were a great success and a whole lotta fun! Funds were raised to share between Sisters Of The Road and New Avenues for Youth, seeking solutions to homelessness across the age span. Good food, great company and fabulous music made for a magical evening.



Our guests love themselves some Hoe Down!

Thank you to all of you who helped in so many ways – we couldn't have done it without you. We look forward to seeing you all next year!

Meet Kathryn Lent

Interview by Orion Gray

Kathryn Lent began working at Sisters on August 16, as our Holy Cross Associate and Customer Service Coordinator.

O: Kathryn, what is your favorite thing about Sisters?

K: The best thing about Sisters is unexpected smiles. Although I think that walking up and down the spiral staircase successfully each day comes in at a very close second.

O: If you were a Sisters' meal, what would you be?

K: I think that clearly I would have to say that I am the rice, beans, and cornbread plate. I can be found in the café every day and sometimes it's fun to add salsa to life!

O: What are your top 3 likes and dislikes?

K: Top 3 dislikes: I dislike paper cuts very much, and twice when I was younger I stapled my thumb. I also dislike mosquitoes in the summertime. Their bites are like paper cuts: surprising and just sore enough to be irritated for a little while. I enjoy music very much, but I dislike it when a bad song gets stuck in my head all day long.

Top 3 likes: My favorite thing is contagious laughter. I like it when someone is giggling and it makes me laugh so hard my belly hurts. I definitely enjoy being competitive and participating in head to head athletics, even if it's designed to be just for fun. Finally, believe it or not, I like the smell of a farm (even manure) because it reminds me of Wisconsin, my home state.

O: What are you reading now?

K: Currently I'm reading The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd. Some of her descriptions paint an amazing picture of the story.

O: Can you tell us a joke?

K: What would a penguin eat for lunch at Sisters? . . . Ice Bergers!



Mary Kay and Kathryn with barter worker Scott Mattson and volunteer Becky Swain

Volunteers Help Create a Cross-Class Community

by Kate Cox, out-going Volunteer Administrator, incoming Resource Development Manager

It's been a year since my first day at Sisters, and my introduction to work in the café. A barter worker trained me how to prepare a plate in the kitchen, a volunteer explained how much ice to put in a glass of lemonade, and the customers at the tables helpfully explained how a refill ticket works. In those few days, I learned first-hand that we all have a lot to learn from one another, and when we work together, side-by-side, we create something far

bigger than ourselves.

"Side-by-side" is what Sisters and our volunteer program are about. Volunteers at Sisters aren't "serving people in need." They are joining with staff and customers to build relationships, hear each others' stories, and create a cross-class community that breaks down the barriers that keep us separate from one another. Volunteer David Gower says, "My experience at Sisters has opened me up to communicating with people I'd regrettably never met before. I've learned new ideas and new ways of thinking in the process. . . as well as the resilience of the human spirit."

It's been my privilege this year to work side-by-side with so many Sisters volunteers. Each day you share yourselves, and each day you inspire me with your open hearts and minds. Thanks for showing me Sisters through your eyes.

In October, I handed over the Volunteer Scheduling Book to Mary Kay McDermott. As our Holy Cross Associate last year, Mary Kay worked both in the Café and in development projects. This year, we're lucky to have Mary Kay back as a Vista Volunteer to coordinate the volunteer program and to



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support Café operations. So, if you're a volunteer already or just thinking about volunteering, you can reach Mary Kay at the same ole' volunteer line, (503) 222-5694 ext. 17, at marykay@sistersoftheroad.org, or at the big orange desk up in the loft.

As for me, you can find me at extension 23, at kate@sistersoftheroad.org, or tucked back in a cozy corner of the development office.

The crossroads Report

by Devin DiBernardo and Genny Nelson

Recently, Sisters Of The Road and **crossroads** People's Organization were invited to the table where policy affecting their community is being decided. Two representatives from Sisters and **crossroads** are sitting on a steering committee that came out of the Mayor's Downtown/ Old Town/ Chinatown Livability Group.

Steering Committee

This steering committee will be responsible for oversight of three different pilot projects that are immediate responses to people's homelessness. It will also address issues such as the Obstructions as Nuisances Ordinance (commonly known as the sit-lie ordinance) and park exclusions.

Sisters and **crossroads** believe it is important for homeless and housed residents, the business community, city officials, city employees, social service representatives, and homeless allies to build relationship and bring our unique truths to the table with regard to these pressing issues. We will always come to the table with an open heart and an open mind, and respectfully listen and respond to all of our partners there.

Additionally and ultimately we will stand up for the human and civil rights of our community: all people in poverty and homeless circumstances. Since the partners at the table represent various opinions, we recognize it may be difficult to reach agreement on policies or ordinances. However, Sisters and **crossroads** hope that having voices that are not typically at the table, such as people with experience of homelessness and poverty, will provide a space where all of us can gain a better understanding of how to compassionately live together.

Please join us for any of the following meetings, all are welcome! Note, please give us a call at 503-

222-5694 x14 to confirm meeting times or for more information.

Right to Sleep Meetings

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 3:30 pm, at the **crossroads** office, 618 NW Davis. The "**Right To Sleep**" campaign's immediate objective is to grant folks who are currently without housing or other viable options, the freedom to sleep outside peacefully and safely without unwarranted intervention from police or other public safety officials.

Action Planning Meetings

Wednesday nights, 6:30 pm, at the crossroads office, 618 NW Davis. Come join **crossroads** for action meetings, and help us plan further actions to ensure the humane treatment of poor and homeless people!

I swore never to be silent whenever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.
- Elie Wiesel

Photovoice Project to Enhance crossroads' Research Project

by Monica Beemer

In 2001, Sisters kicked off Part One of a research project which, to the best of our knowledge, has not been done before in the United States. Over the past three years, we have conducted 2-3 hour long interviews with 600 currently or previously homeless individuals. We are now working with the University of Washington School of Urban Studies to analyze the results of these interviews, and from this analysis will develop public policy recommendations regarding the problems of homelessness.

With the interviews completed and analysis underway, we are now ready to begin Part Two of this research project: an anthology with photos and

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quotes from our customers and from the interviews.

The Photovoice Project

The Photovoice Project will provide materials (photos, stories, and quotes) for this anthology and will enhance the qualitative analysis being undertaken by the University of Washington.

The Photovoice Project will provide our customers, people who are homeless in Portland, Oregon, with cameras to photograph their day-to-day existence, including seeking shelter, food, healthcare and community. Selections of these photographs and the ensuing report-outs will be used in the Sisters' Anthology, *Voices from the Streets*.

While we are currently seeking funding for this project, it is primarily volunteer and community driven and will be led by our two Graduate School of Social Work Interns, Lisa Hawash and Terence Killian with editorial assistance from volunteer Sharon Robinson.

If you are interested in getting involved, call Monica at 503-222-5694, ext. 19.

Ways to Help!

Why Sustaining Membership?

If the majority of our committed donors gave between 50 cents a day (\$15/month) and \$1 a day (\$30/month) the vital services of Sisters would be sustained on a day-to-day basis! It's easy and safe to become a Sustaining Member. If you are already a Sustaining Member, thank you!

For more information, call Marilyn for more information at 503-222-5694 ext. 12 or go to our website at www.sistersoftheroad.org and become a Sustaining Member on-line with any major credit/debit card! Or you can fill out the attached return envelope and mail it to Sisters Of The Road. You will help sustain Sisters day-to-day.

Planned Gifts Build Sustainability

Please remember Sisters Of The Road in your estate planning. You will leave a legacy of hope and community across class lines! Our legal name is Sisters Of The Road, Inc. and our tax identification number is 93-0748169. For more information or a brochure please contact Monica at 503-222-5694, ext. 19 or monica@sistersoftheroad.org.

Stock Gifts

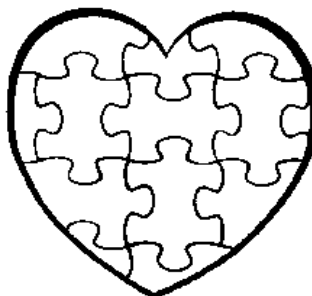
Sisters accepts stock gifts year round. Stocks are a great and easy way to donate to Sisters. Call Monica Beemer at 503-222-5694 ext. 19 for more information, or to notify her of a stock gift donation.

Donate On-line to Sisters

You can donate securely to Sisters on-line. Just go to Sisters website at www.sistersoftheroad.org and click on the *donate online* button on the menu bar. A screen will pop-up and directions will follow—you just need a credit card, debit card or bank account number to donate. You can donate one time or set up an automatic donation that can be deducted monthly, quarterly, bi-annually or annually.

A word on our Mailing List

Several people have asked us and we wanted to let you know – we do not sell or share our mailing list – ever! We thank you for your support and we respect your privacy about your contribution.



Would you like to receive notice of trainings or events via e-mail?

E-mail us at info@sistersoftheroad.org and we will put you on our list. We send between 8-10 e-mails per year with updates on what is happening and ways you can be involved with Sisters.

United Way & Federal Campaign Giving

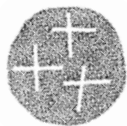
You can ask that your United Way donation be designated directly to Sisters via the United Way and Federal Campaign, and we will receive it. Thank you!

Double or Triple your Contributions with a Corporate/ Business Match

Does your employer match contributions its employees make to non-profit organizations? Many do! If you aren't sure, call or visit the HR department of your company – there are 100s of Portland companies that do this – you may be surprised. This is an excellent way to make your contribution worth even more.

Volunteer Trainings

These take place the second Wednesday of each month from 5-7 pm at the Cafe. Call Kate Cox at 503-222-5694, ext. 17 to sign up.



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Mary Kay McDermott
Genny Nelson

Independent Film Benefit for Sisters of the Road: "The Century Plaza"

When: December 9th at 8 pm. **Tickets:** \$10
Where: The Hollywood Theatre, 4122 NE Sandy Blvd.

In 2003, Director Eric Lahey took up residence at The Century Plaza Hotel, an S.R.O hotel, to document this forgotten fragment of society. Through Rico the cat, an enduring resident of the hotel, the untold stories of this nebulous culture slowly unfold as he wanders his urban enclave. For some, it is a safe haven for the exchange or abuse of illicit drugs; for others it signifies a luxurious break from the streets and a heated room and bed.

Reception and Q&A with filmmakers following the show. A portion of ticket sales and 100% of all donations will benefit Sisters of The Road!

Meal Coupons, Get 'em While They're Hot!

Meal Coupons: \$2 each
Please send me #_____ Meal Coupons to give out to my family/friends/co-workers @ \$2 each = \$_____ Total

Name: _____

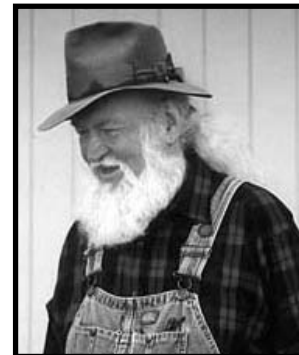
Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Thank you for your support of Sisters Of The Road!

Winterfolk, February 5th: Save the Date! Tickets go on sale January 1.

The Winterfolk annual fundraising concert, in its 18th year and going strong, will be on February 5th, 2005! It will again be held at the lovely Aladdin Theatre, and will again be headlined by the storyteller, folk hero, and professional rascal Utah Phillips. Tickets will be \$23 in advance, \$25 at the door.



Utah Phillips

They will go on sale through Ticket Master and at the Aladdin box office, 3017 SE Milwaukie Ave., Portland, OR.(503-233-1994). The wonderful Misty River and David Rea will also play. Buy early, and buy often: it's an enjoyable way to help Sisters, and tickets sell out every year!



Misty River