



"In here there are no strangers..."

Sisters Of The Road

...just friends we've never met."

Recent Successes & Accomplishments

- November 2009 - Sisters' Executive Director, Monica Beemer, was awarded the 2009 Extraordinary Executive Director Award by *Portland Monthly Magazine*.
- October 2009 - Sisters voted #16 in the Top 100 Non Profits to Work for in Oregon by *Oregon Business Magazine*.
- Sisters Of The Road was named a 2009 *Oregon Food Bank Agency Excellence Award* winner in the category of Excellence in Client Services. The award came with a \$500 prize to support the many warm, nutritious meals served in our cafe each day.
- In November 2008, Sisters received the *Spirit of Portland Award* as one of two top Portland non-profits.
- *Voices from the Street* was named *Silver Medal Winner for the 2008 Nautilus Book Award*; also nominated for the *Robert F. Kennedy book award* and the *C. Wright Mills book award*.



COMMITMENT TO OUR PHILOSOPHIES - We formed an *Anti-Oppressions Steering Committee* to guide and support Sisters as we further our work affirming the equality and full participation of all people.

CAFE & BARTER PROGRAM – In our 30th year, our Cafe shifted from a line to a time-slot reservation system. Doing this has allowed us to slow the pace in the cafe and have more time for authentic relationship building. This model has also proven to make many feel more dignified and valued as customers; reduced line disputes, violence and crowding in the Cafe; and has slowed the pace of meals served so we can provide more deliberate and personal service and hospitality to each customer.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE PROGRAM – The Civic Action Group (CAG – Sisters' community organizing group made up entirely of people with experience with homelessness) has created three exciting workgroups which meet weekly to focus on issues that directly impact our community.

The **Affordable Housing** Workgroup will focus on advocating around affordable housing. By working with ally groups, conducting outreach in the community, and creating events and actions, this workgroup will support both CAG and WRAP goals around affordable housing. The **Anti-Camping Workgroup** is focused on changing

policies which criminalize community members for sleeping outside. Workgroup members will continue to attend meetings at the Portland Housing Bureau dubbed the "alternatives" meeting. The **Community Engagement** Workgroup will create and implement activities related to engaging our community in the cafe. This group is brainstorming more events and activities to hold in the cafe with the purpose of letting the community know what CAG is doing, getting folks involved, providing a fun and family friendly environment for people to get to know each other, and conducting outreach that will help us guide our work.



VOLUNTEERISM– Estimated total volunteer commitment was around 5500 hours by about 350 different volunteers to our organization this past year!

LIVABLE WAGE - Our lowest wage for employees – including on-call staff - was raised to \$13.40 per hour (plus 100% employer-paid health, dental and disability insurances for permanent staff at 20 hours a week or more), which is considered a current livable wage for a single person in Multnomah County. Due to a difficult year, salaried staff will forego a Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) pay increase. This represents a 3% increase at the lowest wage level, and a 0% increase at the highest paid levels of the agency, further closing the wage gap in the organization.