

Meet Sisters' Cafe Manager, Galadriel

Galadriel Mozee — Interview by Neil Doner

Galadriel began as Sisters' Cafe Operations Manager in October 2007. A huge job, the Manager must juggle a frighteningly large range of issues from Multnomah County Health Code to enforcing the cafe's controversial pet policy; from crafting the annual Cafe Budget, to fielding questions about her name . . .



My parents named me after a character from the Lord of the Rings. Two pretty annoying things about that are that people assume that I chose my name myself and/or I'm really into the Lord of the Rings. My mom is a big fan, which is why she named me and every cat we ever had after characters from the book, but I'm not a big fan. I think the story is kinda boring. I used to tell people my name was Anika, like Pippi Longstockings' friend, when I was little. Then my mom found out and I got in trouble.

I've lived in Portland for just under two years. I left Southern Cali when I turned 18 and have lived in small towns until moving here. I enjoy country living, a slower pace and friendlier faces. Portland is like the best of both worlds.

I was living in Bend for three years working as a case manager with teens in an addictions recovery program before I moved to Portland to work with Bradley Angle House establishing a drop in center for African and African American families surviving Domestic Violence. It was a ground breaking idea because it was the collaborative idea of three non-profits and the community and started to address the cultural differences in the experience of domestic violence.

After working there for a year I felt ready to move into a different model of service. The opening at Sisters Of The Road became available and I applied. I feel like Sisters practices are more in line with my personal beliefs of non-violence and community organizing.

The most challenging thing about working at Sisters has been the days when we have to close due to staff shortage or illness and you just have to say to yourself that your doing the best you can even though you know the community will be disappointed to show up to a locked door.

The major difference between Sisters' service model and other models I've experienced is that we are encouraged to form authentic relationships with customers and the community. This simple act of allowing ourselves to be human is revolutionary in the amount of power it shares.

I have a dog named Jackson who is a border collie/Australian Shepard mix. He's 8 and has only recently started showing any signs of interest in calm behavior. I also live with a husky/Australian Shepard mix named Noah, a brown cat named Jupiter, a white cat named Dezzy who enjoys drinking water out of the bathtub faucet, and we welcomed three chickens into our family in April.

The worst hair cut I ever had...I think when I was about 10 my sister tried to give me bangs but I ended up with a total curly mullet and my mom had to take me to Super Cuts to fix it...kinda.

I live in a community household. We share food, space, chores, a vehicle and responsibilities for animals and gardening in a way that is negotiated at house meetings. We eat together on a regular basis, make most all house decisions as a group, host activities for our community and open our home to guests and animals of traveling friends. I think I'm drawn to living like this because it feels more about making true and accountable connections with others and less about just renting a room; it feels more like a healthy family. I would always choose to be a member of a family than to be out on my own.