

Support radical possibility



By **TIMOTHY HARRIS**
Executive Director

The past year has been one of dizzying change for the better here at First & Main. Our work, after 16 years, remains huge, and gets bigger all the time. Thanks to your support, we have tended to our foundation and emerged with

a renewed sense of strength and possibility.

Our new offices in Pioneer Square offer an environment of dignity and respect for our vendors, and for the first time in 16 years, provides staff with workspace that truly meets its needs.

The difference can be seen any Wednesday at the 8:30 a.m. paper delivery. Where before, 50-100 vendors would anxiously crowd into our tiny space and take as long as an hour to get out the door, our morning rush now concludes in 15 minutes or less.

The truck pulls in, the back slides up and the pallets quickly empty as a line of vendors carries in the bundles two and four at a time. As the papers are put away, volunteers count papers into stacks of 10 while two lines form — one of them express — and the room quietly clears, leaving only the hushed tap of keyboards as vendors check email in Robert Hansen Computer Lab before getting on their way.

Upstairs, in Editorial and Admin, where our development, operations and award-winning newspaper staff populate an ample U-shaped space with doors at each end, the tone is all business. The white boards are covered with tasks and timelines that express the steady work of publishing a weekly paper, developing the relationships and resources we need to be effective, and responsibly managing what will soon become a million-dollar

organization.

As our board nears completion of our three-year strategic plan, the broad outlines of an exciting future are becoming clear. Expansion of distribution east and south to diversify readership and support; increased resources for the leading-edge, cross-class organizing that builds the movement for economic justice we all need; and investment in the tools and systems that will help us build the engaged community in action that makes all things possible.

As we've asked our friends and allies what matters most, the answers have come back loud and clear. The success of our vendors comes first. Our quality and uncompromised journalism puts money in their pockets. Our work is to create community across lines of race and class, to incite and inspire, and to dream and love and fight our way to the change we need.

Our readers and supporters are the rock upon which we stand. We thank you from the deepest core of our grateful being for the inspirational love and kindness that makes our work possible. We invite you to hold us close and hang on tight as we build the community of radical possibility that is Real Change. ■

Recognition well-earned

Real Change's commitment to quality journalism was once again rewarded with an armful of awards by the Society of Professional Journalists, an association of daily and non-daily newspapers, alternative weeklies, radio and television broadcasters and online media. The awards were announced at the May 22, 2010, annual banquet of the Society of Professional Journalists' regional contest. Real Change competed against non-daily papers from five states.

Real Change staff collected 4 total prizes, including 3 first place honors for staff reporter Cydney Gillis alone. These awards were hard earned. You win the lottery, you win at the poker table. Earnings are what's due for the work you did.

Cydney earned first-place awards in three categories: in Arts Reporting and Criticism for "Pike Place Market artists losing designated lofts" (April 8-14, '09); in Social Issues Reporting for "Affordable Rentals takes \$250 from homeless couple" (Aug. 5-11, '09); and in Education Reporting for "Parents call changes at Seattle's Indian Heritage School a whitewash," (Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, '09). Assistant Editor Rosette Royale earned a second-place award in the Personalities Reporting category for "A fast for peace, recounted in number and deed" (Sept. 16-22, '09).

Cydney came to Real Change in 2004 after working in both daily journalism and small press, including serving as a copy

editor at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer until the newspaper's closure. She was previously a business reporter at The Seattle Times and covered Microsoft for Bellevue's Eastside Journal, where her column, 'Soft Talk, captured First Place in the Western Washington Society of Professional Journalists' competition in 2002. She has been an arts writer for The Seattle Times, the Seattle Weekly's Eastsideweek and The Stranger and, in the 1980s, published ArtsFocus, a Seattle theater monthly. ■



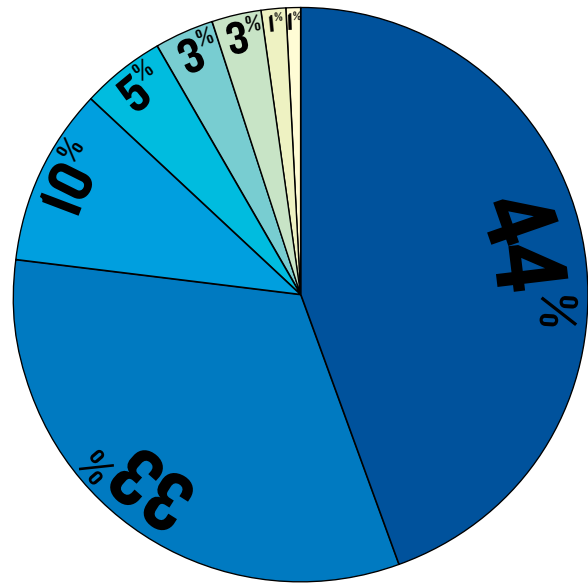
Photo by Sherry Loeser

A sweet win

Real Change is the proud winner of the 2010 Seattle Human Rights Award for our leadership role in defeating a proposed aggressive panhandling ordinance that would have significantly widened the arbitrary power of Seattle police to trespass the poor from commercial areas. The measure would have been one of the most far-reaching measures in the nation, and was backed by the Downtown Seattle Association and many other significant downtown interests.

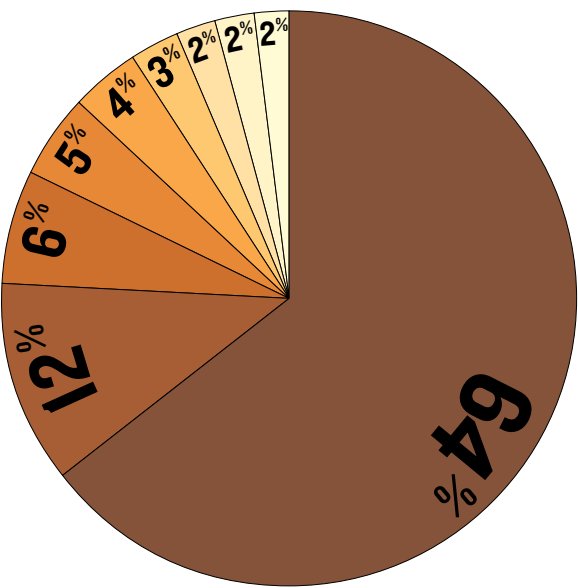
Real Change worked with a broad range of allies that included human service providers, the ACLU and the NAACP to produce the City Council support that upheld Mayor McGinn's veto of the legislation. The law was unanimously opposed by the Seattle Human Rights Commission because it would undermine due process under law for target populations and increase incarceration rates for low-income people and minorities. Our entire community fought this one, proving when the cause is just, determined organizing can win against the odds. ■

2010 Financial Report



Revenue

Fundraising Drives	367,512
Circulation	270,509
Real Change Breakfast	81,858
Grants	39,000
Advertising and Subscriptions	26,963
Other Fundraising	24,141
Olympia Newswire	11,639
Other Income	5,106
Total Income	\$826,727



Expenses

Payroll & Health Benefits	530,908
Newspaper Printing	95,322
Rent & Relocation	51,476
Other	39,627
Events	32,052
Printing, Postage, Copier & Marketing	22,002
Professional Development & Professional Consulting	19,966
Utilities, Phone, Internet, IT & Support	17,814
Supplies (Program, Office & Cleaning)	14,508
Total Expenses	\$823,674

*Percentages are approximate due to rounding

Vendor Profile

Housing Status:

Currently Homeless: 49.1%
Previously Homeless: 40.2%
Never Homeless: 5.1%
Prefer not to share: 5.6%

Current Sleeping Situation:

Sleeping outside: 19.6%
Sleeping in a shelter: 15.0%
Sleeping in a car: 7.5%
In transitional housing: 5.6%
In subsidized housing: 22.9%
Staying with friends/family: 6.5%
In market-rate housing (no subsidy): 3.3%
Prefer not to share: 3.3%
Other: 16.4%

Gender:

Male: 75%
Female: 24%
Transgender: 1%

Age:

18-29: 3.5%
30-39: 7.5%
40-49: 35%
50-59: 48%
60+: 11%

Race/Ethnicity:

American Indian or Alaskan Native: 7.9%
Asian, Asian-American: 1.4%
Black or African American: 21.5%
Latino or Hispanic: 2.3%
Pacific Islander or Hawaiian Native: 0.5%
White/Caucasian (non-Hispanic): 51.9%
Other: 1.4%
Prefer not to share: 13.1%

Physical or Mental Disability:

Physical Disability only: 27.1%
Mental Disability only: 16.8%
Both Physical and Mental Disabilities: 22.9%



The vendor who sold you this paper works. So does Real Change.

Real Change is a quality newspaper, organizing project and low-barrier economic opportunity. Real Change works.

Every month, more than 350 homeless and vulnerably housed people earn money and build confidence by selling Real Change. We bring you community voices you won't hear elsewhere and quality in-depth reporting on stories often left out of other papers.

Real Change is reader supported in the same way that public radio and TV are listener and viewer supported. Last year more than 1300 people helped make Real Change work even better by being donors and volunteers.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Contact me about volunteering

\$50 \$150 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other: _____

Make checks payable to **Real Change** and mail to: 219 1st Ave. S. Suite 220 Seattle, WA 98104, or use our secure online giving option at realchangenews.org. Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Please join them and help us in the fight against poverty and homelessness.