



1317 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005 · info@streetsense.org
Phone: (202) 347-2006 · Fax (202) 347-2166 · www.streetsense.org

Street Sense Celebrates Two-Year Anniversary Today, Introduces New Logo and New Executive Director

Contact:

Laura Thompson Osuri
(202) 347-2006
info@streetsense.org

WASHINGTON—*Street Sense*, Washington, D.C.'s first homeless street newspaper, celebrates its second anniversary today, Tuesday, Nov. 15, with a changes to the newspaper's design and the organization's leadership.

For the past two years, *Street Sense* has been an active source of information for the general public and employment for homeless people in the nation's capital.

"*Street Sense* makes me feel good," said vendor Francine Triplett. "It gives me a chance to talk to people and make some money while doing it."

Triplett is one of more than 30 vendors who currently sell the newspaper on a regular basis. Since its inception, *Street Sense* has seen more than 200 vendors sell the paper, and about 30% of them have been hired at full- or part-time jobs. A handful have moved into homes of their own.

"The newspaper is a hand up, not a hand out," said co-founder and boardmember Ted Henson. "*Street Sense* not only empowers those who sell it and benefit from it financially, but it keeps a light on poverty and social issues that so often get no attention."

As the pool of vendors has grown, so has the circulation of the newspaper. In the last year, the number of issues printed each month has nearly doubled to 13,000.

The past twelve months have been filled with many firsts for *Street Sense*. In March 2005, the organization officially became a nonprofit organization, and in the spring, *Street Sense* held its first fundraiser, a concert at the Black Cat. In October, a full seven-member board was created and met for the first time.

Most notably, Laura Thompson Osuri starts as *Street Sense*'s executive director today. Osuri, who helped found the paper, will be the first paid staff member of an organization that has relied entirely on volunteer support since its inception.

"I am excited to start working for *Street Sense*," she said. "And I am ready to give all my time and energy to step up the growth and success of the organization."

Today *Street Sense* also introduced its new logo, which was designed by Vanguard Communications. Other changes to the November issue include heavy, brighter paper and new features, including a politics page and a puzzle page.

With a new look and a new director, *Street Sense* hopes to have another successful year.

"After all of the changes this past year, *Street Sense* is prepared to make an even greater impact going forward," Osuri said. "We plan to get the paper into the hands of even more readers and put a steady income into the hands of more homeless men and women."
