

Sisters of The Revolution

21st century nuns bring unique charity to Portland

by Tony LeTigre • Photos by James Hodges



The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence raised \$1,935 for Cascade AIDS Project's Portland AIDS Walk 2007.

When it comes to real-life superheroes, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence are near the top of the list. Founded in San Francisco in 1979, they are now an international nonprofit organization with more than 700 members distributed through nine countries. For nearly 30 years, the Sisters have been a miraculous combination of selfless charity and fabulous liberation, not to mention a thorn in the side of noninclusive religion from the pope on down. Throughout the course of their storied history, their work and antics have drawn a mixture of praise and criticism both within and beyond the queer community, but they show no signs of throwing in the scapular anytime soon.

Au contraire. The past few years have seen a convergence of energy resulting in the founding of new Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence houses in Palm Springs and Eureka, Calif.; Phoenix; Las Vegas; Nova Scotia; Vancouver, British Columbia; Zurich, Switzerland; and right here in Portland. The Portland chapter, formally known as the Order of Benevolent Bliss, is finally poised to come into its own as a fund-raising force, after two years of red tape and bureaucracy.

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