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**Women at Risk for HIV**  
*Local healer works to empower those 50 and older*  
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**Survivors Sing Out**

*Worship in Pink breast cancer choir group performs*  
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# Portland Observer 42

'City of Roses'



Read back issues of the Portland Observer at [www.portlandobserver.com](http://www.portlandobserver.com)  
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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Pumpkins and Halloween

*Two-year-old twins Sawyer and Wyatt of northeast Portland go hunting for pumpkins at the Bella Organic Portland Pumpkin Farm on Sauvie Island, 16205 N.W. Gillihan Rd. See inside for a calendar of Halloween events, festive recipes and other activities to enjoy.*



## Building Bridges to a Strong Future

*Founder of non-profit helps at-risk youth achieve*

BY MINDY COOPER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After a childhood filled with others trampling on her self-esteem, one local woman is determined to keep Portland's at-risk youth

*Patricia Feathers works to empower local youth with personal development training as founder of the non-profit Urban Bridges Studio.*

PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

off the streets by teaching them how to raise their self-confidence and become empowered through etiquette and personal development training as building blocks to a strong future.

Patricia Feathers, the founder of the northeast non-profit youth organization Urban Bridges Studio, Inc., was four-years-old when she was taken from her mother after her dad moved her to Buffalo, New York.

She was soon placed with family member after family member throughout the southern states, where she said they mentally, physically and psychologically abused her.

"They always told me, nobody is ever gonna love you," she said.

At the age of 15, however, Feathers said she found the strength to somehow prove them wrong.

"So many kids listen to that verbal abuse, and they act out," she said.

According to Feathers, many of the children who go through Urban Bridges come from parents who tell them they won't make it to 20, they will end up in jail, they will become pregnant before they get out of high

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