

The  
PO

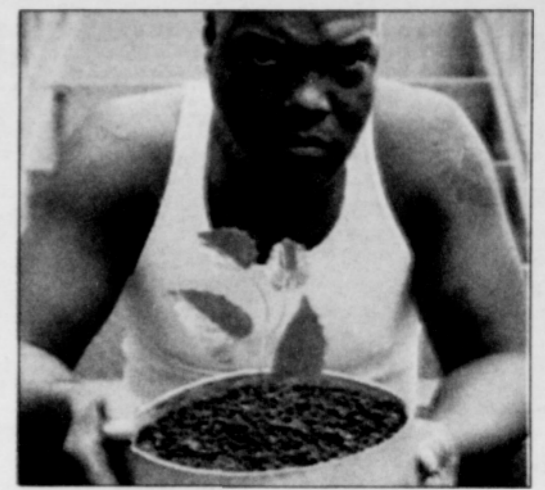


### 'Calf is here to Stay'

Zoo says breeding loan won't impact new arrival  
See story, page 3

### Past and Future Struggles

Playhouse presents another August Wilson play  
See Metro, page 11



# The Portland Observer 43

'City of Roses'



Volume XXXXI  
Number 47



www.portlandobserver.com  
Wednesday • December 5, 2012

Established in 1970

Committed to Cultural Diversity

years  
community service



PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Chabre Vickers is motivated by the kids in the community. 'I am these kids,' said the Big Brothers Big Sisters executive.

## A Conduit for Kids' Futures

### Portland woman devoted to positive role models

BY CARI HACHMANN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It's been a busy year for Chabre Vickers, but also a rewarding one. And her work isn't finished yet.

As Big Brothers Big Sister's director of public relations and diversity programs, Vickers is leading efforts to recruit more people of color, African-American men in particular, to mentor children who need positive role models.

Her devotion to her work and community

is evident by the four awards she has received in the last year, including the Spirit of Portland Award as the city's Emerging Community Leader.

However, Vickers says she wasn't looking for recognition or compensation when she first became involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters as a volunteer in 2007.

She is motivated by the kids in the community, "I am these kids," she said.

Vickers more or less grew up homeless after living her first eight years in Portland

and moving to southern California with her single-working, though college-educated mother.

As the eldest child, she helped take care of her siblings while their family slept on living room floors and in the back of her mother's van in grocery store parking lots.

As a young girl, Vickers recalls still having more than other families and thinking her life a blessing. Somewhere along the way, a mentor vested in Vickers, telling her that bettering herself would ultimately better the

community. The rhetoric stuck.

Now, the Howard University graduate returns the favor by fighting for kids worse off.

"Children need authentic relationships with adults in their life," said Vickers. "Once that is established, kids have a better chance of truly realizing what they're contribution to the community can be and they can find value within themselves."

Poverty is one of the largest adversities facing kids' quality of life, Vickers said. She

continued ▼ on page 5