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What's on your list today?®

# LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Amber Dines enjoys the time and mentorship she has with her niece, the person she gives credit for the inspiration behind a new initiative to help kids of color in foster care with culturally-specific resources and support.

# Fostering Love

## Volunteer tackles cultural gap for kids in foster care

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A lack of culturally-specific resources for children of color in foster care across the nation is getting a local solution. The gap for African-American children entering the system was glaring when Vancouver activist and parent Amber Dines became a foster parent to her niece last year.

Dines says when her sister had some troubles and her five children were taken in by the Washington foster care system, the siblings were immediately split up and there was a complete lack of attention to their cultural backgrounds.

"The first night they all went to different places and went I went to pick up my niece, she was crying," said Dines. "She was scared, she was in a home with people she didn't know, and I realized had she stayed there longer it might have been difficult for them to meet some of her culturally-specific needs."

"Not every kid was going to be picked up like

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# Celebrate 50 Years of Head Start

Albina Head Start and Early Head Start will honor 50 years of opportunities and learning in the community on Thursday when it hosts a celebration for everyone who has ever participated in the pre-school program.

All current and former Albina Head Start children, parents, staff, including everyone who

has participated in the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee Head Start and Albina Ministerial Alliance Head Start, is welcome, along with community supporters.

The goal is capture stories of what Head Start means to you. Enjoy an evening filled with music from the Norman Sylvester

Band, fresh food, raffle prizes, games and activities, and community information tables. All children under age 5 will receive a book and a book bag.

The free and open to the public celebration takes place Thursday, Sept. 24 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Eagles North Lodge, 7611 N. Exeter Ave.