



July 2009

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## So Many Blessings

We continue to be blessed in so many ways! Sorry it has taken so long to get this written - but summer is crazy for a full time director with a B&B that has weddings every weekend! But know we have learned and grown and made a difference in the lives our young men. Excuse the length of this newsletter - but we have so many people to thank!!

## New Shawn



I know, how crazy? When old Shawn told us she needed to pursue other interests, New Shawn was an answer to a prayer! Meet **Shawn Bergman**, half mountain man, half "Guy Whisperer." His years of experience in wilderness programs have been just what the program needed! I hope you get to meet him - He rocks!!

## Jaysen

Meet **Jaysen** - our wonderful new WING-man. Jaysen is from across the river and is the hardest working young man we have had so far! He plans to start at the Community College this fall and has jumped into the program with both feet!



## Adam

We are pleased to say that **Adam**, our Americorp Member, has decided to go back to UNC in January and will be staying until the middle of



October! In addition to amassing volunteers, and working weekends, he has become quite the mountain climber - Mt Hood alone, then Mt Adams and other peaks with **Jaysen**. Woo Hoo! (Jaysen and Adam, below)



### **PGE Grant**

We are very pleased to have been awarded a \$5000 grant from the **PGE Foundation**. The funds will be used to continue our education component! It will cover a number of things, but primarily pay our wonderful **Steve Labadie** who works on life skills and education two nights a week!



### **Wine Event**

A great time was had by all at our **Best of the Gorge** Wine Tasting Event! Special thanks to the amazing **Donna** and wonderful **Lisa** at **Harsch Investments**, **Autumn Woods** from the **CGWGA**, **Gabe Jones** of **Moneris Solutions** - and to **Jordan Schnitzer** for

allowing us to piggy back on their event. Big hugs to **Viento**, **Jacob Williams**, **The Pines**, **Phelps**, **Pheasant Valley**, **Syncline**, **McCormick**, **Erin Glenn**, **Mt Hood**, **Wy'East** and **Full Sail**!

### **Vegetable Garden**

Big hugs to **Steve Richter** (right), of **Gorge Nursery**, who gave us lime and dragged his tractor over to help get our vegetable garden up and running. To the wonderful **Steve Labadie** who donated his time, to **Hood River Supply** for top soil, for **Hood River Sand and Gravel** for, of course, gravel, and to pals, **Claudia Brown**, **Marcy Orlickas** and **Mike Benedict** for plants! Also a big hug to **Erwin Swetnam** and **Hood River Garbage** for all of their assistance!



### **Curtis Haynie, DDS**

Can't thank this man enough for working with us to help Daren get his teeth fixed. Curtis, we so appreciate all you have offered to do!

## Tiffany Kenslow and Susan Sisko



If you see these two around, give them a hug. They spent four afternoons with our WING-men, including them in a depression and anxiety group, which worked on everything from breathing exercises to communications. Thanks, you two!!

## More Thanks

### MCCOG

Special thanks to the folks at MCCOG. They have been amazing - working with our guys on resume writing, career readiness, interviews and career assessments - what a great agency to have on our team. Special hug to **Andrea Rogers** - you are wonderful!



### Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital

In case you wonder where the money you give to the Foundation goes, know that it is making such a difference in our community. They have paid for doctor bills, mental health assessments, dental assistance and more - we would not have half the impact without their support!



## The McCourts

One day a week we give the guys a chance to learn from other members in the community. A few weeks ago, **Susan McCourt** gave the guys a tour of their CSA. Of course, they loved the baby chicks and the cherries the best - thanks, McCourt family!!

## Community Service

Yes, the Sub - our 1989 Suburban, can hold 508 loaves of bread! Our guys volunteer in the community one day a week - taking bread from **Rosaurers** and **Safeway** to the **Food Bank** and **LaClinica**! If you have an educational community service project, give us a call and we will help!



## Work, Work, Work!



Shawn has really pulled the team together and they are a hard working group. We are so appreciative of our contracts with **Cascade Commons** and **The Port of Hood River**. **We are looking for half and full days of work, so if you have a project you have been putting off, give us a**

**call . . . painting, clearing, destruction, small remodeling projects, yard work - you name it, we can do it!**

### **Save the Date!**

We have picked **Saturday, September 26th** as our next **Hoe-Down!** Dust off your dancing boots and plan on joining us - more info to follow!

### **Phew!**

Well, now you know how busy we have been and . . . how blessed. We ARE asking for your support and hope you will take a minute and log on to [www.getwings.net](http://www.getwings.net) to donate what you can or volunteer to help. Thank you so much for your continued support and helping us give these young men . . . WINGS.

### **How You Can Help:**

WINGS needs your help to continue running and to grow this year. Please check out the Donation/Volunteer page on our website: [getwings.net/donation.html](http://getwings.net/donation.html). If you can help with a one-time donation or better yet, a monthly pledge, your money will be directly spent to provide services to kids.

We understand that not everyone can make a monetary donation - but WINGS could use your help in so many other ways! If you have a skill or a passion or a favorite sport, and could spare an afternoon, please let us know. If you have excess furniture or equipment, please check out our Needs List and make a donation. If you have work for the Crew for a day or longer, please give us a call at 541-380-3820.

Thanks to all of you who have helped WINGS get this far; your help has made all the difference! When the young men are ready, together we will give them "WINGS."

Give Them Wings, Inc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation doing business as WINGS. WINGS is a two-phase program which provides housing, work, trade and life skill training, education and wrap-around services for 18- to 23-year-old young men in Hood River and Wasco Counties who were formerly in foster care or are currently homeless and in need of support.

Sincerely,  
*Allyson Pate*  
WINGS

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