



December 2008

In This Issue

Out of the Rubble

Moving In

Giving Thanks

Community Choir

Lions Club

Hood River Rotary

Holiday Luncheon

Quick Links

WINGS Website
Newsletter Archive

[How You Can Help](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

Out of the Rubble ... a Home, at last!



You know that sinking sensation -- when your contractor calls and says "Can you come up? I need to show you something."? Well, we had weeks of that. What started as a small project to raise a toilet is now a new kitchen, new wiring, two new baths and all new plumbing. Tim Sweeney, and his crew from Hood River Construction, Bonney Electric and Hood River Plumbing are all amazing. We are so grateful to them for moving quickly and being so budget-conscious. Money did fly out the door, but the house is warm, dry and safe!

To see our construction progress, [click here](#).

Moving In

Even though the house was not quite ready, the intrepid *Daren* moved in last Monday amidst the clutter, and jumped in with both feet. Daren is the great kid we have gotten to know over the last few years ... in fact, he was the young man I had in mind as we built the program. The week before Daren moved in, as he was inspecting the WINGS house and choosing his bedroom, he only had one question:

"Can I bring my own blanket?" As I wiped away the tears, I remembered that while this is a program, it is, first and foremost, their home. In the first week, Daren has learned how to install drywall, paint, fold laundry, and place the forks on the correct side of the plates -- woo hoo!



Brett was interviewed by our Selection Committee, and *Cheri*, our neighborhood liaison, and we agreed that he would make a great addition -- so we welcomed him to the WINGS house last Friday. The guys are painting their room, and learning to cook some new dishes and how to live together. Two WING-Men down, two to go!

Shawn, our Houseparent/Co-Pilot, is an amazing bundle of energy. She has the guys constantly on the move, teaching with love and doing the job she was born to do. We found out that

Adam, our weekend guy and Volunteer Coordinator, needs to work on his sportsmanship when he lost at Liar's Dice, but he is doing a great job -- in the house and in the community!

Giving Thanks for Our Bounty of Blessings!

If you are not on our mailing list you may have missed our Thanksgiving Thank You card ([Click here to download a PDF](#)) but we are grateful for all of you who have supported our journey. We are thrilled to be open after two and a half years, and we know we would not be here without your help.

So many of you have donated money, gift cards, furniture, linens, kitchen gear, camping gear ... we are so lucky to live in this great community! If it takes a village to raise a child, it is taking this community to build our village. We also received some amazing cabinets for our barn from **Harsch Investments** -- thanks, **Lisa!**

A big hug to **RaeLynn Ricarte** and the gang at the **Hood River News** - we know that without your support this would have been a much tougher battle. Thanks for all you do in the community.

Keep an eye out; **Adam** is taking the guys out to cut down a Christmas tree, and we hope to show you the house completed and decorated for the holidays in our next newsletter. Again, thank you all ... for all you do!

We were also blessed by a **Secret Santa** with a check for \$1000 to offset some construction costs and buy our much needed dish washer! Thanks, Santa!



Community Choir



This month we were especially blessed to have been selected by the 70-strong **Mid-Columbia Community Choir** as the beneficiary of their Fifth Annual *Hymns of Thanksgiving*. The choir was joined by the **Riverside Community Choir**, pianist **Tim Mayer**, and the **Mid Columbia Adventist Christian**

School Choir. Voices were raised on high, **Perry Cole** rocked, and



\$1,400 was donated -- what an evening!



WINGS Receives Grant from Lions Club



This month we were also selected by *Hood River Lions* to receive an answer to a prayer -- a check for \$6,000 for a new-to-us 6-Pack truck for our program! Thank you to all of the Lions -- we are so grateful, and the dessert was delicious!



Rotary



We have also been granted \$500 from *Hood River Rotary* -- almost enough to buy a new washer and dryer. Just in the nick of time -- thank you fellow Rotarians! The remaining \$100 was paid by *Erwin Swetnam* of *Hood River Garbage*. Erwin totally rocks -- he has also donated the use of a dumpster --

which one really needs when under "destruction"!

Holiday Luncheon



Speaking of wonderful -- pals *Patti Tessmer* and *Elaine Powrie* threw a Holiday luncheon last week to benefit WINGS. They had amazing



food, friends gave gift cards and we raised more than \$1,000. Just shows what women can make happen! Thanks you two - it was a great

party!

How You Can Help:

WINGS needs your help to get up and running this year. Please check out the Donation/Volunteer page on our website: 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 former foster 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 let us know. When the young men are ready, together we will give them "WINGS."

Thanks to all of you who have helped WINGS get this far; your help has made all the difference!

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 have aged out of foster care.

Sincerely,
Allyson Pate
 WINGS

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WINGS | 2149 W Cascade, #106A | PMB 48 | Hood River | OR | 97031