



WINGS

Work, housing, education and support for homeless young women and their children from the Gorge.

Friendsgiving Recap 2019

Friendsgiving

In these crazy days of impeachment hearings and arguing and discourse it was such a joy to celebrate **Friendsgiving** this year with all of our **WINGS** family. In years past we have been able to squeeze into our living room, but when your guest list grows to 60 people, clearly we needed another option. We were so blessed to be invited to use the newly remodeled **Vietnamese Baptist Church**, owned by **Kathleen** and **Henry Trang**, owners of the four **Studio Hair and Nails** locations. The space was perfect, and we were so grateful!



This summer, I started cooking and nutrition classes with the moms. We met weekly to learn everything from shopping on a budget, to visiting the farmer's market, to prep and cooking and meal planning. I am now so proud to see healthy meals being prepared, fresh food filling the fridge, and a real reduction in junk food.



Prep day was so much fun!

The culmination of all of those classes was our Thanksgiving prep day up at the **Commercial Kitchen** at **Columbia Gorge Community College**. The four moms currently in the house prepared five side dishes, two salads and loads of desserts for 60 people in four hours. The kitchen was filled with the best aromas of the holidays and so much laughter - this learning experience was so much fun!

The church was filled with moms and kids, family and friends, all dressed up in their holiday best. The sound of children laughing, and people celebrating together made all of the hard work worthwhile. The food was delicious and bountiful!

As always, we ask our moms to celebrate and share their successes with the guests and these heartwarming stories of triumphs were the highlight of the evening. Not all of our grads could be there or were will willing to speak, but the speeches were wonderful and deeply moving.

I hope you never know anyone who has struggled with addiction, but if you have, you will know how crazy amazing it is to have a 90% success rate - moms reunited with their children, staying clean and sober, and becoming contributing members of society. This is hard, hard hard work, and every day I am dazzled by moms choosing to join **WINGS** and do everything it takes to get their lives and their families together.



I am blessed to be a part of this team. We could not exist without **Fritz Bachman**, Director of **Wasco Community Corrections** and his DOJ grant, which pays for our staff salaries and insurance. **Brandi** is our **Program Director** and she is the life force behind our program. She shares her experience and wonderful heart and gives the best of herself every day. **Mitzi** was one of our first **WINGS** moms, and is now a valuable staff member. Her insightfulness and can-do spirit brings so much to our program!

As always, WINGS would not exist with all of you. The contributions and support you make every year provides necessities such as cribs, car seats, diapers, beds, linens and clothing, as well as the million little things that make WINGS a success; paying for a parenting class, little birthday parties for kids, GED classes, drivers licenses, Christmas gift cards and so much more. So today I give thanks for this amazing journey and all of you. I am going to pray for guidance and wisdom and strength and also pray for those who continue to struggle. *Wishing you and yours the best of the holiday season.*



Great work you guys! What a feast!!

Thanks to some of our Moms for sharing their successes!



The amazing and invaluable Brandi!



Mitzi- we would be lost without her!



Christina - graduated this year to her own place after being reunited with her four kids - and she has a job!!



Cece graduated from high school, has her own apartment, is going to CGCC, and raising her son and teenage sister!



Shelby learned how to stay sober, set boundaries, and love herself. She has her own place and is reunited with her son.



Tiffany is our newest mom and is working daily on improving every aspect of her life!



Amanda had beautiful baby Joshua this year, and later this month her other children will be permanently returned to her. She plans to get her own place next spring!



Toni has learned to stay sober and develop healthy relationships. She has embraced her new sense of self worth and is reuniting with her kids!!



Faith is now reunited with her 3 kids and has been the heart of the current house moms. She leaves later this month to her own place!!



Shannon was one of first grads and has been a spiritual leader of our moms. She is a blessing!

WINGS Website

**Newsletter
Archive**

**How You Can
Help**

Give Them Wings, Inc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation doing business as WINGS. WINGS offers formerly homeless young women and their children from the Columbia Gorge Region everything they need to learn to be employable and sustainable. We offer a home, work, training, continuing education, and all types of support to young women with children.

*Sincerely,
Allyson Pate
WINGS*

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