

**April 2010**

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**Spring has sprung** and with it, more work and fresh starts! WINGS is 17 months old and we are still learning more every day! The program continues to thrive and we are, as always, grateful for this amazing opportunity to help young men learn to be employable and sustainable.

We are only here because of your support and we so appreciate all you have done to help us continue to provide work, training, education, life skills and mental, dental and health services! Of course, we are always looking for continuing support and hope you will take a minute to check out our donation page - we could use everything from an hour of your time to a salad spinner to most importantly, becoming a monthly donor! [Click here to learn more!](#)

## Jaysen

Is that a cute face or what? That is the face of a young man who was homeless and is now successfully in his own place, with a full time job AND going to school at night. We are very proud of **Jaysen**. He never thought he would do well in school and now he is getting good grades and excited about his prospects. He worked full time on the mountain this winter and is looking for a job with a future - let me know if you could use a smart, hard working young man!



*photo:Lea Rachford*

## Brian

Meet **Brian**. I met him at a Homeless Conference. He was living on the streets and had come to talk about what his life was like. A week later, we had an opening and he was in. Brian's heart is as big as he is tall. He has a passion for horses and is helping two local women with theirs. Very glad to have our cowboy on board!

## Drew Pearce

Most of you know **Patti** and **Glen Pearce**, and I think the whole community came to Drew's celebration of life. We lost Drew just



as his life was really coming together and we all miss his exuberance and joy every day. A memorial fund had been established, and last week Glen asked that the money in the fund be donated to WINGS. I can't write this without crying, but we are so grateful for Glen's belief in our work and I promise the money will be earmarked for special needs for our WING-men.



### Brett Merle

When WINGS was just a dream, three and half years ago, I was introduced to the amazing **Brett**. He had started and owned *Sage Walk*, a therapeutic wilderness program in Bend. He became my mentor, advisor and friend. Recently we have asked Brett to help us strengthen our program with everything from staff training to sustainability to policies and procedures. He is working 40 hours a month and we are grateful!

### Kindnesses

So many blessings - every day I am dazzled by our bounty. You remember **Dr. Curtis Haynie**? Just the other day, Brian broke a tooth. Not only did Dr. Haynie get him in the next day, he did not charge us for the work - is he wonderful or what?



*Dr. Haynie*



*Nick & Brian with donated tools*

Our beloved **Anne Cathey**, and hubby **Dick** brought over a bounty of gardening tools including a new wheel barrel and shovels! *(photo: Lea Rachford)*



Not to be outdone, my mom, **Liz Heinz**, sent a sinful chocolate cake to the guys for Valentine's Day - YUM!!

### Work!

We are so grateful for all of the work we are getting these days! We are getting calls from the community for half and full days to do everything from moving to yard work. We are very pleased to have our contract with the **Port of Hood River** renewed and we have also worked with **Hood River Parks and Rec**. Our goal is to have the guys earn 1/3 of the money the program needs!

### Around the Farm



*Nick*

is fixing bikes in the barn, and **Brian** is refinishing a desk. They all pitched in and completed a ceremonial firepit - complete with the recycled snowboard benches Nick made!

Still hoping to get our barn built this year - want to help? - let us know!



*Brian*

*photos: Lea Rachford*



*The Firepit*

## Our Grant Team

If you see **Deirdre Kasberger**, **Lea Rachford** or **Paula Maden** around, give them a BIG HUG. Deirdre, Lea and Paula, along with the wonderful **Diane Fernandez**, have formed our grant writing posse. So far this year we have applied for \$40,000 in grants - so keep your fingers crossed!

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.

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