



**April 2011**

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## Blessings Everywhere - Just keep your eyes open!

Whoop - end of April already - OK, I have an excuse. I've been helping my mom for a couple of weeks, and maybe because I was homesick and away, the little things just meant a whole lot more: The little boy who offered me his seat on BART, the volunteer who "just happened" to be going to South Africa offered to take my daughter an Easter present, people who took the time, gave hugs and smiled back made all of the difference. I also remembered where I get my good stuff: the caring, the independence, and fortitude - from my mom. Love you, Mom!



*Shawn - as good  
with horses as with  
young men!*

And, while I was away, life carried on. Just knowing that the amazing **Ali Hodges**, **Shawn** and **Beverly** had everything well in hand made all of the difference - What a team!

## Changes



*Everyone celebrates the graduation  
of Nick and Brandon.*

If you have been following our changes over the last three years you know that some young men make it and some aren't ready. So the really great news is that **Nick** and **Brandon** have graduated to Phase 2. Sadly, **Andrew** decided not to stay. He was not willing to do

the hard work it would take to deal with his addiction to pain killers, and he left last month. The really great news is we have a fresh new crew of 19-year-olds!

## Brandon

**Brandon** was the best worker we have ever had. He came to us with nothing and was so shy he could barely finish a sentence. He graduated with his GED (just passed last week), his driver's license, insurance, a car, money in his pocket and housing support. He and Nick are working part time and looking for more work - so if you can use a great young man, let me know!



*Brandon completed  
his GED that day!*

When WING-men graduate they are required to make a presentation to the Board. Below is an excerpt of Brandon's speech. *"I'd like to thank James and Allyson, Shawn, Beverly and the caring people who made this possible. Allyson and everyone helped change my life. I wish WINGS the best of luck and by the way, you guys and gals have given me great hope for the future so that's what I have now - hope and love."* ([Click here to read the rest of his speech](#))



### Nick

Nick also graduated and has returned home to his wife and two sons to be a calmer, kinder dad. He is working part time at **DelCarpine** and is looking for more work! The photo is of his graduation dinner at **Crazy Pepper** with his family and the whole gang. We are proud of Nick and all he has learned while he was here!

### Thad

**Thad** has been here five months, has lost 80 pounds, and is now a mentor to the newbies! He has come farther and faster than any young man we have had before! He is an entrepreneur in the making!



*Payton with Nick's son, Riley.*

### Payton

We welcomed **Payton** almost two months ago. He aged out of foster care and was not ready to be on his own - who is at that age? His kind smile and gentle way has been a welcome addition.

### Louis

We are also happy to have **Louis** from The Dalles. He was homeless and called so many times I had to take him in! Watch out for his killer smile and "can-do" attitude! Please check out the new glasses Louis and Thad are wearing. They were made possible through a wonderful donation from the **Hood River Lions!**



### Dustin

Just last week we welcomed **Dustin**. Dustin has local family ties and needs a little more help getting his life together. He is already "the preacher" of the Crew and will go far.

### Blessings

The other day a very dear friend sat me down and said she wanted to give WINGS a little cushion - and she gave me a check for \$5,000. This person is not rich and works hard for her money. Never before have I been so surprised by a kindness . . . and touched. It has changed me. These gifts. I never knew there was so much kindness in the world.

### Look What Boeing Bought!

With a wonderful grant from the **Boeing Employees Community Foundation**, and a donation by the truck's owner, **Tim Foster**, we were able to purchase our snappy new/used Suburban. We seem to be in a constant state of used Suburban disrepair - so if you know a car wizard, we sure could use some help!



*Suburban - Thanks to Tim Foster, with sons Nolan and Logan*

### Dinnerstein Donations

We are so grateful to receive another very special donation from the **Elliot Dinnerstein Foundation**. **Marc and Wendy Dinnerstein**, and the wonderful **Jeanne Ryder**, have supported us again this year with a very appreciated gift! Thanks so much to all!

### Energizer Bunny



We are so grateful to the darling **Debbie Dennis** who agreed to serve on our board this year. I met Debbie when she used our B&B as her wedding headquarters. I took one look at her energy and organization and knew I needed this cute person on my team. I share her with **Summit Projects** and her wedding coordinating business, but I will take any of her time I can get!

### Valentine's No Show Gala



We are so grateful to the 35 folks who helped us raise over \$3000 with our *No Show Gala*. Please know that we would not be here without your support! We were able to keep our doors open another month and get our brakes fixed - **THANK YOU ALL!**

### Treasure Sale - June 4-6

We are collecting LOTS of great items for this year's Treasure Sale but we could still use LOTS MORE! We are so blessed to be able to use a portion of the Halyard Building (across from Waterfront Park) for our sale - lots of space to fill - **so please call with donations and**



*Halyard Building*



*Help Us Fill This Space!*

**we will be right over to pick them up and provide you with a tax deduction form! We also REALLY need volunteers to set up and work the sale - please call 541-380-3820.**

### Planting Partners

We were very excited to have been selected to work for **Joe Laraway**, and **Jean Godfrey** from **Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers**. They received a grant from the **Warm Springs** tribe to plant willow and dogwood saplings along creeks running through farm land. They have even supplied the waders to keep the guys dry! Interested in having trees planted? Give us a call!



*The Crew with Joe Laraway and Warm Springs Tribe rep, Blayne Eineichner*



## Work Work, Work & Firewood



We are so pleased to have work from so many of you in the community. If you have a project that you have been putting off, give us a call - we work as a crew of five and come with our own tools and a trailer.

We offer full or half day rates! We love to paint, do yard work, de-construction - you name it, we can do it! We also have firewood for sale - so call to keep warm!! Call 541-380-3820!



## Fire Suppression and Hood River Events



*Jamie Gomez from the Underwood Conservation District discussing noxious weed removal and fire suppression with Shawn.*

We are pleased to be on the list of vendors to offer fire suppression services through the **Underwood Conservation District**. If you own property in Skamania County and could use help with implementing fire suppression you may be eligible to receive funds to help offset expenses.

Check out [w3.gorge.net/ucd/firewise.htm](http://w3.gorge.net/ucd/firewise.htm) or call **Jamie Gomez** at 509-493-1936.

We are also excited to be partnering with **Nancy Carlson** of the **Hood River Chamber** who is raising money to be able to pay us to provide manpower for local events like the Harvest Fest and Hops Fest. Great idea Nancy, thanks so much!

## Thanks again to Volunteers

Thanks again to **Christi Harris** for on-going cooking instruction once a month and **Rhys Harriman** for a great hike with the guys! Also, a big hug to **Alex Cuffe** for cooking and cleaning assistance.

Again this month I am reminded that WINGS was started, and continues 2 1/2 years later, through your generosity and support. If you want to volunteer - we really could use folks who know how to do car repair, Yoga, martial arts, and kite boarding. Remember us when you have yard work or need firewood and please call with donations or to volunteer for our Treasure Sale. Happy Spring and thanks so much for your wonderful support!

## Become a Fan on our Facebook Page!



When you just can't wait for the next WINGS Newsletter, head on over to our Facebook page. You'll see lots of great photos and read about everything the WING-men and their supporters have been up to!

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