



April 2012

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OK, maybe spring has sprung where you are, but we would be growing moss, except it is so amazingly busy around here! More good news, lots of work, guys making progress and an amazing housing grant!

Seven Apartments Coming Up

We are very pleased to have been awarded a **HUD** permanent housing grant. This will mean that seven of our graduates (and other formerly homeless) will have the opportunity to have their own place to live! The grant will pay rent and utilities and there will be a little money for staff support for these tenants.

Mid-Columbia Housing

Authority just reported that in the Gorge 800 families on the OR side and 400 on the WA side are requesting rent assistance, with the addition of 50 families per week. . . and there is **NO** money for that support. This is a crisis and as happy as we are to receive this grant - these seven units are but a drop in the bucket!



Thanks, Julie, for the great write-up and photo!

A big hug goes out to **Julie Raefield-Gabbo** and the **Hood River News** for the wonderful article about our grant award. So appreciate the support!

Mid-Columbia Health Foundation



Allyson receives a "check" presented by David Griffith, owner of Griffith Motors, and Celeste Hill-Thomas, Executive Director, Mid-Columbia Health Foundation

We were very honored to have been selected by the **Mid-Columbia Health Foundation** to be one of two recipients of their Area of Greatest Needs Grant. The Foundation is the fundraising arm of **Mid-Columbia Medical Center** in The Dalles. We received the \$2500 award at a fabulous gala event at the new **Griffith Motors** dealership.

The money will be used for prescriptions and mental health and drug and alcohol assessments and treatment. We are so grateful for our partners in The Dalles for this support!

Google

Ok, I know I bragged about this grant in our last newsletter but I could not find this photo anywhere! I wanted to again thank our pal **Camden Lindsay** for nominating us, **Dave Karlson**, Site Manager for **The Dalles Google Data Center** for presenting us with the check, as well as all of the Google employees who voted for us to be one of the winners to receive funds from their recycling project. You guys rock!



Dave Karlson, Site Manager, Allyson, and Camden Lindsay

Firewood & Pile



*70 cords down, 30 to go -
in nine days!*

What a wild ride! As you many remember, last December we purchased a Bio-Mass pile (clear-cut leftovers). **HR Rotary** donated chainsaws and the **Boeing Portland Employee Community Fund** donated a dump trailer and we started a firewood business! To

date we have sold 64 cords of wood and donated five cords to needy families in the area. We had to have the site cleared by mid-March and the guys literally moved heaven and earth (over 40 cords in 10 days) to complete the clean up on time! Thanks to all who purchased wood and all who helped in the final move! Wanna stock up for next winter? We have red-fir for \$175 per cord, delivered - give **Ali** a call at **541-490-1143**.

Treasure Sale - June 1-3

Whaat? You were thinking of dragging out all that unwanted stuff and having a garage sale? Really? - all that pesky tagging and standing around all weekend, while people haggle with you? How about just donating it all to WINGS?



Once again WINGS is having its monster

Treasure Sale. It will be held June 1-3 at the old Life Mattress location next to Rosauers. We want to especially thank **Stephen Ford** of **Current Commercial** and **Bob and Josh Kantor** of **Rokan Ventures** for the generous use of the space. Give **Ali** a call and the Crew will come and pick up your treasures and leave you with a tax-deduction receipt! Ali's number is **541-490-1143**. We will also be taking cars and boats on consignment - call her for info!!

Livestaking, Seedling Planting and Fuel Reduction



*Stephen livestaking willow along
a mid-valley creek!*

We are very blessed to have been working with **Joe Laraway** on a grant from the **Warm Springs** tribe, and the wonderful folks at the **Underwood Conservation District**. Both have kept us busy with livestake planting of willows and dogwoods along streams and creeks. The process is to cut dormant branches 3-6' long and plant

them directly into the soil. This helps shade the creeks from sprays and chemicals and helps prevent erosion! We have also planted about 750 conifer seedlings - a great learning experience!

(cont.)

The Klickitat County Fire District #3 (KCFD#3) and the community of Trout Lake, in cooperation with WA Dept of Natural Resources and the USDA Forest Service, received a grant which makes it possible for homeowners in KCFD#3 and Trout Lake to receive cost-share benefits toward a goal of reducing overall wildfire risk and reducing fire hazards around private property. WINGS is on the list of possible contractors to provide services such as tree thinning, pruning and slash disposal. To learn more and see if your property qualifies for this incredible program, contact **Jamie Gomez** at the **Underwood Conservation District**: 509-493-1936 or jamiagomez@gorge.net. It is a win-win-win for you, the environment and WINGS!

Spring Cleanup!

We are wrapping up our bigger contracts and will be available for homeowner spring cleaning projects! If you need your yard cleaned up, mulch spread, whatever, we hope you will give us a call. We charge \$65 per hour for a crew of five (one working supervisor and four WING-men). We have trailers and tools and are available on Fridays and Mondays for half days and Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays for full days! Again, please call our hardworking **Ali**, **541-490-1143**.



They really do work hard, but clowning for the photo are Stephen, John, Shawn, Abben and Kade!



Horseback Riding

A great day was had by all when **Shawn** took the guys horseback riding with **Margo Goodman** (ridinginhoodriver.com). Several of the guys had never been on a horse and walked a little more bow-legged at the end of the day - but they had a ball! Thanks Margo!!

Save The Date - Saturday, November 10

OK it is a date! **Larkspur** has agreed, so we have scheduled the Armory for this year's **WINGS Hoe-Down**. I know, seems crazy, but if you are like me, you know how time flies and we want to make this the best Hoe-Down ever!



Progress!

The best part of my job is getting to watch the progress of the WING-men - from a pretty sad entry to taking flight. Sure some of our guys falter, but as we continue to improve we are able to see more and more young men successfully launch. What is really fun is to hear from graduates. Texts and photos of jobs and girl friends and progress mean so much. We have changed the lives of over 30 young men - some more than others, but every day progress is made and lives are changed. Thanks so much to all of you for the support that allows us to give these young men . . . WINGS.

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. Just click on the "f" and 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*

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