



# WINGS

Work, housing, education and support for homeless  
18-23 year old young men and women from the Gorge.

**April 2016**

## Quick Links

[WINGS Website](#)  
[Newsletter Archive](#)  
[WINGS Facebook](#)  
[Page](#)

## In This Issue

[Elise](#)

[Treasure Sale](#)

[Goodbye](#)

[New Logo](#)

[Brandi](#)

[Dinner Series](#)

[So Many to Thank!](#)

[Save the Date](#)

[Drivers Licenses](#)

[How You Can Help](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

**Geez - time flies! Lots to cover** - some good, some sad. But do want you to know we will be having our Treasure Sale again this year AND we are in need of furniture for our WINGS houses AND we REALLY need storage for six weeks - more info below!! Please call Allyson at 541-380-3820 if you can help with any of these needs!



### Elise

First, to the sad. We lost our darling **Elise Venusti** last month after she succumbed to cancer. We were blessed to have her as wonderful Board Member for six years. Her feisty, fighting spirit, and kind, selfless ways were role models for all of us. I was blessed to be her friend and will carry her with me always.

### Treasure Sale - June 3-5

WINGS will be holding our annual **Treasure Sale** at the **Cascade Commons Shopping Center!** Big thanks to **Mary Ann Kolen** and **Harsch Investments** for loaning us their space between Safeway and Rite Aid.



Please help us by saving your "treasures" for our sale. Last year, between vehicles, furniture and treasure we were able to outfit three apartments and raise enough money for incidentals through the summer. Our WINGS moms and babies need a small dining room set, dressers, and living room furniture.

Anything you have that is in good repair would be so appreciated. We will be collecting items starting the middle of May. Please go through your house and help us, help them. No clothing or old electronics please! Call 541-380-3820 and the guys will pick up AND we will give you an IRS donation letter.

We need Treasure sale items AND volunteers - so please let us know if you have stuff or time! Then please join us June 3-5 to buy back your treasures!

We are hoping to collect items earlier - but we are desperate for storage! If you have a barn or garage we could use for the next six weeks - please call!!

## Goodbye to Meth

One of our WINGS-moms, **Amanda**, is hard at work on her recovery - and doing great! As part of her Drug Court process, she was asked to write a letter about her current feelings about Meth. It begins below - but click through to see the entire article!

This is my goodbye to Crystal Meth--

*I'm writing to say goodbye to you and that I will no longer comply with you.*

*Upon meeting you I thought we would be together forever, you and me.*

*You made me happy and filled that painful gap that no one else could see.*

*We had our good times and I overlooked our bad.*

[Click here to read more...](#)

## New Logo

Check out our new logo! Our Board decided we needed something eye catching to put on work signs and update our look! Snappy huh?



*Crew Leader Brandi - showing Rachel how it is done!*

## Brandi

Each one, teach one! **Brandi** is the wife of one our former WING-men. They turned their lives around together and began helping with our GF baking last year. Brandi became the role model and mentor to our WING-moms. When **Petrina** left, we offered Brandi the Phase 2 Mentoring job! She has been doing an amazing job as boss and Recovery Mentor to our three moms with babies. Way to go Brandi!!



*Brandi & her posse baked 450 cookies in 4 hours for Backpack 4 Kids!*



*Introducing our GF desserts to local caterers!*



## Dinner Series

We have had a great winter and are so grateful to the wonderful friends of WINGS who joined us to our *Valentine's Day Party* and *Mardi Gras Party*!

**James** and I, along with the help of our WINGS-moms, prepared all of the food for the 36 folks who celebrated their love with good food, great wine and lots of laughs! Our WINGS-moms also made all of the gluten free desserts!



*Playing the "Oldy-Wed" Game - guys are downstairs!*



*Valentine's Party - GF  
Dessert Bar*



*Patt & Gary always make it a party!*

Board Member **Ruby Mason** and her wonderful husband, **Dave**, had a great party celebrating Mardi Gras. Plenty of beads and masks were shared and **Shahira** won best dressed. The evening started with hurricane cocktails (everyone got a glass, etched by our **Charlene**). Amazing Dave made two versions of jambalaya and, of course, more wine and hurricanes were served. Double chocolate cake pops were served as dessert - scrumptious! Thanks, you two!



### **So Many to Thank!**



#### ***No Show!***

We are so grateful to those of you who contributed to our No-Show fundraiser! It really helped us get through a couple of winter months! Our program costs about \$30,000 per young man - the same as a year in prison. Almost all of our expenses are in salaries and insurance and I am an unpaid volunteer Executive Director. It costs a lot, but we are making such a difference - with your help!

#### ***Barb McCormick***

Sending out a BIG HUG to the wonderful Barb McCormick for supporting WINGS again this year with shares of stock. It means so much to have folks share with us and help us have a little nest egg. Thanks soooo much, Barb!



*Thanks, Barb!*



### **Susan Gabay**

We love Susan! She is our DHS/Food Stamp wizard! She has been a great friend and wonderful help with our guys and gals over the years! She just ordered 30 bags of our Gorge-Us GF Granola to share with her staff! How nice was that? Susan - you rock!

*Thanks, Susan!*

### **Mt Hood Meadows**

The WINGS-guys sure had a wonderful day thanks to **Ann Lameka** and **Audrey Schneider**, Nordic Instructors at **Mt Hood Meadows**, and the Nordic Center friends and staff. The free passes and rentals allowed the guys to have the best day on the mountain and they were so grateful for this amazing adventure! Thanks to all!



*Showing off the free tickets for the guys!*



*Ann is pictured on right!*

### **Save The Date - August 20**

Our big annual fundraiser, **Starry Nights**, will be held at **Lakecliff** on Saturday, August 20. Hope you will save the date and join us for a memorable evening of great food, wine, music and dancing!

### **Drivers Licenses Springing Up Like Daisies**

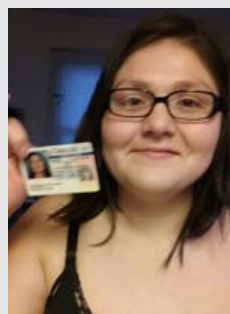
WING-Man **David Rodgers**, and WING-Moms **Amanda** and **Rachel**, all got their Drivers Licenses last month. As you can imagine - this is a huge step for these young people. Amanda is working at the local Chevron as a cashier and **Ashley** is working full time at Mid-Columbia Medical Center. Rachel is starting work and getting her GED. So proud of all of these milestones.



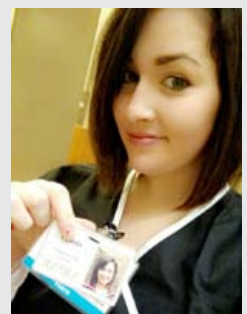
*Hurray David!*



*And Amanda!*



*And Rachel!*



*And Ashley!*

## Work Work Work



*Wing-man Kevin leading the troops!*

Guys have been hard at work! This winter we demolished the inside of the fish hatchery at Punchbowl Falls, cleaned up the grounds at ***Fish Food Bank*** and just demolished two decks!

Thanks so much for these big projects and all of you having us help



*Cleaning up & reseeding Fish Food Bank*

with your home projects!

We are grateful for the work - sorry for the long wait!



*Guys helping demo a deck!*

*Thank you again for all of your support. As you can see we would be lost without your kindness! See you at the Treasure Sale!*

## Facebook



I am a dinosaur in the internet age and struggle to keep our Facebook page current - but if you have a page, please like WINGS if you have not done so already. We are trying to get the word out to folks and could use your help - [facebook/getwings](https://facebook.com/getwings).

*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 and women 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*

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

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