



January 2011

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Yikes - it is the middle of January and I am just writing the year-end newsletter! As always, I am awash with gratitude to everyone who helped WINGS with their time, energy, and donations. It really does take a community to raise a nonprofit! As with everything, WINGS is ever changing. In this volume, you will meet new board members and new WING-men and see how many ways we have been supported and how WING-men gave back.

Meet Thad and Andrew



Thad

Thad actually joined us two months ago - my bad for not getting a newsletter out sooner! He came from a tough family situation in the Gorge and is already making so many changes for the better. In just two months he has lost 35 pounds, received his permit and is working on dealing with past traumas. We are very proud of his progress.

Andrew just passed his two-week probation and replaces Aaron, who reconnected with family in Prineville and decided not to rejoin us after the holidays. Andrew is 23 and called us when he realized that he needed help getting his life back on track. He too has had a tough last five years, but we already know he is going to make it - for himself, his fiancée and one year old daughter!



Andrew (Yes, he is 6'5!)

New Board Member

We have been blessed with great Board Members. Two amazing women, **Kathy Eastman** and **Terri Johanson**, have both decided to retire from the board this year to enjoy time with family. We are so grateful for their time and energy. We will continue picking their brains and using their sage advice.

Halla Graves, former owner of the Columbia Gorge Hotel, has joined us to lend her business savvy and energy. What a great addition she has already made!

Lake Family Foundation

We were again blessed this year to be the recipients of another \$5000 donation from the **Lake Family Foundation**. Talk about money from heaven - we are not sure how they found out about us, but we are so grateful for their support!

Santa's Helpers - So many folks have been so kind!

Mid-Columbia Community Choir

kicked off the holiday season with their Thanksgiving Sing and WINGS was proud to be the recipient of the donations from the evening. We send out a HUGE HUG to the amazing **Perry Cole**, to the wonderful members of the Choir, and all of the folks who chose to support WINGS!



Dressed for the Mid-Columbia Sing

Hood River Alliance Church again blessed us with a wonderful donation through their Advent Conspiracy. Church



Hood River Alliance Church

members donate money they would have overspent on the holidays, with the donations going to support various charities - they really understand the Christmas spirit!

Members of the **Aloha Club** chose WINGS to be the recipients of their end of the year donation collection and we want them to know how much this means to us!

Jenny Logsdon, owner of **Wyeast Laboratories, Inc.** in Odell, heard we needed a new chainsaw for our firewood/tree trimming work and made a donation of a great new Stihl chainsaw - with the help of **Craig at Sheppard Supply**. Thanks so much - it is already getting a workout!



Jenny Logsdon

Employees of our local **Walmart** donated a gift card to WINGS, which we used to allow the WING-men to Secret Santa each other - the money sure helped make the holidays special!

Bernadette & Corey Williams, and **Neal & Diana Price**, and **Karen and Brian Shortt** of **Shortt Supply** all donated new winter clothing for the WING-men. I am not sure they knew how badly all of this was needed - both Thad and Andrew arrived with only one change of clothes! Thank you all so much!



Camden

Camden Lindsay - what a guy! He has donated snowboard gear and Mt. Hood Meadows passes to allow the guys the chance to learn how to snow board and get in some night skiing. The guys can't wait to get up there tonight. Camden - you rock!

A VERY big hug to those who made a year-end donation to WINGS. Every dollar goes directly into the program. Every \$25 donation is enough to feed the guys for weekend. \$100 will pay for transportation for a week, and \$250 pays our rent for a week. Thank you all so much.

Holiday Activities

One of our favorite community service projects is ringing bells at **Walmart** for **Hood River Rotary** and the **Salvation Army**. It is a great way for the guys to work on overcoming their fears and a great way to get in the Holiday spirit by giving back.



Bell Ringing



Cookie Palooza

We also spent a weekend at Lakecliff on what I call Cookie Palooza. Each of the guys learned to make two different types of cookies and it was hilarious! Wow - they are fast learners. The Board and other Friends of WINGS were the recipients of arrays of yummy treats! We also

had the guys decorate a Christmas stocking - so Santa would know where to put the goodies! Very funny!

In December we had our Christmas Pot Luck/Thank You Party. We had lots of good food, gifts for the guys, as well as their gifts to staff and each other. What a wonderful evening - fun was had by all!



Opening gifts at the pot luck party.

Work Work, Work



Ready to tackle your project!

The WING-men and Shawn are tooled up and ready to help with any projects you might have this winter. They love to help with yard clean up, painting, moving, snow removal. If you hate to do it, we would love to tackle it! Call Allyson @ 541-380-3820.

Treasure Sale

We are gearing up for this year's Treasure Sale, which will be some time this spring. We would love to collect any items you would like to donate - big, small, clothing, furniture - we will pick it up and give you a receipt on the spot. For donation pick up - call Allyson - 541-380-3820.



Trust me: Your kids will never want this stuff!



Winter is tough for WINGS, with the weather making outdoor work hard to come by. We also know you are sick of fund raising events, so we are having a "No-Show Gala". It is easy - you can donate the money you would have spent to go to a fund raiser and you never have to get out of

your chair . . . [please click here to make a donation!](#)

Wish List

We have WING-men who are looking for internships (paid or unpaid) and employment. If you are looking for a clean and sober, head-on-his-shoulders, hard-working young man to train, please give us a call. Our young men are looking for work in computers, diesel mechanics, truck driving and warehousing. You could make such a difference!

We are also looking for a bigger, sturdier trailer- so if you know of one sitting in someone's yard, please give us a call.

Thank you again for reading this and caring about WINGS. Two years and growing! We are so grateful for your 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

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