



January 2012

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A Bounty of Blessings

Wow - what an AMAZING Holiday month! On December first, we had our three-year anniversary. What a wild ride! Just when we start to wonder how we will get through the winter, we are overwhelmed with kindness! Thanks to some very special funders, we were able to start a firewood business and it is providing us much needed income in the tough winter months! Our guys are learning a lot and have been showered with kindness! We are so blessed!

Firewood Business

What do you get when you start with a dream and add three miracles? A thriving firewood business! We applied to the **Employees Community Fund of Boeing Portland** for funds to purchase a work trailer and log splitter. We were thrilled to receive that check in December! Then our bid on a 70 cord pile of BioMass was



Piled high - James and Travis by the new dump trailer!



accepted. (BioMass is everything that is left over after a timber clear cut.) Then we asked for funding from **Hood River Rotary** for chainsaws and chaps - and THAT funding came through. Three miracles and we are now in the firewood business!

As part our agreement with Rotary, for every 10 cords we sell, we donate a cord to a needy family in the area. The guys were very proud to have delivered our first free load last week.

In this crazy perfect world, the load was delivered to a mom who has been a cheerleader for several of our guys, and had encouraged them to join WINGS. A perfect circle of support! It is the second time we have been funded by the folks at Boeing and Rotary and we are so grateful for their generous support of our program!



Travis, James, John and Kade proudly deliver our first donated load.



James and Travis tackle the log splitter!

If you are interested in buying a cord of dry fir we are selling it for \$175 delivered in the Hood River area. We can deliver outside of Hood River for a \$20 surcharge and we are also happy to stack the wood for \$30 per cord. For more information please call Ali - 541-490-1143.

WINGS



WINGS is just kicking off our **Second Annual No-Show Gala**. It is one of three fund raisers we do throughout the year...the other two being the *Treasure Sale* in the Spring and the *Hoe-Down* in the Fall. To learn about ways to donate to WINGS, [click here](#).

Bell Ringing with Rotary

It is important our WING-men know that we are in business because of this community. We feel it is vital that they also learn to give back to this community....so we spent a cold Saturday afternoon in front of **Walmart** bell ringing for **Salvation Army**. The guys started out nervous, then really got into the spirit and wished everyone Merry Christmas. **Rotarians** and WINGS raised \$3,230!



Travis, Allyson, James & John



Glass Blowing

Big hug to our Board Member, **Charlene Fort**. She shared her amazing artistic talents with our guys at **Nichol's Art Glass** and taught them how to blow a glass ornament gift for someone special. What a great experience - you should try it - it is so fun!



Made with Love

One of the sweetest blessings of the season was the donation of four beautiful handmade quilts which were lovingly made and donated by the **Tualatin Valley Quilt Guild**.

I was not sure what the guys would think - but Travis grabbed his choice of quilts and asked, "Can't you just feel the love in this quilt?" The quilts are snug at home on their bunk beds.



We Love These Two

Our guys were thrilled to learn that **Carol and Clark Emmerson**, owners of **Hood River Sports Club**, granted our program four three-month passes to the club. You have to know that to an 18-year-old

formerly homeless kid, the chance to work out in their beautiful facilities is life changing! It is also a great way to burn off all of that extra testosterone! Can't thank you two enough!

Goes Around, Comes Around

Last year we were blessed with \$5000 worth of goods from **Rite Aid**. There was more wonderful merchandise than we could ever use - so we shared our bounty with other nonprofits in the area!



We had 12 other nonprofits come by one snowy morning and we loaded their cars to the brim! It was so great to be able to share these much-needed items.

So we gave the Rite Aid items to **The Next Door**, and they, in turn, shared their bounty of warm winter coats with us! The coats were donated to them by **Zumiez**. Is this a great community or what?



Shawn, Travis, James, Heidi with The Next Door, John and newest member, Kade.

Mike G

The guys call him Mike G, but **Mike Gundlach** has been such a big help with our program. He has brought his years of experience - the last few with **Northwest Service Academy** - to teach a life skills class to the guys one night a week. We so appreciate his tackling this for us. He is helping the guys work through some of those tricky past heartaches and future planning issues! Thanks so much Mike!



Cookie Palooza

One of my favorite holiday activities is dragging the guys to my house to bake dozens of holiday cookies! None of the guys had ever baked before and they creamed and mixed and stirred and rolled and baked for two days! There was a lot of pride showing in their smiles when they handed out the cookies to Board Members and Friends of WINGS at our Holiday Event.

Mrs. Claus!

Debbie Green is our own adorable Mrs. Claus. She collects donations from **Walmart** and other retailers. and shares them with nonprofits in the area. We are also VERY happy when she calls - it usually means big bags of underwear, warm socks and other much needed items! Thanks Debbie - for all you do!



Betty Carrithers



You have probably seen this cute face around town. Betty was instrumental in establishing our Sister City program. She has been such an asset in our community. When she needed help moving out of her house and into assisted living, the WINGS Crew answered the call. Our guys packed and moved for four hours and were graced with a wonderful collection of tools for the WINGS shop. We were glad to help!

Treasure Sale

In March, we will start collecting for this year's **Treasure Sale**. We hope to hear about a Federal Grant which will allow us to rent up to seven apartments for our guys to graduate into. This means we will need LOTS of furniture and household items. So please set aside your treasures for us and we will give you a donation receipt and pick them up, starting in March!

Hood River Alliance Church



Led by the amazing **Steve Grace**, the congregation of the church practices a Christmas Advent program. They collected money they would have spent on gifts to each other and donated it to five programs in the Gorge and several internationally. WINGS was once again blessed to receive a wonderful gift from the Church and we are overwhelmed by their continued support. Learn more at www.adventconspiracy.org

Holiday Gifts

This year, gifts seemed to have come in small envelopes and we were blessed with donations by a number of folks. We are so grateful to all of you who shared your holiday spirit with us. We do want to especially thank **Lee** and **Karen Fairchild** for their very generous donation through the **Gorge Community Foundation** - a great combination of support. Huge thanks to **David** and **Rayna Kaasa** and **Jack** and **Liz Heinz**. Your support means so much! Thanks to all who gave and please know that every penny is spent on giving 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*