



January 2016

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Just sitting here with a smile on my face - reflecting back on the wonderful year we've had! We have been blessed in so many ways - great staff and great young people right now. They are trying so hard to get their lives together - amazing!! None of it would be possible without the support of so many!

Holiday Blessings!!

Wow - so crazy blessed. So grateful to those of you who chose to share your bounty with WINGS at the



Hood River Alliance Church

end of the year. Boy - it could not have come at a better time! THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! A special thank you to the **Hood River Alliance Church** congregation. This year



Connelly Woody

WINGS was chosen to be one of the nonprofits they supported through their Advent Conspiracy Program. Thanks so much to all the folks there!

We are also very grateful to **Connelly Woody** for his Donor Advised support through Oregon Community Fund - Connelly - you rock!!

Loving Their Quilts!

You may remember last month, the wonder women of the **Tualatin Valley Quilt Guild** lovingly donated beautiful, handmade quilts to our program. At Christmas, we let each of our young men, women and children choose a quilt. You have no idea how much these quilts mean to these young people! We are so grateful for this amazingly kind gift from the special women!



Gals and kids are loving their quilts...



...and Guys, too!!

Cookie Palooza

If you follow our newsletter, you know that one of my favorite projects is *Cookie Palooza*. The guys and I make LOTS of cookies to thank folks in the community and to give to our amazing Board & Staff and their



David & Kevin



Kaiel & TJ

families! This year we made 16 double batches! The guys really got into it and I gained 5 lbs! Enjoy the Pics!



David & TJ

Rotary/Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Another tradition is to have the WINGS guys ring bells for *Hood River Rotary's* day for *Salvation Army*. Every year our guys take a two-hour stint at *Walmart*. This year was no exception! Braving the cold, the guys, led by Weekend Crew Leader **Rob**, rang bells and wished a *Merry Christmas* to all the holiday shoppers! Rotary raised \$3737 and Lions raised \$1307 for a total of \$5044. This met Salvation Army's program goals for 2016. Great to give back!



Yet another tradition...the guys cutting down their own tree! A little blurry, but you get the idea!!

Decorating Stockings



Little Elves at work!

My darling **James** is the king of stuffing stockings! In order for the guys to get their stockings filled, they have to at least put their names on their stockings. Imaginations run wild and the guys come up with such cute designs! This is a great chance for our guys to just be kids!

Holiday Pot Luck

Every year our board gathers with the guys to celebrate all of our accomplishments and enjoy the Christmas season. This year we met at **Lakecliff** for a scrumptious potluck - wow! Great food, lots of laughs and hugs and a heart-tugging evening!



Fun for all!

Valentine's Day Party - Saturday, Feb 13!



Need a great way to spoil your honey on Valentine's Day and make a difference? Join us at **Lakecliff** for a fun-filled evening of great wines and beverages, piles of scrumptious appetizers, as well as games and other silliness!

James and I are pulling out all of the stops - we'll even have chocolate fondue and five other desserts - so we hope you can join us. All of the proceeds from this **WINGS Dinner Series** event go to support WINGS.

[Click here for more info!](#)



And Games!



And pictures!

Thank You, Petrina!



She will be missed!!

Can't tell you how much we are all going to miss **Petrina**. Her three years here have been transformative for our program. She has single-handedly created our Phase 2 program for young women with small children. She has lovingly steered the course for nine women and seven children. In addition, she taught a weekly life skills class for the guys! She has cajoled, pushed and fought to make this a better program. She has implemented a number of improved procedures, connected WINGS to other agencies and has changed us all for the better! She is leaving us to see the world and follow her love of rock climbing. Thank you P, you will be missed!

Whoo Hoo for Isabel

Looks like it will take two people to replace **Petrina**! In addition to the fabulous **Linda Williams**, who helps with the grant and paperwork, we have been so blessed to have the amazing **Isabel Rodriguez** join our program as the *Women's Phase 2 Liaison*. Isabel is back in the Gorge after a few years on the east coast. You may remember her from her years at *Mid-Columbia Council of Governments*. Her positive, upbeat attitude and love of paperwork will make her a real asset for Phase 2! For questions on our women's program please email Isabel at WINGSRodriguez@yahoo.com.



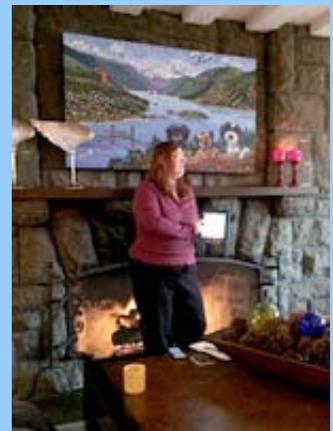
Bird Nerds Unite!



Lots of birds, food and fun!

Wow! Miko shared her expertise on all things birds; from migration to care and winter feeding - she even makes great bird sounds! **Karon & Max Peterson** put on an amazing brunch and great fun was had by all!! To learn more about bird watching in our area, stop by Miko's store and get on their mailing list and check out their cool stuff!

We had a wonderful day for our WINGS Dinner Series - *Bird Watching Brunch*. The wonderful **Miko Ruhlen** and her husband own *Hood River Hobby and Games*, but their biz should be called *Hood River Hobby and Birds*.



Thanks Miko - you are wonderful!

Happy Birthday, Rob!

I know he looks like a big kid, but we were happy to celebrate **Rob's** birthday after Christmas - the guys made him dinner and his favorite dessert. Rob works Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and has transformed our recovery program! We are lucky to have him!



Ohhhh look who turned 45... our biggest kid!

Barn or Shop Space Needed

WINGS will be starting a shed building business as soon as we can find a location. We feel this would be a great way to teach our guys the construction business and keep us busy when the weather is terrible! If you know of an empty space with large doors, we would love to hear about it. We could pay a little rent and will provide all types of insurance. Please call Allyson with any ideas - 541-380-3820.



Need Help Moving?

Call WINGS!! We have really geared up our moving business with lots more moving gear! You rent the truck - we supply the manpower and the gear. Call Allyson to schedule - 541-380-3820!!



WINGS Mascot!

Is that a cute face? **Ziggy** is our new Aussie Doodle mini puppy and the WINGS mascot . . . just had to brag, and see if you got this far in the newsletter! ;-)

The WINGS mascot, Ziggy!

*Thank you again supporting for WINGS. We still have so much to do and still (sadly) need your support. We are always looking for apartment furnishings and the guys would **LOVE** money towards a ski night at Meadows! We still have granola for sale - yum - and we would love to have you join us for the **Valentine's Dinner**. For info on the Valentine's dinner or other dinners in our series, [CLICK HERE](#). Email me at Allyson@getwings.net or call at 541-380-3820.*

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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