



October 2012

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Whaaat??? October already?? OK, time is getting away from me! What an amazing summer - filled with blessings and a bounty of work! As much as I always want the newsletter to be upbeat, we continue to struggle on a number of issues. First is funding, of course, as *WINGS* is very expensive to run, but housing continues to be a problem - not just for us, but for so many in our community! Please encourage your representatives and Commissioners to focus on the critical need for more affordable and workforce housing! We have received our HUD grant, but cannot find anyone willing to rent to our guys - so any ideas would be SO appreciated. OK, off my soapbox and back to our bounty of blessings.

NAILBA Grant

We are very blessed to have received an amazingly generous grant from the **National Association of Independent Life Brokerage Agencies Charitable Foundation** to purchase much-needed tools for our work program and firewood business. A HUGE HUG goes out to **Jess Wardwell**, Vice President of Marketing for **CPS Impact Insurance Marketing** in White Salmon, who suggested we apply and sponsored our application. Thanks Jess - so appreciate the support! High Five to **Ben Sheppard** at **Sheppard's Supply** for his help in buying Stihl Tools at wholesale prices and saving us so much money!!



Thank you Jess - this money will really help!

Hood River Valley Christian Church

Can't tell you how incredibly uplifting it feels to open our mailbox and get a surprise donation check from the amazing **Dr. David** and **Rev. Linda Presley** and all of our dear friends at **Hood River Valley Christian Church!** Please know how much we appreciate your kindness and ongoing support!

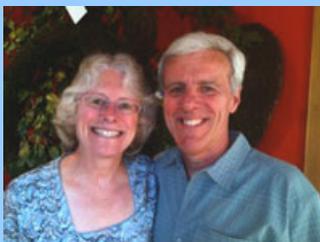


Thanks to Donna Gilbo for delivering our bounty!

Once again this year our guys have been blessed with the quilts lovingly made by the wonderful women of the **Tualatin Valley Quilt Guild**. Can you even imagine the generosity of these women - making quilts for each of our guys? Our guys come to the program with just a few things in a backpack, and of the many things that they get while in the program, these quilts continue to be the first thing packed to move to a *WING-man's* new place! Thank you so much to each of these wonderful women!



Pete & Carol



Ok, how cute are they? Once again they blessed us with a donation through the **Pete Fotheringham and Carol York Fund of the Gorge Community Foundation**. Even though we can rarely spot them speeding through the mountains on their bikes, they continue to be such a special part of this community! Thanks you two!

The Amazing Lisa

We met **Lisa Brown** over a year ago when she magically appeared to help out with one of our events. Well, she kept showing up, and I kept begging and finally she agreed to join our Board! She brings her business savvy (she is a wiz for Thomas Reuters) to our team and we feel very lucky to have her!



Speaking of Amazing . . .



You know there are folks who just make you smile and bring joy wherever they go? Well, that is **Suzanne Schevene**, our new *Program Assistant*. We are blessed to have such a wonderful person who is willing to jump in and start tackling the mountain of forms for our HUD grant. In addition to tethering me to the earth, she will be the *Tenant Liaison* and working with the guys when they are in their new places! Lucky us!!

Check Out the Cool Glasses!

Five of our *WING-men* needed eyeglasses when they came into the program. We are so grateful to the **Hood River Lions** who donate money towards vision care. These donations allow the wonderful **Concha Santoyo** at **Hood River Public Health** to supply vision vouchers for our guys to use at the **EyeGlass Store**. Thanks so much to all - it means so much to the guys!



Jason sporting his new glasses!

Work and Wood



The guys help TumALum "get a move on."

Oh my gosh - we have been swamped and can't thank the many folks and businesses who have hired the *Crew* this summer. The *Crew* is now really good at fuel reduction work, moving people, brush clearing and sooo many other projects. Big BIG Hug to **Pam and Ellen** at **TumALum** for asking to help with their

store remodel! Thanks so much to all of you!

What the guys are really learning is to get up every day, work hard, and get up and do it again the next day! Thank you all for your support. We are having trouble with our antique vehicles, but hope to get that straightened out soon, so we can really get our firewood business back in full swing!



WOOD NEEDED - we are looking for more firewood we can sell this winter. If you have blown down trees or fruit trees, we would love to come and pick up the wood - we will even give you a donation receipt!



Thanks, Rich Campbell, for the brush clearing work!



WING-men at Mt. Adams Institute

How Fun!

Ok- it is not all work and no fun! This summer our wonderful Board Member, **Bill Marick**, took two of our guys on a rafting trip down the Deschutes - what a great day! Just last month, **Mike Gundlach**, another great pal of WINGS arranged a great day at **Mt. Adams Institute!**

Birthdays Abound

John, our recent graduate, and **Riley** shared a birthday celebration! It was a fun night and great to see the progress everyone is making - even with the little things like ordering meals!



HELP with Housing & Furnishings Needed

Know someone with a small apartment or a house for rent? We are desperately seeking housing for our guys. If you think of anything, we would so appreciate a call! We are also looking for furnishings . . . kitchen stuff, dressers, desks, beds, and bedding for the five to seven units we hope to have by the end of the year! Please call Allyson at 541-380-3820!



Hoe-Down 2011

Hoe-Down - November 10th

You know I will be bugging you again, but so hoping you will save the date for this year's **Hoe-Down**. It is really fun and your support is needed to carry us throughout the year! Hope to see you there!



Have a flair for events or just willing to lend a hand? We need volunteers for before, during and after the Hoe-Down! Also we are seeking donations for our auction . . . have a vacation

place to offer, art or goodies or even certificates from other auctions you will never use? Please give **Suzanne** a call at 541-490-1151, or email her at wingsRforever@gmail.com.



Thanks so much for all of your support and we know we would not exist without the support of each and every one of you!

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*