

**November 2008**

## In This Issue

[WINGS Hoe-Down](#)

[Moving Day](#)

[Mid Columbia  
Community Choir](#)

[Doors Open This  
Month](#)

[Working on Many  
Fronts](#)

[Thank You, Thank  
You!](#)

### Quick Links

[WINGS Website  
Newsletter Archive](#)

[How You Can Help](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

## WINGS Hoe-Down



Yahooo! The 1st Annual WINGS Hoe-Down was a smashing success! We raised over \$16,000 AND we had a great time! It was held at Mosier Highland Ranch, which has a wonderfully refurbished barn. The fantastic band Larkspur played all night long, and **Marty** from Trinity Productions put on quite a light show! The ribs, wings and fixin's were amazingly prepared by **Chef Geoff Gill**, whose services were donated by **Jordan Schnitzer**.

Sheriff **Rodger Schock** and Jailer **Judy Schock** "arrested" the unruly and kept us in stitches. Our new Houseparent, **Shawn Sanders**, took photos in our booth, "Fast-Fingers" **Bob Kramer** dealt Texas Hold'Em, and many played pool!

The Wish Wall, which was manned by our AmeriCorps Member, **Adam Dickson**, was a big success and helped us purchase some of the essentials we need to open. Wine was donated by Jacob William Winery, Viento and Wy'East, and beer by Full Sail. Hood River Jewelers and **Kelly Phipps** donated gifts. Special thanks to my board and friends of WINGS who donated their time and energy - and **Jenie** for her adorable graphics!

A huge thanks to **Craig Bowder** and Columbia River Bank for their donation of \$3400, which will be used to help the young men when they graduate.

We want to thank all of you who attended and those who could not attend and donated anyway! The money was just what we needed to open our doors later this month. Thank you all - you **ARE** making a difference in the lives of these young men!



## Moving Day



*Andy Ingram* and *Lisa Nicolini* donated a houseful of furniture to WINGS! They had purchased a model home in Reno and wanted to rent it - and needed someone to take the furniture! Woohoo - ROAD TRIP! Shawn, Adam and I drove to Reno, picked up my husband James, loaded up about half of the goodies and drove back - all in two days! The rest of the furniture (waaay too fancy for us) went to a consignment store where we are hoping it sells like crazy!

## Mid Columbia Community Choir

We are thrilled to have been selected as the beneficiary of the proceeds from the 5th Annual *Mid Columbia Community Choir*, Hymns of Thanksgiving. They will have special guests: *Riverside Community Church Choir*; Jazz Pianist, *Tim Mayer*; and the *Mid Columbia Adventist Christian School*. If you have not been to one of these concerts, you are in for a wonderful experience. The 70+ person choir will inspire and move you, and remind you of all we have to be thankful for - a great way to start the holiday season! Donations at the door are \$10 and it will be held at Riverside Community, November 22 at 7:30. Hope to see you all there!



## Doors Open This Month

The search is on for our first four young men. You may remember *Daren*, the young man who helped the neighbors understand what we are trying to do. He worked for a few months at Rosauers, but decided he needed more structure and has decided to join WINGS. He and the other WING-men should be moved in by the end of the month.

## Working on Many Fronts

Houseparent *Shawn* has been getting the house ready - okay, it needs A LOT of work, but most of it will be done in stages, with the help of our young men and contractors and volunteers from the community. A special hug to the amazing *Tim Sweeney* - YOU ROCK!! Shawn is also responsible for getting the word out about the work the young men would like to do. We are hoping to get at least three paid work days per week to help cover our expenses. So, if you have any projects you would like to have done: deconstruction, moving, clearing, cleaning . . . you name it . . . you can get three hard-working, supervised young men with equipment and a supervisor to work for 4-7 hours per day. The 7-hour rate is \$250! Shawn's email address is [shawn@getwings.net](mailto:shawn@getwings.net) - or call 380-3820 for more information!

Volunteer Coordinator, *Adam*, has been out meeting folks from the community. He was even brave enough to go to the Soroptimists' *Wine and Women* program! He is looking for folks who will be

willing to teach our young men simple skills for a few hours on a Saturday - anything from installing a faucet to changing a tire to baking a pie or sewing. He is also looking for volunteers to take our young men out on Sundays to try various recreational activities. If you would be willing to teach anything from snowshoeing to hiking to bowling, please email Adam. His email address is [adam@getwings.net](mailto:adam@getwings.net).

## Thank You, Thank You!

People might think we are crazy - starting a nonprofit in the middle of the worst economic crisis in memory - but every step of the journey has been a blessing, and everyday the next piece of the puzzle is revealed! I am ever grateful for each of you - just reading to the bottom of this email shows me how much you care. With all of you pulling for us, I know we will be successful! If it takes a village to raise a child . . . it will take a community to raise a village.

## How You Can Help:

WINGS needs your help to get up and running this year. Please check out the Donation/Volunteer page on our website: [www.getwings.net/donation](http://www.getwings.net/donation). If you can help with a one-time donation or better yet, a monthly pledge, your money will be directly spent to provide services to former foster kids.

We understand that not everyone can make a monetary donation - but WINGS could use your help in so many other ways! If you have a skill or a passion or a favorite sport, and could spare an afternoon, please let us know. If you have excess furniture or equipment, please check out our Needs List and make a donation. If you have work for the Crew for a day or longer, please let us know. When the young men are ready, together we will give them "WINGS."

Thanks to all of you who have helped WINGS get this far; your help has made all the difference!

Give Them Wings, Inc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation doing business as WINGS. WINGS is a two-phase program which will provide 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 have aged out of foster care.

Sincerely,  
*Allyson Pate*  
WINGS

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