



**September 2011**

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## More Blessings Every Day

Ok, Summer has been crazy and I am *waaay* behind on newsletters. We have so much good news! We have great stories, staff changes and so many people to thank. Please note this year's **Hoe-Down is Saturday, Oct 29 at the Armory** - we so hope to see you all there!

## Yeah for Brandon!



Ever had one of those days - wondering what the heck you were thinking - starting a nonprofit in a major recession? Last week I was having one of *Those Days*, and then I got a call from **Brandon**. You may remember our shy, anxious, hard working guy. Well, he called to tell me he got a raise . . . this from a young man who had never had a steady job! Brandon is now a young man full of pride and success. Yes, that is why we are here!

## Treasure Sale

I know, I should have shared this much earlier - but with all of your help we made \$12,000 in one weekend at our **Treasure Sale!** We had \$20,000 worth of goods donated, made lots of new Friends of WINGS and put over 600 volunteer hours to very good use. Again, our gratitude to the **Port of Hood River** for the use of their beautiful Halyard Building!



## Union Pacific Railroad

How great to receive support from a company that travels through our town every day! It was even nicer of **Brock Nelson**, Director of Public Affairs, to stop by and present me with a wonderful check. Can't thank you enough for the support!



*Brock Nelson presents check to Allyson.*

## US Bancorp Foundation



*Allyson receives a check from Sam Bauer and Branch Manager Bob Kavanaugh*

If you see **Sam Bauer** around town be sure to give him a big hug. He is the Commercial Lender at the **US Bank** in Hood River. His belief in our program was instrumental in our receipt of another generous **US Bancorp Foundation** grant this year. Sam, you ROCK!

## Are They Cute or What?



Don't you just love **Carol York** and **Pete Fotheringham**? We are so grateful for their recent donation to WINGS through the **Gorge Community Foundation**. Thanks you two, and be safe on your trip!

## A Great New Ride!

We are so grateful to **Tom** and **Georgia Manfull**. These dear, long time residents of Hood River donated their wonderful 1995 passenger van. It is SPOTLESS, runs great and even came with a full tank of gas! Thanks to both of you - we will take great care of it!



*Allyson, Tom & Georgia Manfull, Shawn, and Matt*

## Rite Aid Foundation



*Introducing new WING-Man Matt, with Store Manager Mark Smith & Crew Leader Jim Tate*

The **Rite Aid Foundation** really came to our aid this year with an amazing donation of \$5000 worth of goods and supplies. We are now well stocked with every first aid supply imaginable and many, many of the every day items we always need. We are grateful to **Gayle Rife**, Manager of the Rite Aid Foundation and to our local store manager, **Mark Smith**, for all you have done for our program.

## Staff Changes



*Shawn Bergman (right)  
with Stephanie and Jim*

After 2½ years, we reevaluated our program and decided to make some staff changes. Don't worry, **Shawn Bergman** is still with us, and we are so grateful! He has become our Weekend Staff person and is able to put his wonderful outdoor spirit to

work with the gang from Friday morning till Sunday evening!

We hired the amazing **Stephanie Town** to be our Evening Staff person. She works from 5:30 pm till 7 am, Sunday through Thursday. This gives the other staff the rest they need and has really added so much to our program.



*Stephanie Town*

We are also grateful for **Jim Tate** who is now our weekday



*Jim Tate*

Crew Leader. Jim grew up around here and recently returned from working in Nevada. His unique skills make him an ideal Crew Leader. He is great with the guys, and he can even fix broken chainsaws! We are so fortunate to have this amazing team.

## Board Changes

Speaking of lucky, I have the best Board EVER! The Board decided to make some well-thought-out changes. The Board elected **Deirdre Kasberger** as Board Chair, **Glenn Taylor** as Vice-Chair and **Halla Graves** as Secretary/Treasurer.



*Deirdre Kasberger*

We are also very pleased to add **Charlene Fort** to our Board. Her amazing teaching background and



*Charlene Fort*

experience teaching at NORCOR will be invaluable! I am so blessed to have ten amazing Board Members!

## Hoe-Down:

Save the Date -

Saturday, October 29th

Hoping you will join us again this year for our major annual fundraiser. We are excited to bring back the great band **Larkspur** will be back and **Chef Geoff** will be pulling out all of the stops for BBQ and other Hoe Down favorites. Please save the date and we will send more info in the next few weeks!



## Mid-Columbia Housing Authority

**Ruby Mason** really is a gem, and so is her whole team! Not only do they work with our WING-men to get them housing support, they have also provided us with a Home Depot Gift Card. We used the Gift Card to provide my talented son, **Ryan**, with the tools and supplies he needed to rebuild the bathroom at the WINGS house! Thanks so much!

## Work, Work, Work

Oh, my gosh! It has been busy this summer and we so appreciate the opportunities we have had to make money to keep our program afloat. Special thanks to **SDS Lumber**, the **Port of Hood River**, **Green Home Construction**, and **Cascade Commons Shopping Center**. Thanks, too, to all of you who had us clean your yards, spread bark dust, paint, move furniture - basically do any task too ugly to tackle yourself! Have a half or full day of work you would like done? Please call Allyson at 541-380-3820 and we will be "On It"!

## Helping Heart of Hospice

I know you can't help but notice the beautiful and amazing **Cathy Carter** as she blazes through town on her mission to support **Heart of Hospice**. We have been happy to help her



by delivering lift chairs purchased with the help of **Murray's Furniture**. We know we are only here with the help of this great community and we are happy to help by giving back!

*Matt, Cathy, Shawn,  
Thad & Allyson*

Please know how much we appreciate all of the support we have been given, but there is so much more to be done and we need your help. Please call us with crew work you might have. We will be selling firewood this winter - so keep us in mind! We are always accepting donations of furniture and household items for graduates' apartments and for next years' **Treasure Sale**. We could also use an accordion and rock climbing gear.

Please join us for the **Hoe-Down**. The money raised at this important annual event helps keep us going through the winter.

Thank you all!

### **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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