



Thanksgiving 2009

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Dear Friends of WINGS:

Wow, next week we will have been open for one whole year. I have spent the last few days reminiscing about what we have been through, all the ups and downs, and the wonderful people who have come into my life. I know we are blessed beyond measure.



What started out as a crazy idea three years ago gained traction with the support of an intrepid board. We bought a little farm that **Daren**

moved into last December first and we were off on the ride of our lives. Thanks to all of you, we have created a program that is changing the lives of young men and is teaching them to be employable and sustainable.



Hoe-Down

What a party! And what a team! One of WINGS' greatest blessings is **Bernadette** - all these years she has been cheerleader #1 - and still she had the energy to do most of the organizing of the party. Add **Kathy Eastman**, my little energizer bunny, and a little decorating magic from **Jacque Barone** and you can transform the *Mt. Hood Town Hall* into a magical western village.



Bernadette, Kathy, Jacque



Mike Thompson

Patti, Terri, Bill and David - what would I do without you? **Karon, Glenn and Rodger** - you were there in spirit. Hugs to **Jayme**, all of the spouses who volunteered, and all of the folks who served and shared their time and energy with us.

Sammy Carlson
(on right) »



« Melanie, Missy
and Paula



Full Sail supplied the beer while Viento and Wy'East supplied the wine. Mike Thompson was hilarious as our auctioneer! Also a BIG HUG to amazing skier Sammy Carlson who stopped by to donate a set of skis and tee shirts to the guys!

Jay »



« Adam by the
Wish Wall



Melanie, Missy and Paula did an amazing job getting 130 guests in and out. Jay played mean games of Poker and Adam twisted arms at the wish wall. Chef Geoff, Logan and Dede were wizards in the kitchen and everyone loved the food - a big shout out to the Odell Fire Dept. who loaned us their BBQ. Larkspur ROCKED. . . ok, they Fleetwood Mac(ed) and everyone danced the night away.

« Chef Geoff
(second from left)



Dancin' to
Larkspur »



I was very proud to introduce Shawn and the boys, Jaysen, Stephen, Logan and Daren, a year later - the program is working!



And to all of you who volunteered your time, donated auction items, or sent donations - thank you. Especially big hugs go to our friends, family and supporters who joined us at the Hoe-Down and made such a difference! We made enough to get us through the winter - God bless you all.

Small Planet

If you haven't been, you need to check out **Small Planet Trading**. Their adorable store has all green and fair trade items and great gifts for the holidays. They selected WINGS to be the recipient of 20% of the proceeds of the sale of items on one of their "**Common Good Thursdays**" last month. Thanks **Delona & Karen!!**

Jaysen's Birthday



Twenty-two and another year wiser! A fun evening for all was had at **Crazy Pepper** as we celebrated **Jaysen** turning 22!

Best Foot Forward

Ok, we promise to be careful with the money, but the guys really needed new shoes - so thanks to all of you, we WILL be able to keep putting our best foot forward!



Giving Thanks

The list of the people I have to thank is so long, I would not know where to start, but know that each of you has made a difference and we would not be where we are today without you! A very special



thanks to my husband, **James**, because without his emotional and financial "wind beneath my WINGS", there would be no program.

Know that this Thanksgiving I will be giving thanks for each of you, and hope the season fills your heart with joy and your mind with peace. Thank you and God Bless you all!

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