Dear Supporter,

We have begun a New Year here at Ironwood and as always I would like to wish you and your family a Happy New Year. We always look ahead with hope for a better year for the animals of the world keeping in mind that change does not come easily or quickly.

Nelson Mandela died yesterday, the day before I began this letter. As I watched and listened to all those commemorating the life of this great man I was struck particularly by an aspect of Nelson Mandela’s character as he struggled to end apartheid in South Africa. He never ever lost track of his goal, even after 27 years of imprisonment in mostly horrific conditions. It took many decades and the outrage of the entire world to finally put an end to apartheid in South Africa and his resolve never faltered.

I draw many similarities between the struggle to end injustices within the human race and the struggle to end injustices between species. We must change the way that people view all animals and our relation to them. When people visit our pigs here at Ironwood or read their stories in our newsletters their view of pigs is often changed forever. I have been working for the rights of animals and their welfare for over twenty years now. I was a farm girl from Ohio, but my exposure to how animals are treated and abused in my later years changed my life forever.

Change is possible but the rate of change is painstakingly slow and often we lose our resolve before our goals are accomplished. My personality is much like the pigs I care for. Patience is not my strong suit, nor is it theirs’, so I have a difficult time understanding why more cannot be done. As I reflected on Mandela’s life last evening and know what he and others with him accomplished, I know that I must not lose my resolve. I and millions like me must keep track of our goal to free animals from abuse and oppression. I hope that this New Year brings us one step further toward our goal.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz
President & Cofounder

PS: The picture is Aibileen and her family happily begging for cookies. See her story inside. Thank you so much for your support and we wish you a Healthy Happy New Year!
Volunteering at Ironwood

I’m waiting for my flight out of Phoenix, one that will connect in Dallas/Ft. Worth and ultimately take me back to Boston, and then it’s ground transportation back to New Hampshire. My annual November trip to Ironwood is over and I feel like it just began.

Reflecting on the past week, I already miss the pigs. I loved walking by the pens and seeing little BB all excited saying hello, and seeing Sarah looking out at me eagerly anticipating her liquid meal that she receives through a large syringe, and of course I already miss my sponsor pig in the Northwest field. She had a reputation of being, let’s just say, “not so nice” sometimes. She’s mellowed out over the years, and I like to think it’s the influence of having a sponsor mom (me!). But, truth be told, it’s actually the result of the love and stability that she feels at Ironwood day in and day out, every day. That is the security and happiness that I want every animal on this planet to feel. It’s been four years since my first volunteer trip to Ironwood and every year I am more excited to go than the year before. I need my “pig-fix” each fall! As the first week in November gets closer, I count down the days until I get to see the wagging tails and all of the faces full of love and trust. I start daydreaming about the smell of the hay and the opportunity to once again, be part of the team of people that make the caring for all of the pigs possible.

So, why do I crave the Ironwood environment and need this fix? The answer can be summed up in two reasons: The piggies and the people who care for the piggies.

The Piggies:

To those that are animal lovers, it will come as no surprise that I look at sleeping pigs like first time mothers look at their babies sleeping in their cribs. I look at their sweet faces and hope that they will always be happy, that they never feel hunger, and that they always feel love. Then I make sure that they are warm enough (I understand that may not be an issue in the summer time in Arizona). Thankfully, at Ironwood, these feelings are the reality for these pigs, not just my hopes.

I love being a part of making that a reality. Making it a reality is no small task and trust me when I say, there is never a shortage of things that need to get done at the Sanctuary. There are so many tasks, such as feeding the pigs, many of whom receive special diets based on their needs, cleaning the property, raking poops (one of my favorite jobs!), preparing produce for the pigs when it’s available, preparing juice bottles for the pigs that could use some extra hydration, helping to prepare their peanut butter rollups (that hide their medications), and the list goes on and on.

One of my favorite daily assignments this year was to bring Emmett a special lunch every day. Emmett is a sweet boy in the East Field. He needs to gain a little weight. Emmett has no issue with
the strategy in place to resolve the problem; an extra meal at lunch time each day. Emmett knows that he, and only he (in the East field), receives this special meal, and he adores it. The first time that I went out alone to find Emmett, I was earlier than he expected and he wasn’t waiting at the gate as he normally does.

“Emmett!” I said in a low voice, trying not to be too loud, after all, I didn’t want the whole East field coming forward for Emmett’s lunch. No response.

“Emmett!” I raised my voice only a little. I looked across the field to see him scurrying up the field as fast as his little legs could carry him. And as he runs up to me, I swear I can read his thoughts,

“Okay! I’m right here, I’m ready for my lunch…..where do you want to give it to me? Right here? I can do that, I can eat it right here. What? Oh – Amy Mae’s area? You’re thinking it might be better if I eat it in there? Sure, that’s fine too….I can go in there….what are you waiting for?” (He communicates all of this telepathically within about 5 seconds.)

His friends are catching on and I can see them slowly, but surely, coming up the field. Maybe going into Amy Mae’s area is the best choice. In her pen area, we go. Emmett is in his glory.

A few days later, after raking, I head into the visitors center to eat lunch myself. Taryn lets me know that after I eat, Emmett will be ready for his lunch. Immediately, I think of those little eyes and I ask, “Is Emmett out there right now – waiting for his lunch?”

“Yeah” Taryn says smiling, “Emmett’s always waiting for his lunch!”

Well, there is NO way, I can eat lunch myself, knowing that Emmett is hungrily waiting for his lunch, so I head out to East field with Emmett’s special lunch. There he is, waiting all by himself, next to the entrance to the field, for his lunch (as everyone else in the field was napping in their houses). I scoop it into his bowl and it is devoured before any of his buddies know what’s going on.

I feel, to the core of my being, how happy and excited Emmett is. I look at him as he is eating and again, I think, this is the happiness and security that I want every animal on this planet to feel.

All the pigs know that this is home and they wake up each day knowing that they are with their family, that they are loved and that they will be taken care of. Money can’t buy this. You can’t go to the mall and say, “I would like to buy happiness for 600 pigs, please.” That’s what I love about Ironwood, it provides this care for all of these loving beings (make no mistake about it, though, it takes a lot of money!).

**The People who care for the Piggies**

The next morning I am assigned to follow Tim to “Spike’s Field” and feed hay to the pigs while Tim is feeding them their breakfasts and medications. As we arrive at Spike’s field, the pigs are squealing in anticipation of breakfast being served. Foam is seeping out the sides of their mouths. This would normally freak me out, as I would try to determine which illnesses it might be a symptom of, except I’ve already been educated at...
Ironwood that this is completely normal for the pigs. They are salivating in anticipation of their breakfast.

Tim opens a pen door with the name “Fitzroy” on it and in from the crowd of piggies, Fitzroy makes his way to the front, and then into his eating pen. No words need to be spoken…. everyone seems to know which family member goes into which pen (except me who is standing there with my mouth open). I am completely baffled and astonished that each pig knows exactly where he/she is stationed for breakfast, just as we know the seat at the dinner table at which we normally sit. Then, Tim moves on to the next pen which is labeled with Peggy’s name. He opens the door and in from the crowd, Peggy makes her way to the front and happily goes into her pen. Peggy’s eyes meet her food and immediately she’s enjoying the customized bowl of food prepared just for her the night before. This happens repeatedly for each pig entering a pen. As I am trying to determine if these pigs can actually read the name labels on the pens, I notice Annie D. eating her personalized bowl out in the open area near her house.

“Hey, how come Annie D. doesn’t have a pen?” I ask Tim.

“Oh, she doesn’t like pens, she’s really afraid of them. She likes to eat over there……”

And so she does.

Tim and all of the caretakers seem to know each pig’s habits, tendencies, what’s normal for them, what’s not normal, and when each pig may need extra care.

And as I distribute hay, I can’t help but recognize and appreciate that every pig is treated so well, taking into consideration all their idiosyncrasies and fears, allowing them space to grow, space to heal (if needed), and space to be the pigs that they are. Again, I think, this is the happiness and security that I want every animal on this planet to feel.

Open House

My trips always end with helping out with Open House. Open House day is extra busy because all the pigs need their normal care and Open House is happening simultaneously. It takes a lot of people to make Open House day a success. I have been lucky enough to be one of the greeters over the last few years and in doing so, I get to meet a lot of people (you!) that love the pigs as much as I do. That has been so enjoyable for me.

---Julia

Some visitor comments that stand out in my mind from this year include one woman who told us she has been waiting for ten years to visit! Wow! And another visitor said it was the best day of her life! Wow again!

So as I reflect on the past week, I can’t help but appreciate that, for one week each year, I have been blessed with this opportunity to help out at Ironwood. I get to see these pigs in action living the life that I wish for every animal on the planet and I get to see the people that restore my faith in human beings by taking such good care of the pigs and truly caring about them. Thank you Ironwood!

---Julia
Many of you may remember reading about our six pigs rescued from the desert in our September 2013 newsletter. Aibileen was one of those six pigs rescued on June 19th. That was the first time that time was on her side since she and her five other companions would have all perished in the desert since the man who had been looking after them had been evicted from the property.

Aibileen was among four females and we knew she had very recently given birth since she still had milk. None of her babies could be found. Aibileen and her companions were brought to Ironwood and not long thereafter were released to a field that we prepared for them that was an extension of our Princess Field.

We quickly made an appointment to have her spayed. Dr. Page called as soon as the surgery was complete since I had indicated I suspected retained fetuses. She said she indeed had retained fetuses and her uterus was like a bag of bones. She said she had quite a scare because Aibileen had several adhesions including her intestine being adhered to the abdominal wall. Adhesions are common when there is inflammation or other disturbance in the abdominal cavity. Fortunately for Aibileen, again time was on her side. We had gotten her to our vet before the adhesions had made her spay impossible. She returned home and recovered quickly from her spay and now should have a long healthy life ahead of her.

Karter, Barbara, and Christine are now spayed as well and have all returned to their large field with Karloff and James Dixon and the many others sharing their field. Aibileen will never really appreciate just how lucky she is as her little head reaches up and she begs for cookies. We certainly know that time was on her side with each event and we so appreciate your help so action could be quickly taken to rescue her and her family and to spay her quickly before it was too late. I get tense thinking about how differently things could have turned out but take a sigh of relief and break into a smile knowing how well she is now.

---Mary
Our annual Open House for 2013 was a fabulous success! The weather was beautiful, the food was great and close to 350 visitors came for tours of the sanctuary. Not only did our visitors have fun, but the pigs thoroughly enjoyed all the special attention and snacks too, especially Arnold who was this year’s “mascot” and hung around out front to greet everyone.

Not only did we have sponsors come from all over Arizona to visit their special pigs, there were sponsors from Colorado, New Hampshire, Texas and Michigan here as well! The couple from Texas even showed up in a limousine! It is always so interesting to meet all the people that help support the sanctuary and share in their excitement as they see all the pigs and fields. There were many familiar faces from past Open Houses along with lots of new faces.

A great time was had by all! If you missed this year’s event, make plans for next year. Open House rolls around every year in early November. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make Ironwood’s 2013 Open House such a great success. And a big thanks to all the visitors, supporters and sponsors who brought such joy and happiness to all our pigs!

Sanctuary Calendar

Are you finished getting ready for the new year? We sure are! We have our Ironwood 2014 Calendar ready for you. Ironwood’s 12 month Calendar is full of wonderful pictures of our pigs. Each month will bring a smile to your face and remind you of all the sweet faces you are helping bring smiles to. Calendars are $17 which includes shipping.

If you’d like to purchase one you can order one through us. You can use our PayPal donate button on our website at www.ironwoodpigs.org and indicate that you are purchasing a calendar. You can also send a check or give us your credit card number. You may also contact us through email at ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com. We are selling calendars while supplies last.
Hello and Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were fabulous. I had a blast but something was missing...a new sponsor. Please help me find one!

Hi everybody! I’m another one of those pigs who had a run in with a dog and lost my entire ear. Whew!

Hey y’all! You can’t tell from my name, but I am a girl. A gal in need of a sponsor, that’s me. I’ve only been here a few months and would love to get some support for 2014.

Happy, happy New Year to all! I would really like to start out the year with a sponsor. I’ve never had one before so now is the time to get started. Please pick me!

Hello New Year everybody! Blow your party horns, throw some confetti, let loose the balloons, sign up to sponsor Daisy, party on! (See how I just threw that in. Subtle, huh?)

Happy New Year everybody! Well, that’s how the cartoon Scooby Doo says hello. I am new here and need to find a sponsor. Anybody in the market for a Scooby pig?

www.ironwoodpigs.org
ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com
Hello again! Do I look familiar? I tried to get a sponsor in September but sadly, no one picked me. The other five pigs in my family all got one. Please help me!

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and I wish you the best in the coming year. Let's build our family of sponsors in 2014! Your $30 monthly donation will help the pig of your choice meet their basic needs and share of sanctuary expenses. You will receive photos and a letter about your pig plus new pictures and an update during the year. We love our sponsors and know we cannot continue caring for so many hundreds of pigs without your support.

---Donna
We all know that many changes occur as we age. We learn more, choose who we want in our company and who we don’t, we get achy and sometimes need a little help. Laverne is one of our older girls who has made her way into one of our senior living fields.

Laverne came to us 11 years ago with another girl, Shirley. They were full grown strays that a man found and then contacted the Sanctuary. The girls were picked up and arrived well but once in their new home in our North Field they parted ways.

Laverne has always kind of been in her own head space and not too concerned about what’s going on around her. She didn’t mind being around other pigs and would often hang out where other pigs were but never made a close friend. This was until Jeannie decided that they would be best friends.

Jeannie is the biggest pig in our North Field. She took quite a liking to Laverne and Laverne seemed to enjoy the friendship. These two would always sleep in the same house together. Sometimes this meant Laverne would be squished by Jeannie but she was definitely always kept warm. Even when lounging outside the two would either be with each other or near each other. Laverne enjoyed her days in North sunbathing and hanging out with big Jeannie. As she has gotten older Laverne has really slowed down and was having a harder time getting around the field. It was apparent that this field was a bit too large for Laverne’s old age. As much as we hated to separate Laverne and Jeannie it was time to bring Laverne in to a smaller field.

We kept Laverne in our pens for a short time so we could decide which field might be good for her. She was able to come out and walk in the exercise yard so we knew she would still need a field big enough to explore but small enough so that she wouldn’t have to compete too much to get around.

Laverne entered one of our assisted living fields, Phase 1. For the first week or so this of course meant Laverne would have to stand her ground and show the rest of the pigs that she could hold her own. They would all need to decide Laverne’s place in the field. One way she did this was by overtaking Bruce’s house! Bruce had been sleeping in a large shelter but was given the boot when Laverne decided she wanted to stay there. Bruce was a gentleman and found a house nearby that he started to stay in.

Laverne stayed in Bruce’s house for a while, until she met Oliver. Oliver is Sylvia’s companion and a veteran of this field. Laverne was quite taken by him.
Laverne started off by laying with Oliver in the sun after breakfast. Sometimes Sylvia would be around and sometimes it would just be Laverne and Oliver. She enjoyed Oliver’s company so much that Laverne started to inch her way into sleeping in the same house with him! This of course caused some resentment with Sylvia. Sylvia and Laverne had a few face offs. Sylvia is quite lame with arthritis and didn’t want to get into any big scuffles so Laverne was often allowed to lay with either both of them or just Oliver. Oliver didn’t seem to mind the two fighting over him.

In this assisted living field we have our juice happy hour. Laverne has never been a part of our juice happy hour and wasn’t sure what it was. She skipped out on it for most of the summer and preferred to nap through it, sometimes accepting a cookie or piece of watermelon. Nowadays Laverne follows us around the field with a giant grin hoping for seconds. She’s really come out of her shell and seems to be enjoying her time.

We still reassure Laverne that Jeannie is well and we let Jeannie know the same about Laverne. Jeannie has been seeking out more belly rubs and has her pal Dexter to hang out with. It’ll be fun to continue to watch Laverne’s progress in assisted living.

---Taryn

Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Thomason for pot-bellied pig tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer living on site at Ironwood. Donna provides house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-780-8832 or e-mail hoofandtusk@yahoo.com to set up an appointment.

Pig Memorabilia Needed

We had a very successful Open House this year particularly with selling the Pig Memorabilia that we had received as donations. There were many special items with a wide variety of styles. If you have pig mementos that are looking for a new home consider donating them to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary to be used at our next Open House. Thank you!
Our Wish List

**GIFT CARDS**
- Fry’s
- Home Depot
- Lowes
- Office Max
- Office Depot
- Staples
- Petsmart
- Target
- Discover
- MasterCard

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**
- Postage Stamps (Forever, 46, 33, 20 cents) Other denominations can also be used
- Used Blankets always welcome
- *Cranberry Capsules Item #4363
- *Flaxseed Capsules (1,000 mg)
- *Glucosamine/Chondroitin (triple strength)
- *Vitamin B Complex Item #773
- *Vitamin E Capsules (400 IU) #1773
- *Good value can be had at Puritan’s Pride at 1-800-645-1030 or www.puritan.com. They offer free shipping for orders over $100.
- Rugby Zinc Oxide, available on Amazon.com
- Hydrocortisone Ointment
- Triple Antibiotic Ointment

**BIG STUFF**
- Van, Cargo - Late Model Full Size, rear A/C

**Be sure to check out our Wish List on Amazon.com for more items.**

**HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY**

That’s how our pigs have been feeling thanks to Safeway who donated 1680 pumpkins in 56 large pumpkin boxes to the sanctuary near the end of October. They even delivered them right to us! The piggies, like George and Wrinkles below, have been happily feasting on freshly chopped pumpkins every few days for weeks. Thank you Safeway!!
Use Your Credit Card to Make a Monthly Donation

Almost every day the sanctuary receives calls about pigs needing our help and we must always ask the question, “where will the money come from to help this one?” The answer is: from people like you who care and want to make a difference.

By joining as a sanctuary sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it $5, $10, $25 or $100, will be charged to your credit card. The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the animals. To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution. Thank You for caring.

Remember the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary Through Your Estate Plan

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has been the recipient of bequests from a number of generous supporters. These donors felt that they needed the assets during their lifetimes, but decided to link themselves forever with the ongoing life of the Sanctuary by making bequests through their estate plans.

Bequests can be a percentage of the estate, or a specific dollar amount, a particular stock, bond or mutual fund portfolio, a piece of real estate, naming the Sanctuary as remainderman of the estate after providing for family and friends, or stipulating that the Sanctuary will benefit from a portion of the estate if certain beneficiaries predecease the donor.

Your support makes it possible for us to give a loving home to the almost 600 Pot Bellied Pigs in our care and is very much appreciated.

You can make secure One-Time or Multiple Monthly Sponsor or Sustainer donations to the Sanctuary with PayPal (no PayPal account required) using your credit card by going to the SUPPORT page of our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org. Or if you have a PayPal account you can make a donation using our e-mail address ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com.

AMAZON IS EASY!

Shopping on Amazon.com is a super easy way to give to the sanctuary. We have numerous items on our Wish List already picked out so you’ll know you are donating exactly what we need. The list is updated frequently so it’s always current. Sometimes it’s seasonal items or maybe a medication needed by one or two particular pigs. Many are things we use lots of every week. The Wish List makes it quick and simple. And if you’re an Amazon Prime Member, two day shipping is free on many items!
Francis appears very statuesque here in this picture. He is quietly living his life in our Sunset Field at Ironwood. He is growing older now and beginning to show his age. He is now on medicine for arthritis like so many others here.

Francis, who was first called Frances because his owner thought he was a female, came to us in August of 2006. Below is a reprint from our November 2006 newsletter and a picture of Francis shortly after he arrived.

“This is our little Francis. He came to us on August 28th of this year. He was an unneutered lean male. The owner thought that he was a three-year-old obese female. He is very shy, but he has learned to take treats from my hand if I move very slowly. He had lived in his previous home for three years, but the man did not know his sex, never touched him, and he was in a small confined pen. He was not starved nor do I believe he was physically abused. However when the man called me, he told me he was “getting rid of his pig” and if he couldn’t “get rid of it” he was going to send “it” to be rendered. I suppose that means he would give “it” to the livestock board and they would take him to the livestock auction to be sold for slaughter. I passed this information on to my husband to make the arrangements to pick Francis up because I never wanted to talk with that man again.”

Francis looks and acts somewhat older than his ten years but he is comfortable and has established a friendship with Roger Dodger.

---Mary

Wooly Bully and Sarah were two of the pigs in the Saint Matilda’s rescue. We took 46 pigs from them on the July 4th weekend of 2004. I guess I am partial to Sarah since this is the third time she has made the back cover of our newsletter. Maybe the next time it will be the front cover!

Wooly Bully and Sarah are the last two of five who once shared this shelter together. Dapple is still with us but has moved to one of our assisted living areas. We found out later that Sarah had been rescued by friends of ours in Kingman. They had rescued her from a place in Kingman where she was hiding behind a piece of metal on a hot day with her babies. Her living conditions were deplorable. They took her to St. Matilda’s because either Ironwood did not exist at that time or they did not know about us. Once Sarah was moved to Ironwood they did come to visit her.

Wooly Bully’s history is unknown to me since Sarah is one of the few pigs whose history was revealed to us from that rescue. In years past he was a real Bully, hence his name, but nine years later he is slowing down and is now blind and makes his way more slowly with Sarah to his feeding pen in the morning. Wooly Bully was never mean just strong and pushy. They are sleeping so peacefully together in their cozy shelter as they have done for years.

---Mary
MISSION STATEMENT

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is dedicated to eliminating the suffering of pot-bellied pigs by promoting spaying and neutering, assisting owners and other sanctuaries, and providing a permanent home in a safe, nurturing environment for those that are abandoned, abused, neglected, or unwanted.

* Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is accredited by the American Sanctuary Association.

* The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible.

Donation Drop Offs in Phoenix and Tucson

We sure can use blankets since we are in short supply. For supporters in the Phoenix and Tucson areas you can save shipping charges by dropping off blankets at the locations below.

For those that have donations of blankets or other wish list items can now drop them off at a location in Phoenix and two locations in Tucson. Please note that no monetary donations such as cash, checks, gift cards, etc. can be accepted at this location. All other material donations are very welcome and much appreciated. Don’t forget blankets since we are in short supply for the winter.

For the Phoenix area you can drop donations off at Carol’s in East Mesa, AZ, near Superstition Springs Mall. Give her a call at 480-981-8069 for directions and to arrange a drop off.

For the Tucson area there are two drop off points. One on the North side in the vicinity of Oracle Road and Hardy and the other in Southeast Tucson near Swan Road and 22nd Street. Please email ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com or call 520-631-6015 for directions.

Sent by Supporter Bekah
JANUARY 2014
ISSUE 56

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS

Wooly Bully
Sarah