12th Anniversary

MAY 2013

PIG SANCTUARY

Porgy
Dear Supporter,

We are celebrating our twelfth Anniversary and we have a lot to celebrate. Ironwood has grown from zero to nearly 600 pigs over these twelve years and many hundreds more have come to us and lived out their lives in peace and comfort. We are proud of our sanctuary, a place of refuge where pigs pass through our gates and now know that they are safe. They won’t live in a 6 x 8 foot pen or go without shade, water, shelter, food, or medical care. They will never be attacked by a dog again. They will have space to run, live and make friends with their own kind, be fed and given clean water every day and receive the best medical care. They will root in the dirt and roll in the mud wallows. And in the end they will be given a peaceful passing when their time with us is over.

In these twelve years we have never faltered, even though our economy has been going through the worst economic times since the Great Depression. This is because You have stuck by us and provided for our pigs. Your generosity, your empathy, your compassion have given us permission to carry on and continue our mission. Thank you so much for making the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary possible.

Thirteen years ago we went to a conference here in Tucson and we were advised by two fellows who started the first pig sanctuary in the country not to start our own. Well, we did not take their advice. What do I think now? Sometimes I do think why didn’t we listen, but if we had, what would have become of Joey, Barnabus and Boss Hog and the more than 1000 others we have rescued. I guess the answer really is clear. We are so thankful we took this path.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz
President & Co-Founder

Joey, Barnabus & Boss Hog
We're not sure about you but happy hour at Ironwood starts around 3:00pm. For the pigs that is! Just ask Arnold and Ozzy. They know that happy hour in the barn starts in the afternoon and are usually the first ones ready and waiting.

Happy hour in the barn is a new thing for our Assisted Living pigs. We started giving juice in their field to one of our older pigs that needed some extra attention. It was obvious that his friend wanted in on it. It pretty much snowballed from there. All of the other pigs in the field started gathering around and wanting their share of diluted juice and some fruit. Ozzy gets prune juice to help keep him regular. Princess is new to the field but has quickly learned that she wanted to be a part of this. Some nights she’d rather stay wrapped up in her blankets but if she’s in the mood she isn’t shy about joining the group.

The pigs that sleep in the barn, like Mr. Pibb and Arnold, are usually covered with a lot of hay. That doesn’t keep them from getting up for juice though. Even Kaylee, who sometimes can’t even be seen, will emerge from her nest for a little refreshment.

Happy hour in the barn is sure to become busier as summer approaches. The Assisted Living pigs are sure to know where to go to keep hydrated!

---Taryn
When we opened Ironwood 12 years ago…..wait, hold that thought. The first thing that popped into my head as I typed those opening words was “When we opened the floodgates…” And that is what it has seemed like these past 12 years! An unbelievable number of pigs have passed through our gates, more than we ever imagined.

The first couple of years we took in around 200 pigs. Many of those pigs have passed on, but most are still with us. Their needs have changed over the years as they have progressed into their mid to upper teens. Living in a large field with 50-65 other pigs is no longer safe or physically possible for some of the elderly. As the years have gone by, we have needed to build new places to accommodate our senior pigs, making smaller areas where their needs can be met without having to walk too far and small populations enable us to provide individualized care.

While some of our earliest arrivals such as Claire and Popeye, are still healthy and happily living out in the large Main Field, others have had to be moved, mainly due to problems with arthritis. Arnold (we have had many Arnolds, but this one was our first to arrive back in August of 2001) ruled the roost in the Main Field for many years. Less than a year ago, he became extremely lame with severe arthritis in a front leg. He was hobbling around barely able to put any weight at all on that leg. Arnold, age 13, was first moved into one of our holding pens to rest up and allow us to get his medication regulated. Once he was stable and walking better, he went into our Assisted Living Field, Phase 1 where he lives with seven other pigs including Abby, a 15 year old that also arrived in the “old days.” This field was the first extension we made in early 2003 to accommodate pigs who could not handle living in the larger fields due to their physical limitations.

Mr. Pibb came to Ironwood in August of 2001 and lived for many years out in the Main Field. When his arthritis became too much of a problem for him, he was moved into one of a row of large pens built inside his field which Mary called the Lifer pens. He lived there for almost two years. Just recently, at the age of 16, Mr. Pibb needed to be in a more closely supervised area where we can more easily tend to his increasing needs. He now resides in the Hospice area of the Assisted Living Field where Arnold lives. The Hospice is one side of the field that was fenced off for those pigs that are more crippled by arthritis and in need of a quiet calm place to finish out their lives. Everyone living there is in similar physical condition, therefore posing little threat to one another. Notice I said ‘little threat’ as opposed to ‘no threat’. These guys may be old and crippled, but they still have their moments of feistiness wanting to be king of the hill!
Our pigs are always under observation, particularly during feeding time when they are all out and walking around. When we notice pigs becoming lame with arthritis, we get them started on joint support supplements and anti-inflammatory medication. Over time, whether it be months or years, as their physical condition worsens, we move them to areas where they will be safer and more comfortable. During their lifetime, it might mean moving more than once as their needs change. Throughout our twelve years of providing care for potbellied pigs, we have developed different living areas to accommodate our elderly pigs.

Many of you know that Ben, Mary and I all got started with potbellied pigs by volunteering at Pigs*A*Lot, a sanctuary that has since closed down. We bought that property in the foreclosure sale 10 years ago, making it our Annex. The pigs that live there are all in their teens and, like the pigs here at our main facility, their needs are also changing and becoming more demanding. As their care becomes more time consuming than Shannon, the caretaker there, can deal with, we move them over here. We built a small field called Special Needs East for the Annex pigs. The latest to arrive is Arabella, who settled in quite nicely after a long illness. She joined eleven other pigs who all originated from the Annex.

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...Donna

Sweet Pea

Megan has been with us for 11½ years and spent the majority of that time in the Main Field. Both of her front legs have severe arthritis. When walking became too difficult for her, Megan was moved to one of the Lifer pens in her field right next to Mr. Pibb, mentioned previously. She was very unhappy there and would not go inside her shelter. This was during this past winter in the middle of a cold spell. We had to keep checking on her trying to keep her covered up with blankets. Megan would not settle down, so we then moved her to one of our two hospice areas which are closer to our houses where we could more easily keep an eye on her. Megan is doing well there and is now using a shelter although it took some coaxing and patience. It sounds strange for a pig sanctuary, but her area is called the Cat Shelter because it was originally built to house a group of feral cats who ended up staying at a cat rescue in exchange for us taking their 3 pigs. The Cat Shelter has developed into a great home for many of our pigs that needed to be transferred to a “nursing home” atmosphere for the last stage of their lives.

Backyard

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Down Memory Lane

For twelve years Ironwood has been open to provide a home for abandoned, abused, neglected or unwanted pigs. But even before Ironwood we were volunteering at what is now our Annex, so I want to go down memory lane and show some pictures of some of the pigs who grabbed our hearts and pulled us into this rescue business beginning at the end of 1998.

Paityn & Shannon at the Annex
By January of 2002 Ironwood had taken in nearly 100 pigs from Pigs*A*Lot and in May of 2003 we purchased the property in a foreclosure sale and called it our Annex. The remaining pigs stayed on the property. There are now 45 pigs remaining on the property.

Annex Feeding
We first got involved with pigs after having read an article in the Tucson paper about a woman in the Pictures Rocks area who had a sanctuary with 200 pigs called Pigs*A*Lot and was in need of help of all kinds. We volunteered there for 2 years and during that time the pigs won our hearts, so in November of 2000 we bought the land for Ironwood and broke ground in April of 2001. By June of 2001 we took our first two pigs Claire and Popeye, both of whom came from Pigs*A*Lot originally.

The Annex is our Roots I guess you could say. Since we bought the property, we have had caretakers who live on the property and care for the pigs. Pamala was there for several years and now Shannon, her husband Jeff, and their two children have lived on site for nearly four years now. We are very grateful to have them there to look after and care for the remaining pigs.

Popeye

from a high of about 115 when we bought our Annex in the

Annex Pigs Gathering For Breakfast
What was clear to us when we were volunteers was there was a great need for an Ironwood with more land and a greater capacity to house and care for the many more pigs that needed a home. Over these twelve years we have provided lifetime homes for hundreds of pigs from all over Arizona. Many have come as individuals like Wilbur, Sylvia or Lucky, or in pairs or families like Huey and Louie and their brothers, or Baldwin and daughter Betsy and the rest of their family. They have all lived with us for many years and have made friends and bonded with one another. Sylvia and Oliver, for example, have become very close friends since they lost their other companions.

We have also taken in many other large groups of pigs from other regional sanctuaries that have faced foreclosure and personal difficulty. St Matilda’s 46 pigs came to us in 2004 and we just completed a rescue from Apache Junction of 75 pigs over the past few years. It has been a long and difficult rescue with many pigs in need of medical care. In addition we are sometimes faced with taking large groups of pigs from people who have either been charged with animal cruelty and must give up their animals or people who simply are letting their animals breed out of control. All of these varied circumstances have resulted in our having nearly 600 pigs today.

These past twelve years have been a roller coaster ride indeed. We knew that once we made the decision to build Ironwood our fate was sealed. Writing this article for our 12th Anniversary has given me time to reflect on all the pig friends we have made along the way.

---Mary
A few years ago I was left at a county Animal Shelter where I had seven babies. Once they were able to travel, all of us were brought to Ironwood. Everyone was so kind to my babies and me!

I have lived here for many years. I earned my name early on by jumping over any obstacle put in front of me; boards, gates, people. If I couldn’t jump over it, I’d try to knock it down. What fun!

I was named after one of the characters on the old TV show, Bonanza. When I first arrived here I was rather large just like Hoss Cartwright. I’ve slimmed down quite a bit now.

I grew up at Ironwood’s Annex but moved to the main facility this winter due to illness. It was touch and go for me for a while, but I’m doing great now and am living in one of the fields here.

I’m not exactly a baby any more, but since there are two Olive’s here, I still have this moniker. It’s better than being known as Old Olive!

Donna accuses me of drinking too much coffee. I can’t sit still and I scurry everywhere. I’m always in a hurry… there’s so much to see and do around here!

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I rode in a van all the way from New Mexico to come live here. It was a long tiring trip but totally worth it! My favorite thing about my new home is all the space I have to run, play and explore.

aka the Good Witch of the North. My yellow brick road led to Ironwood and coincidentally I ended up living in the North Field! Here I’ve befriended several little munchkins (aka pot bellied pigs).

JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

We would love to have you join our family of sponsors! We have so many pigs that still need a sponsor and there are new ones coming in all the time. Your support of $30 monthly would provide your pig’s care and their share of sanctuary expenses. I will send you a letter with your pig’s history along with photos then give you an update with new photos during the year. Please become a proud “pig parent” today!

…..Donna
Goodbye Hercules

We had the pleasure of getting to know and love an old guy named Hercules for eight months. You may have read his story in our January 2013 newsletter. Sadly, he passed away on March 15th.

Hercules arrived with a myriad of problems but was very noble and courageous throughout various procedures and surgeries. He had the opportunity to live out in one of our fields for a short time before his health declined in February.

Hercules was a sweet pig with the most beautiful eyes you've ever seen. We will all miss him very much and always remember him.

---Donna

The next best thing to visiting the sanctuary and seeing the pigs for yourself is watching them on video! We thought it would be fun to share part of the feeding process. There are two new videos up on our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org under Pig Profiles. In “Feeding the Main Field” you can watch how we feed the pigs in one of our larger fields from handing out medications to setting up special diets in feeding pens to getting the majority of the pigs fed in the troughs. In “Punky” you will see Tim hand feeding Punky and find out why she needs this special attention. We hope you enjoy all the action and watch for more videos in the future!

Ironwood Videos

Julian & Punky

Our Wish List

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

**BIG STUFF**
- Van, Cargo - Late Model
  - Full Size, rear A/C
- Truck - Late Model 3/4 Ton
  - Long Bed Pickup

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**
- Postage Stamps (Forever, 46, 33, 20 cents) Other denominations can also be used
- Used Blankets always welcome
- *Cranberry Capsules (Equivalent to 25,000 mg of fruit)
- *Flaxseed Oil Capsules (1,000 mg)
- *Glucosamine, Chondroitin with MSM (Triple Strength)
  - *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.
- Fig Newton Cookies
- Antacid comparable to Zantac, **No Tums**
- Triple Antibiotic Ointment
On the afternoon of March 12, 2002, Porgy arrived at Ironwood in the back of a horse trailer with a rope tied around him. He was brought to us that way because he had become aggressive and had been chasing one of their horses and biting the horse’s legs.

Well, to say Porgy was aggressive was an understatement. He was a boar of course and being new to this business we were not quite prepared to have a pig who we could not go in the pen with and putting him out in the exercise yard was dangerous as well. He would slam himself against the fence when we were near his pen and when we tried to put him in the exercise yard he would slam himself against our board that we used to direct him. Had we lost our board when he slammed us we were not sure what could have happened to one of us.

Even having him neutered did not make a great deal of difference, but we did see some improvement. The big change in Porgy occurred once we put him in the field with the other, often larger pigs. They were bigger and stronger than he and were determined to maintain their position in the herd. He quickly calmed down and over time became the very sweet but somewhat shy fellow he is today. He is now growing old and has the privilege of eating in a feeding pen now so he doesn’t have to compete with all the newcomers in his field.

Who would have thought sweet Porgy could have ever been the pig I described above. We like this Porgy much better.

Popeye. This group and a few others either not pictured here or who have passed away remind me of the old folks who gather at the café each morning for coffee. I wonder what they say to one another. All of this group except Popeye were strays. ---Mary

We always feature many of our older pigs in our anniversary issues. This is a group of old friends who have all been with us from our beginnings or before. Ebby was trapped with a “have a heart trap” in May 2002 not far from the sanctuary. He was running wild in the neighborhood and the woman who trapped him said the neighbors were going to shoot him.

Flapjack and his brother Eddie were running loose in the desert and someone called us. Bob, one of our long time volunteers was able to capture them in carriers with the help of the people who called us.

Taylor was another stray found on Taylor Lane by Animal Control. They called us and we picked him up in May 2002. He has always been a very sweet boy and has lived quietly in our Main field all these years and only now has become a bit arthritic and in need of some meds.

Desiree was yet another stray who had been dumped with her mother in the desert across from the Desert Museum in Tucson. Ben got the call in April 2001 before we were open here at Ironwood while we were still volunteers. We brought Desiree to our home in Tucson after she was injured at Pigs*A*Lot and by the time she had recovered Ironwood was open, so we brought her here.

We have always said that Claire is our first pig. And yes, she was the first pig to arrive at Ironwood when we were open. However, Popeye came with her on that day, so really Claire and Popeye were our first pigs. Claire and Popeye were both adopted from Pigs*A*Lot by the same lady. She adopted Popeye a few years later when he was a youngster so when she released Claire to us she also released
We have just under 600 pigs here at Ironwood and because we’ve been open for twelve years now, much of our population are now elderly pigs needing more individual care. We would love to be able to spend all our time dealing directly with the pigs but there is so much more to do. I’ve written articles for past newsletters about many of these activities such as making the daily medications, doing all the watering, stocking the feed stations, etc. So each day is scurry and hurry to get the basics completed then along come surprises such as the one I discovered one day as I was going about my morning chores taking care of my own animals at my house. During the night a huge saguaro cactus in our East Field had fallen on the chain link fence, crushing it to the ground and breaking the corner of a pig shelter. We were extremely lucky on several counts. One, there were no pigs in that shelter. Two, the cactus fell into my yard so at least the opening in the fence didn’t lead directly into the desert. Three, if the cactus had fallen a couple of feet to the right it would have crushed my chicken yard possibly killing my four hens. Four, it happened at night so no pigs were lying around napping which during the day there are several that utilize that corner. It could have been so much worse!

Then came the clean up. Not an easy task when a saguaro of that size weighs about two tons. First it had to be cut into manageable pieces with a chainsaw. Jeremy then strapped one or two pieces at a time to the back of the ATV and dragged them off the fence to scatter around the back portion of the field. Once the downed fence was cleared, Ben and Julian began the repairs. The bent top rail needed to be replaced and a new section of chain link fencing had to replace the old damaged fencing and stretched into place. The pig shelter had to have a new roof put on. All of this took up five afternoons of work time as well as a trip to town to purchase materials for the repairs.

Another unexpected workload occurred in early February when the temperatures dropped into the teens and twenties for several nights causing many of our water lines out in the fields to crack and burst. First, quickie repairs were made as the breaks happened during thawing each morning. Someone would report a water break then Ben or Willie would rush out to cap off the pipe to prevent water loss and flag it for future repair or replacement. Jeremy and Ben spent many hours during the next few weeks going back and fixing all the busted lines and getting things back in working order. As if we didn’t have enough to do already!

These are just two examples of things that crop up unexpectedly that consume our time. You just never know what is going to happen next or how it will affect our schedule and plans for the day. All we want to do is take care of our piggies!

--Donna
IRA Charitable Rollover Gift

Donors 70 ½ or older can rollover up to $100,000/year directly from a Traditional or Roth IRA to a qualified charity, including Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, without paying income taxes on the funds transferred. For those donors who do not itemize deductions, a gift from an IRA is excluded from reportable income, thus simplifying tax returns. It also counts toward your required minimum distribution (RMD). It’s convenient: Just contact your IRA administrator to make a rollover. Current legislation allows for this opportunity only through December 31, 2013.

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.

Sustainer

You can become a Sanctuary Sustainer by making a monthly donation of $5, $10, $25, $100 or any amount you choose which can be charged to your credit card, debit card or e-check each month. Your donation will be there each month to care for the Piggies. You can use the enclosed envelope or go to our web site to sign up.

Remember the Sanctuary in your Will

We have been the recipient of bequests from many supporters. And many current supporters have included the sanctuary in their wills. Attorneys like to include the tax ID number in your will for the non-profit organization you are donating to. If yours does, then you must include our parent organization, The Mary C. Schanz Foundation, in your will. Our EIN number is 86-0999483. We are doing business as (dba) the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. There are no administrative or other expenses associated with The Mary C. Schanz Foundation. Use the PO Box address on page 16 of this newsletter.

Double or Triple Your Donation

You can easily make your donation to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary go even further if you work for a matching gift company. Many employers will double and sometimes triple their employees’ or retirees’ charitable contributions. Simply request a matching gift form from the personnel department of your employer, fill it out and mail it to us with your donation or use it for one of your past donations. Check out our list of major companies that offer matching gifts at the bottom of our web site’s support page. Your gift, with your employer’s match will go even further toward taking care of the 600 pot-bellied pigs at the Sanctuary.
Lucy sent the following e-mail with a question about introducing pigs.

“Good morning! I am a proud supporter of Ironwood Pigs and appreciate all that you do to help homeless and/or unwanted pigs in our country. I am in need of your guidance please:

A friend of mine has an adult male, neutered pig named Wilbur, and she will be adopting my two adult female pigs (Piggy Sue and Priscilla), who are not fixed. What is the best way to introduce them so they can live together harmoniously? Wilbur, Piggy Sue, and Priscilla will be living on a 3-acre property with shelter to protect from the elements.

Any advice or suggestions you have will be greatly appreciated! Thank you in advance for your help.”

Introducing pigs together is often a traumatic event both for the pigs and the caregivers. However, in time they almost always learn to accept one another and will become friends. The best way is to have them separated for a time with a fence between them to prevent fights but where they are next to one another. They will usually fence fight by running back and forth with their hair up and over the course of time will usually end up lying next to the fence up against one another.

After a period of time you can put them in together under supervision and let them spar with one another but be ready to break up fights that are starting to get serious. We use a 2 X 3 ft board to separate them. They fight for dominance and once it is established who is dominant, the fighting will usually end but it can be hard getting them there. On occasion one will not want to fight and just walk away when he or she is approached and that is the easy way, but that does not often happen.

If there is no way to separate them, you have to expect to take time for a few days and hang around and break up fights but of course you can’t always be there so there will be some fighting with ears getting bitten. Since she has 3 acres it should make things a lot easier because it is much easier for them to get away from each other. If they are in a pen it is much more serious since the dominant pig can really get after the other one or ones and that is not a good situation. Be sure there are enough shelters so that they do not have to share a shelter in the beginning.

All of this could take days or weeks. People get impatient and want things to happen right away but that is not how it works most of the time. However, they are herd animals and do enjoy the company of one another, so her pig will probably be happy in the long run.

Just be prepared for taking some time and being able to stick with them. Sometimes, if we can, we put them together and then let them retreat to a pen or separate area and try again later.

I hope this has been helpful and thank you for your support.
---Mary

“This is extremely helpful, Mary. Thank you so very much!”
---Lucy
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.

AMAZON.COM WISH LIST

We recently set up a Wish List on Amazon.com with several items we use a lot of at the sanctuary. On Amazon’s home page, click on “Wish List” in the top right corner and go to “Find a Wish List” then enter Ironwood Pig. You may choose items from our list and click on “Add to Cart” for each. When you have completed your selections, go to “Cart” and check out. This is another easy way to donate things we can always use. Thanks!

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.

Asia, one of our wonderful pigs, wanted to remind everyone that we still have hats, t-shirts and more available with the Ironwood logo. These can be purchased through our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org. Just go to the Support page and click on the picture of our staff sporting their Ironwood hats and shirts to get linked to the store.