HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IRONWOOD!
Dear Supporter,

We have recently celebrated our two-year anniversary since breaking ground at our sanctuary. And a busy two years it has been. With a sigh of relief we are nearing completion of our major construction projects. In these two years we have built our complete facility with two mobile homes, water well, generator, solar power, six acre field enclosed by six foot chain link fencing with six divided fields within, 24 pens with exercise yard, 75 or so shelters, large and small, a storage barn and about 3000 feet of water line with hose bibs and automatic waterers. We have taken in 258 pigs, most of which we have picked up ourselves from all over AZ and as far east as Deming, New Mexico. Seven arrived from a rescue in Florida. We welcomed 75 from one sanctuary and 19 from another. So life has been anything but boring as we reminisce about the days when we only had a 40-hour a week regular job with two real days off.

Our retirement field for the old and disabled folks is nearing completion. Once we get our water lines in and a small barn built for their comfort, our “lifers”, as we refer to them, will move out of their pens and into a modest size field where they have more room to roam. They will resist their move, since many of these old guys have settled into their existing pens, but once they make the transition, they will have a better quality of life with more contact with their friends and extra space in which to roam.

Life continues to be very busy as we rush to prepare for the brutal summer months ahead. Pinkerton, our only hog, and her friend Lucky have a new shade ramada. Other ramadas are being built for our other pigs. Carpet doors have to be taken off the shelters and all the roofs are being cool coated to keep them cooler this summer. Ben has ordered an additional 3000 gal water tank to be sure we have an adequate water supply for all of our pigs this summer.

Our life continues at a hurried pace around our not so hurried pigs. The phrase I hear the most from our many visitors is “what contented pigs”. I think that sums it up for our many rescued pigs and with your continued help we can keep them that way.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder

PS: One evening this past week I went out at dusk to check on one of our pigs and as I walked through the fields a feeling of peace and calm came over me. All the pigs, except a few who were still grazing on some hay, had disappeared into their comfortable shelters for a safe and sound night’s sleep. I thought, “Day is done.”
Did you ever meet someone that made you do something you didn’t want to do, and it created a better understanding? I was that lucky person. Grandma Moses had soft brown eyes, tattered ears, a bulging belly and a cute Granny Shuffle. I told Grammy I’m not too crazy about these pigs. She said, “Give Pigs a Chance.” I found it fairly impossible to deny her anything. So I stayed at Ironwood, against what I thought was my better judgment. At first I felt uneasy and nervous around the pigs, but I always felt safe around Grammy. Her eyes seemed to hold a wisdom and a warmth. I noticed that she really didn’t let other pigs push her around. I said, “Grammy, how do you do it?” She said, “Kid, it’s the first rule you learn in the pig world.” So I thought if she can do it, so can I. If a pushy pig came along, I pushed back and stood my ground, and much to my surprise they respected me for it. I said, “Grammy, it worked!” She said, “Of course.” Slowly but surely I started to get to know the pigs; to me it felt like learning a foreign language. I struggled along, but Grammy made it easier by being supportive. Eventually, I learned to understand the pigs and dare I say to love them; even some of the ones I considered mean.

There is always lots of work to be done at Ironwood. Putting out grain or hay, lots of pooper scooping, picking up sticks, raking up rocks, etc.....I very often feel driven to rid the pigs’ fields of rocks. It’s a slow and tedious process, but I feel the rocks are a hazard. Sometimes Grammy would just stare at me when I was on one of my crusades. Somehow I felt her eyes upon me, and turning to look, she’d say, “Time to stop and rub the Grandma’s belly.” I always tried to take time to give her some gentle caresses or a nice long belly rub. Belly rubs usually made Grammy make a sound similar to a cat’s purr. That sound was so sweet, unique, and usually made us laugh and smile. When I rubbed her belly, her bliss became my own. I always walked away feeling calm and happy.

Grammy’s life, like so many shelter animals, was one of being unloved. So many people don’t seem to think through what it takes to care for a pet the length of that animal’s life. Grammy was fairly old when her luck would change. It was then that Mary, Donna and Ben made her forget what it ever felt like not to be truly loved. After arriving at Ironwood, Grammy sighed with relief. She was with us for a year. Sadly, endometritis was taking its toll on our dear Grammy. The hard decision was made to allow her to live out her life rather than risk losing her with surgery. The day came when she no longer wanted to eat and the light in her eyes grew dim. She told me, “I ain’t long for this world, kid.” I said, “We love you, Grammy.” She said, “I know and I love you all, too.” We each said goodbye to our sweet Grammy in our own way. Then we took her to our vet, Dr. Page. When Dr. Page drew near, Grammy got up on her front legs to look at her. It was a warm greeting for her Angel of Mercy. Within moments Grammy was in that place where pigs never feel pain, hunger or thirst, and they get as many belly rubs as they want. Her face was filled with peace.

My heart aches from missing her, but I am comforted to know she watches over us now. Her strength and gentleness are an inspiration to me. I try to honor her by remembering all the things she taught me and by practicing what she preached. She was the best Grandma ever!

---Margarita Callejo
Our Growing Community of Helpers

As always I want to list but a few of the people and groups who have helped us over these last few months and made it possible to continue our work to provide homes for all our homeless pigs. Thanks to Eegees who placed donation boxes in all their restaurants in February to collect money for our piggies, and to the Handi Care Adult Program who came to Ironwood to count the funds for us. We all had bets on how much we collected and Abbie from Handi Care was the closest. We collected a total of $403.82. The staff of Handi Care, Cindy, Jessie, and Kim have been bringing Karie, Justin, Tessa, and Abbie to Ironwood for several months now and they help us with many tasks like helping with mailings, breaking bread and socializing our pigs. Thanks to all of you.

Thanks to Julie Riggs for her very professional and artistic display boards for all of our tabling needs. We provide her with the pictures and she can turn them into wonderful displays that attract many folks to our table. This quarter we were at Vail Pride Day and the 4th Ave Street Fair. Signe, who owns The Coyote Wore Sideburns, provided space for us and several other animal organizations in front of her shop and we were able to make many new friends and contacts. Thanks to Signe and Julie for the space and display boards and to Jacqui, Herb, Audrey, Rachel, Ivan, Cerise, Lisa and Lynne for all your help at these events. As time and volunteers allow, we would like to get to more events since we have had such positive feedback from those we meet.

The Humane Society of Southern AZ has now spayed 13 of our girls and has agreed to help us once a month if we desire in order to support our vets, Dr. Page and Dr. Staten, in their efforts to provide the best medical care for our pigs. This is wonderful for us because it makes it easier to place our girls into new homes. Many of our older rescued females are in need of spays for medical reasons so this will help us to get them scheduled for their needed surgeries. Since we have so many females in need of medical spays it once again reminds us why we should have our animals spayed and neutered to avoid a shortened life span or severe medical problems in the future.

And I don’t want to forget all of our regulars who I have mentioned in other newsletters who come to help us on a weekly or monthly basis. We don’t have room to name everyone every time but we really do appreciate all the hard work Bob, Jim, Cindy, Catherine, John, Francie, Rachel, Jacqui, Herb and so many others do for us, and also the newcomers who have come once and plan to come back. Also, all the donated supplies are a big help to us. Whatever is donated we don’t have to buy and you know that is important to us. So keep on coming and keep on bringing the supplies. We love your help.

----Mary
Being overweight can cause a variety of health problems. Carrying that extra weight exacerbates joint problems such as arthritis and elbow dysplasia and can cause permanent damage requiring medication for pain management. We have taken in pigs so fat, they could barely stand up! The inability to move around and exercise further contributes to the problem, plus when the pig does get moving, it has severe shortness of breath. An obese pig can also get such large fat folds around its eyes that it completely covers the eyes and over time will cause the pig to go blind from the eyes’ lack of use. This is called fat blindness and is a serious condition that we have seen in several pigs coming to Ironwood.

The above problems can be prevented with proper diet. Your pig needs only one measuring cup of pig pellets twice a day. This amount can be adjusted up or down depending upon how your pig is doing. You can supplement meals with a few veggies or fruit (preferably greens and low sugar foods) and a little alfalfa hay. Pigs will always try to fool you into thinking they are still hungry but managing your pig’s weight will keep them happy and healthy!

Don’t let them eat like a pig!
Ironwood is Represented at Local Events

Hello everyone. Just a quick update on some of the events Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has recently attended in our community. On February 28, we were asked to be a part of the 1st Annual Vail Pride Days held at the Pima County Fairgrounds. We provided information about pot bellied pigs and our ongoing mission. Thanks so much to Herb and to Rachel and Ivan for all their hardwork. Our next event was the 4th Ave Street Fair. We were invited to set up in front of “The Coyote Wore Sideburns”. Thank you Jan Elster, and to Signe who owns “The Coyote Wore Sideburns”. In the weeks that followed we had visitors, volunteers, adoptors, and sponsors for our wonderful piggies from contacts made at the fair. And last but not least, we were able to visit Hollaway Pre-school with Suzi, one of our fortunate adopted pigs. Darren and Bronwin allowed us to take Suzi for a visit to the classroom. Loving children greeted us and Suzi was in her element. The class had been reading about all kinds of pigs and was so happy to have Suzi come visit. I know I met some animal lovers and future volunteers. The girls and boys gave Suzi some yummy healthy treats and lots of belly rubs. Thanks so much to their teacher and my childhood friend, Kathy McGee Upton for having us and for their generous donation to our sanctuary. And also to Keely Kinney for all her help with Suzi and the kids.

I plan to attend more events for the sanctuary in the NW part of Tucson and Marana. We really appreciate all our volunteers. Please feel free to call me any time for information about volunteering. My number is 520-326-8257. The pigs give back so much. We hope to hear from you or see you soon.

— Jacqui Eckert, Volunteer Coordinator

Visit our web site!
Click on “news” to view and download all our newsletters.

www.ironwoodpigsanctuary.org
Their Garden Attracted Eight Abandoned Pigs

Few people dedicate their life to helping animals. It is the exceptional person who stands up and with great sacrifice helps an innocent animal that they discover in need. Loretta and Terry Manners are two such people.

One day about a year ago, they discovered two pigs taking advantage of their garden. I’m sure the pigs thought they had died and gone to heaven. Loretta and Terry did not try to figure out a way to get rid of the pigs. Instead they worked to make a pen where they would be sheltered and safe and started to take care of them, not knowing where it might lead. A short time later two more pigs showed up in the garden and were also directed to the new pen. Two additional stray pigs were attracted by the garden and were also rescued by the Manners. Additional pigs arrived until a total of eight pot bellied pigs were rescued by the Manners. They expanded their pen as the herd grew to accommodate all the arrivals. A nice water hole was provided along with shelter from cold nights and summer heat. They purchased pot bellied pig food and hay. Scraps from their garden also went into the new pig pen to the delight of the rescued pigs.

After awhile the Manners, on their limited budget, found it increasingly difficult to care for all these pigs. They called the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary for help.

Our initial concern was that there were boars and females together in one pen. We all agreed that eight were enough! We didn’t want more. We immediately took the two boars, Duane and Hondie, to Ironwood and had them neutered by Dr. Page. We also gave the females hormone shots to ensure that there would be no further litters.

We wanted to know where all of these pigs had come from. It appeared that someone had abandoned them in the desert. A few months earlier Lynnette Warren, of Pigs*A*Lot, received 15 pigs from a local breeder that was going out of business. These pigs were in very poor condition. In fact, Kizzy, a pig we featured in our November 2002 newsletter, was one of these pigs. The eight pigs that the Manners rescued look very similar to the 15 given up by the local breeder. We felt that he had abandoned the eight that the Manners had rescued. We were unable to find out his name. It is a felony to abandon an animal in Arizona.

We offered to provide all of the food and hay if the Manners would continue to provide their care. This sounded okay to them, so we returned with food and hay and began the mutual relationship caring for the eight rescued pigs.

Loretta and Terry are both disabled and found it increasingly difficult to take care of their large brood. Once again they contacted the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary and asked us to take their pigs. We agreed and once we were able to make space we brought the remaining six females to Ironwood. Latasha, Tallulah, Lisa Marie, Gladys, Tomika and Anita have all been spayed and Gladys and Tomika have a sponsor. All eight are now in the north field division of our 6 acre field enjoying their new home. They remain friends with each other and share their shelters at night. Two of the rescued pigs, Latasha and Tallulah, are featured on our cover this month. Thanks to Loretta and Terry Manners, our eight girls and boys are safe and well.
I would like to thank all of our sponsors for their dedication to their monthly contributions and a special thank you to those who go above and beyond to help. Blossom’s sponsor read about the increasing number of pigs at the sanctuary and doubled her monthly donation to help even more! Taylor is our very first sponsored pig and now his sponsor also sponsors Gandalf and Miss Piggy. Eddie’s sponsor doubled her monthly contribution to include Eddie’s brother, Flapjack. Inky has a special sponsor who sends care packages full of medical supplies and miscellaneous items needed at the sanctuary. After reading about Claire’s upcoming surgery, her sponsor sent an extra contribution to help cover her surgery costs. Lucky has a 5th grade class of sponsors that send care packages of snacks for her to share with her pig friend, Pinkerton. Several sponsors have been out to visit their pigs and spend time with them. The list goes on and on. All of you are so important to our mission here at the sanctuary! I just wanted to thank you on behalf of all the pigs.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor too, it only takes $30 each month to cover your pig’s expenses including food and health care. For your monthly contribution, you will receive background information and pictures of your pig with updates and new pictures throughout your sponsorship. The monthly donations can be set up with your credit card or I can send envelopes for each month’s check. Choose a name from the list of some of our pigs or send me a description (male, female, young, old, special needs, etc.) and you too can become a special member of our sponsorship program.

Thank you for making a difference!

Donna
Pick a Name for Your Sponsored Pig

How would you like to pick a name for your sponsored pig? Maybe you would like to remember a favorite aunt, uncle, parent or mentor.
We have a number of pigs without names because they came as a large herd of 57 pigs and many look alike so it is hard to tell them apart.

Let us know your choice of name.

Sponsor One of our Sweet Pigs!

PEARL
PETE
PETUNIA
PIGGY
PIGGY SUE
POPEYE
PORKY
PRECIOUS

VALentine
WANDA
WAYLON
WILBUR
WILL
Winston
ZENA

TUCKER
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Sponsor One of our Sweet Pigs!
Ways to Support Your Sanctuary

Use Your Credit Card

You can make a donation using your credit card. Just fill out the return envelope for a one time donation or, if you like, we can deduct each month for either your sponsorship of one of our sweet pigs or a sustainer donation.

We accept donations with the following credit cards for your convenience.

[Images of American Express, MasterCard, and VISA cards]

Donating Money the Easy Way!

eScrip

Every time you make a purchase from an eScrip member merchant, the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary will receive a donation from the merchant up to 5% of your purchase. The member merchants include restaurants, drugstores, car rental, airlines, hardware stores, mail order, hotels, motels, specialty and grocery stores ... and more. Some of the merchants are: Safeway, Wild Oats, Office Max, Vons, Chevron, Eddie Bauer, Pep Boys, Big 5, American Airlines, and Working Assets.

Please sign up by visiting www.escrip.com or call us at (520) 575-8469 or write to us for an enrollment form. Our Group ID is 150540842. Everyone can join, so be sure to tell all your family and friends. Thank you for all of your help!

Greater Good

You can make donations to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary by shopping with your favorite web merchants through the Greater Good web site. Just request that you want to support the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary which is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Greater Good can be found at www.greatergood.com/partner/ironwoodpigsanctuary.
Meet Our Pigs

**LAVERNE AND SHIRLEY:** These two girls came to us near the end of November. They had been found running loose in the desert in Three Points, Arizona. A concerned citizen got them into his yard then called us for help. He was able to keep them for a few days until we could make arrangements to pick them up. Shirley, the smaller of the two, is a little shy, but she is warming up to being petted. Laverne likes attention and enjoys belly rubs. They are living in our newest field addition along with 34 other pigs. Laverne and Shirley are the best of friends and spend their days relaxing together in the sun or shade. They chose the shelter closest to the gate so they can keep up with everything that’s going on.

**ABNER:** Many times unwanted pigs end up at the Humane Society. We received a call from the H.S. in Phoenix about a male pig that was released to them. We made the drive and came home with Abner, who was covered with ticks. We picked them all off and treated him to prevent a recurrence. Abner is a handsome 8 year old black and white male with blue eyes. He is very talkative, sweet and loves attention from people. He had a difficult time adjusting to life in the field with so many other pigs, but after a while, he found a shelter to claim as his and became comfortable with eating from the feed trough with the others. Abner is now content and comfortable with his new life at Ironwood.

**TRAVIS MAGEE:** We have one field set aside for special needs pigs. Travis Magee is one of those pigs. He was found wandering in the desert on the east side of Tucson. A couple took him in but couldn’t keep him. When he arrived at Ironwood in November of 2001, he was very overweight, lame and had large scabs from possible burns on his lower back. Travis Magee was put on a diet and given medication for his lameness. After a month, he was transferred to the special needs field. He was so nervous around the other pigs that he couldn’t eat unless someone stood next to him to guard him from the others. After many months, Travis Magee finally began to eat on his own with other pigs around. He is now off medication and doing well. He has a best friend, Molly, who shares a shelter with him. He’ll wander around the field, mumbling and grumbling to himself.

Travis Magee is a sweet old guy and would love to have you come and visit with him.
Some Letters From our Supporters

From Terry Sue:

Good people at Ironwood- Wish I could send more - and adopt my niece’s namesake, Tammy, but I’m a senior citizen on a limited budget, so I’m enclosing $1 cash. I’ve never had a pig - I’m a cat person - but love anyone who helps animals.

From Jamie Swenson:

Want to tell you what a good job you’re doing. I love those pigs. I am sure you do too. I can’t wait until someday I can adopt some myself. Keep up the excellent work.

This is Wilbur at His November 23rd Birthday Party. He is 12 years old.
Grandma Moses Fund

Grandma Moses and Priscilla are two examples of elderly pigs where advanced endometritis and tumors resulted in their death. We have spayed several others: Jo Ann, Misty, Buddy, Wilma Jean, and Claire with happy results. Blossom and Sweet Pea will have had their surgery by the time you read this. These are all adult female pigs at our sanctuary who were in need of medical spays and whose lives have been saved. Since we have a large number of older pigs, we have many more who need to be spayed and we are also beginning to spay our young females so they will not develop these problems. We would like to start a fund where monies are set aside specially for other older problem animals. If you would like to contribute to this fund please make a note on your check or return envelope so that we can continue to give our girls a long healthy life. The information from these spays will also be passed on to the Duchess Fund which is a national organization compiling medical information on potbellied pigs for everyone’s use.
Volunteering at Ironwood

My name is Bob and I relocated to Tucson in 1999. I lived with my family on the East Coast and I took an early retirement to move here due to my wife’s asthmatic condition. We own a pot belly pig (Soosie) who made the cross country trip with us in the back of a well secured and sheltered pick up truck.

While living here I became aware of Pigs*A*Lot sanctuary in the Picture Rocks area of Tucson. It was there that I adopted Nellie and met the Ironwood crew Mary, Ben and Donna.

As the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary grew I became more and more involved there. I spent many hours wiring fencing for the 6-acre field as well as many other jobs including helping to fabricate and install the many plywood shelters.

I continue to volunteer there and do some of the lighter work. Each Monday I pick up food from a wholesale bakery that is kind enough to donate day old products to Ironwood. On Tuesdays I help to fill the kiddie pools and mud wallows for the pigs as well as occasionally do feeding. There is often a need to drive into the village of Marana and fill the sanctuary’s truck, which contains a 350-gallon water tank in the bed. The well at Ironwood is unable to pump enough water for the pigs in the hotter months so the trucked water ensures that there is enough to keep the pigs healthy and happy.

Another thing that I do from time to time is to go on pig rescues with Ben. I love to travel and we have been to many different parts of Arizona. We have even been to New Mexico for one rescue. Newly arrived male pigs often need to be neutered and I frequently help others in assisting the vet while she does surgery on as many as 10-20 pigs in one day.

I like volunteering at Ironwood because it gives me an opportunity to care for wonderful animals that have become unwanted for different reasons. Ironwood provides an excellent environment with tender care for these pigs. I don't know what would have become of these friendly animals if not for the dedicated mission of Mary, Ben and Donna. Anyone who has some time to visit the sanctuary would get to experience this operation first hand. There is a volunteer/visitor center on site. I truly like spending time and sharing ideas with all of the Ironwood crew. --- Bob

Please let us know if you have any of the following items to donate:

* Any size Dog Igloo Shelter but extra large and giant preferred.
* All sizes of Wading Pools and Turtle Sand Boxes to be used for water for the coming summer season.
* Shade Cloth - Black preferred.
* Sunscreen for our white pigs.
* Water hoses
* Two axle Trailer with 6000 # load capacity needed for hauling water.
* Digital Camera
* 35mm Film
* Well equipped First Aid kit for volunteers and workers.
* Corrugated Roofing
* 1/2 inch plywood
* Treated & untreated lumber
The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is dedicated to eliminating the suffering of pot bellied pigs by promoting spaying and neutering, assisting owners and sanctuaries, and providing a permanent home in a safe nurturing environment for those that are abandoned, abused, neglected, or unwanted.

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded in November of 2000 in Marana, Arizona, a rural community northwest of Tucson, as a result of the overpopulation of other sanctuaries in Arizona. Our sanctuary consists of 40 acres with 10 being developed exclusively for pot bellied pigs and the remaining 30 serving as a buffer or for future growth. Recently released or rescued pigs are housed in one of 24 holding pens in order to give us the opportunity to evaluate new arrivals, treat them for specific wounds or illnesses and provide the pigs time to acclimate to a different environment and to each other through the safety of fencing. Over time, the pigs are transferred from their holding pens to a 6 acre field where they can mingle with the herd yet still have plenty of room to find their own space when wanted. Individual and sharable shelters as well as mud wallows and pools are available in all areas.

Ironwood also places pigs in adoptive homes. All prospective “parents” are screened. We want to be sure that these lovable creatures are a welcome part of the family. Ironwood has a number of resident pigs that have personality problems, have been abused or are too old to be adopted. Pigs not adoptable will live out their lives at the sanctuary. You can help them by sponsoring your favorite resident pig! A contribution of $30 a month pays for all your pig’s expenses. Your sponsorship gives you all the background information available on your pig, including a photo, and periodic updates. Visit your very own pig as often as you like. They always like company and, of course, those special treats you bring.

Ironwood accepts calls to rescue pot bellied pigs found wandering in neighborhoods or in the desert, those left in community shelters and any who are abused or abandoned by their owners. We also receive pigs from owners who are no longer able to care for them.

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has a boarding facility exclusively for pot bellied pigs that provides a peaceful setting away from the trauma of barking dogs and other stressful conditions that can occur at other boarding kennels. Please call for more information about our boarding program.

Even if you can’t adopt or sponsor one of our pigs, you can always come out and help. We always have an extra pooper-scooper or you can help with one of our ongoing projects or just give tummy rubs!

If you would like to help the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary call Donna or Mary for volunteer opportunities or send in your tax-deductible donation.
Ironwood’s East Field