

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 74

JANUARY
2017



Betty

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

January 2017

Dear Supporter,

We closed out 2016 with another successful year here at Ironwood. Success being measured by our ability to provide our 563 plus pigs another year with all the amenities needed for a good quality of life and a place they can truly call home with friends and family of their own. Another 72 joined our family, including two litters of piglets who were born shortly after mother Ruby and mother Tabitha arrived here at Ironwood. Sadly many of our friends of so many years passed on this year, but they lived their lives to the fullest with us and passed peacefully and without fear. We witness the cycle of life here on a daily basis. While 2016 has now left so many behind, 2017 shows the promise of life here at Ironwood for so many as a place to grow and play, make new friends and welcome the New Year with hope that their lives will be filled with the security, safety and care that they have always known since they came to Ironwood.

Beyond the gates of Ironwood so many challenges remain to improve the lives of animals here and around the world. Since we struggle here with our small staff and volunteers to give our pigs the life they deserve, we know firsthand how much effort and how many committed people it will take to turn this ship around. Don't wait for politicians to do the right thing for the animals because most won't. People are awaking and seeing that only they can make the changes through their voices, their actions and their donations. Giving Tuesday this year asked people to give with a purpose instead of buying on Black Friday. Get fired up! It is you and your passion for animals who can make a difference this year, not *them* or *they*. I have said it before but it is worth repeating at the beginning of a new year that we as individuals have the power to make a difference for animals not just in what we do for them but in what we don't do. Don't buy any companion animal, adopt. They are not commodities and their lives are not for sale. Consider your choices this year in how it affects the lives of animals along the way whether it is your choices of entertainment, clothing, eating habits or your whole lifestyle that can make a difference for many animals.

I wish you a very Happy, Healthy New Year from all of us at Ironwood and thank you so much for all of your support so that 2017 can be yet another successful year for the pigs at Ironwood. These guys truly thank you for their lives.

Sincerely,

President & CoFounder



Moving To Peoria

Ironwood's property is divided into many different fields for various reasons. The main purpose is to divide the pigs according to their physical abilities, their emotional status or any special medical needs they may have. Sometimes though, we build a field particularly for a large incoming group. One such field is the Peoria Field which was designed for 47 pigs that were rescued from an abuse case in the town of Peoria, AZ. Since they were all family and comfortable with one another, we made them their own field back in 2008. For a year or so after that we added a few more pigs that arrived at Ironwood one by one. When the herd reached a peak number we left it at that for several years. The population had dropped to 56 by 2016 and we had quite a few new arrivals that needed a home field. This past October we moved a group of 13 pigs into the existing herd in the Peoria Field. Five of them (Blue, Sprinkles, Virgil, Poke'mon and Weda) came from one of our foster homes where we've been paring down the pigs due to the caretaker's health concerns. The other eight (Chucho, Phil, Priscilla, Ginny, Piggy, Ruby, Sapphire and Pearl) were youngsters less than three years of age who had been released to us by their owners, abandoned by their families or picked up as strays.

Adding new pigs to any herd in a field is a trying experience for everyone....the new pigs, the pigs who already live there and the staff and volunteers. Like any social herd animal, pigs have a hierarchy set up. In a large group/field like Peoria, there are subdivisions of pigs in the various territories with leaders within each "clique". The new pigs first do a lot of exploring to decide where they want to live. We



added plenty of new shelters of different sizes so that there were places available that were not being used, but that doesn't always mean that is where the pigs want to go. Some of them are shy and end up burrowing down in the dirt under the bushes or trees at bedtime for a few nights before getting up enough



nerve to go inside a shelter. Others are very bold and simply go in and out of any house they come to doing sort of a Goldilocks thing, trying out each spot to see how comfy it is. Now, the pigs that have been living in Peoria for years don't take kindly to the invasion of their private domains. The only way they know how to show their displeasure and to let the new ones know that it is not acceptable is with pushing, shoving and biting. And this happens



frequently during the introductory phase of getting these pigs settled into their new home. For a full month we had to have staff or volunteers monitoring the field to break up the pigs when things got too rough. During the first week 2 or 3 of us stayed nearly all day playing referee, sprinting from

one end of the field to the other when things got heated up between the pigs. We had our “pig boards” close at hand which we can slide between the pigs to break up a fight and separate them. A couple of us even came out just after sunrise for the first two weeks to watch over the early risers.



Feeding time is usually the worst time for fights to break out. The pigs are hungry and tend to be grumpy until their bellies are full. The new pigs don't understand the timing or routines for feeding here yet, so they all dart around like crazy wondering why their food



isn't just appearing in a bowl at their feet like it did when they were living in the holding pens. The old pigs get irritated with the scurrying around and try to smack some sense into them. The new ones have to learn to wait patiently while the meal is prepared and the pigs that eat



special meals in individual pens are fed. Then the majority of the herd is fed in troughs scattered across the entirety of the field. Learning to share food in a trough is a new experience for these guys too. The people running referee have to be on high alert during this time.



Also during the first few days of a herd introduction, we watch all the new pigs to make sure that they are finding the water supplies. There are plenty of water stations around the field with pools, bowls and mud



wallows where we encourage them to rest and cool off. Most of them have no problem getting water when they need it, but we still monitor that closely, particularly with the shy pigs.



As hard as we try to prevent injuries during the introductory period, they do occur. The pigs have very thick skin so most of the wounds are shallow scratches on their sides and shoulders which we treat with an antibiotic ointment like Neosporin. While the pigs were distracted with eating each morning, someone



would quickly go through and swipe ointment on the pigs' scratches. Pigs are smart though, and know that the ears are the most sensitive spot. When the disputes got heavy, it was the ears that suffered. Poor Reuben had the tip of his ear bitten off during one of these episodes. Not only did he get the Neosporin treatment every morning, but he

also had to take oral antibiotics to prevent an infection from setting in. A few others with ear bites



were also put on antibiotics. It's awful to see what these pigs can do to one another, but they're just doing what pigs do. It's simply in their nature to defend their territory and themselves.



By November we were down to having one person go out to the Peoria Field a half hour before the



feeders arrived then stay for a while after feeding until the pigs had settled down. Finally in mid November after four weeks of monitoring the pigs, we felt that



the herd was able to behave on their own. The five pigs that came together from the foster home all settled into one corner section of the field and remain



very good friends. Ruby and her daughters, Pearl and Sapphire chose to share a house near the front gate. One or more of the trio will most likely be there to greet

you when you enter the field. Ginny and Piggy are best friends and have been sharing one of the new houses we put out in the back of the field. Phil picked out a neighboring shelter in that same area. Chucho is still shopping around for the perfect

home. We find him in different shelters in various parts of the field. Priscilla very bravely moved into a section that is heavily populated by a group of

the original "Peoria pigs" and just made herself at home amongst them. Those pigs were put off by her boldness at first but decided to just ignore her when she showed no signs of leaving. Priscilla has a strong personality and will most



likely hang in there until they accept her as a friend and herd member.

Getting these 13 pigs to settle down and become comfortable in Peoria took time and patience. It's a tough but necessary part of life here if we are going to continue to accept new pigs at Ironwood. But it works! The thirteen pigs needed a new home and a new life and now they have that. They will eventually make new friends and develop lifelong relationships with them. They have room to roam and explore. They are protected from predators and have no fear of starvation. And they owe it all to YOU! Thanks to you we can provide the space, housing, shade ramadas, pools, etc. that allow the Peoria Field herd and others to enjoy a safe, happy life.

---Donna

Considering a Bequest?

When we pause and reflect on what means the most to us, the answer is often family, friends and making a better world for the future. Leaving a lasting legacy through a bequest in your will or estate plan can support the people and causes you value most, ensuring that your contributions continue to create change for years to come.



In order to make certain that your wishes are carried out, a well-thought-out estate plan is a vital step in planning for the future. Without a will or trust, state law will determine how your assets are distributed and charities like the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary will not be considered as a beneficiary of your estate.

A bequest is easy to implement, and simple to change at any time. You can give specific property, designate a dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, the residual of your estate, a contingent bequest naming Ironwood as the recipient in case another beneficiary does not survive you, your retirement plan, or life insurance policy. You can also set up a trust for specific charities that you want to support.

To include the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in your estate plans you can use the name of our parent organization, The Mary C Schanz Foundation, or the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. The tax ID number for the Foundation is 86-0999483. Since we do not receive postal mail at our Sanctuary site the best address to use is the post office address PO Box 35490, Tucson, AZ 85740-5490.

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



CALENDARS AND PUZZLES

Don't forget we still have Ironwood's 2017 Calendar available for \$22 which includes shipping. There are also the 252 piece Jigsaw Puzzles for \$25 which also includes shipping. Order yours today using the enclosed envelope or go to Ironwood's web site to use PayPal or your credit card. What a fun way to support the pigs!

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

****Used Blankets are always needed for our cold winters****

Postage Stamps (Forever, Post Card Stamps, 47 and 34 cents)
 Other denominations can also be used
 Peanut Butter, CREAMY ONLY
 Animal Crackers
 Probiotics
 Vitamin E capsules 400 IU
 Mucinex
 Fiber Powder (NOT Metamucil & NOT Orange Flavored)
 Flaxseed Oil Capsules
 Glucosamine/Chondroitin, capsules or tablets
 Stool Softeners
 Ranitidine Acid Reducer, 150mg
 Utility Knives

GIFT CARDS

Walgreen's
 Home Depot
 Lowes
 Discover
 MasterCard
 Office Max
 Walmart
 Amazon
 Office Depot
 Target
 Fry's
 Staples

We have a wish list on [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com).
 They offer free shipping on many items if
 you sign up for Amazon Prime.

Blanket & Donation Drop Offs

It can be cold here in Arizona so collecting blankets for winter is a priority. We never seem to have enough and really need your help. For those of you in the Phoenix and Tucson areas there are three drop off locations for your convenience to save on shipping charges for blankets and other items from our wish list. Please note that no monetary donations can be accepted here. All other material donations are very welcome and much appreciated - don't forget the blankets.

For the Phoenix area you may drop donations off at Susan's in North Phoenix near E Union Hills Dr and N Cave Creek Rd. Call her at 602-339-6213 for directions. Also Carolyn's in East Mesa near Superstition Springs Mall. You may call 480-981-8069 for directions.

For the Tucson area you may drop items off at Ben & Mary's in Northwest Tucson near N Oracle Rd and W Hardy Rd. Call them at 520-631-6015 for directions.

We appreciate all your support!



Sponsor a S



Priscilla

My owner asked Ironwood for help in getting me spayed but then she never came back to get me. Turned out okay though because now I have lots of friends!



Piggy

I had been running loose in the desert fighting off coyotes and had one of my ears torn off. I was luckily found by a nice lady who got me to Ironwood for medical help.



Blue

Some people claim I was found me in the desert but I was obese at the time. I was kept in a cage keeping me in a cage. Yikes, hardly any



Happy New Year! Becoming a sponsor would be a great way to kick off 2017! We have featured several strays here as well as some that suffered dog or coyote attacks. These poor piggies need your help! A monthly donation of \$30 will help provide for their basic care. You will receive their background story along with photos as well as an update and new pictures during the year. Please join our family of sponsors today!
---Donna



Charlotte

Donna



Rusty

I came here a year ago as Princess. We had been in the desert and just had been found by someone who brought me to Ironwood.

Special Pig!



claimed to have found
rt but I was very
me. They were
in a 10x10 pen.
y any room to move!



Princess

My brother Rusty and I were
desert strays. I got the tips of
my ears nibbled off by dogs or
coyotes. I'm a hog mix and
still have a lot of growing to
do.



Virgil

I was a tiny baby when Ironwood
saved my whole family. I lived at
one of their foster homes for eight
years, but last year my friends and I
came to live here.



r ago with my sister
been dumped out in
t happened to be
e who used to work



Wilbert

My owners were on vacation when
the neighbor's dogs attacked me real
bad. Nobody took me to the vet and
then my family decided they didn't
even want me anymore.



Ruby

My owner passed away and her
family didn't want me or any of
my family. Lucky I got here
when I did because ten days later
I had six more babies.

A Desert Sanctuary

Over the years many people have asked and some have even criticized us for having a pig sanctuary in such an inhospitable location. Well let me say that I could not agree more, especially when I am struggling to get through the hot summers that are becoming hotter and longer with each new year.

Let me just say that we, the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary that is, played no part in bringing these pigs to these desert conditions. Blame the breeders and those who buy from the breeders for creating this huge number of unwanted and homeless pigs in Arizona.



Many pot belly pigs originally came from hot, humid, tropical locations with a lot of foliage to eat and here we are with no foliage and for the most part just plain HOT and sometimes very cold weather. These are well known conditions about the desert climate.

So how does this make life different for our pigs and for the caregivers here at Ironwood?



Because of our unique situation we are a very high maintenance facility. Since grazing can provide none of our food we provide grain and hay that has to be distributed by staff in each of our 28 fields. The hay and grain has to first be delivered to our many feeding stations and the hay has to be stacked in the barn when it arrives. The majority of our shade is artificial, so shade ramadas have to be built throughout the sanctuary and over all of the permanent pens. The shades have to be rolled up in the winter months and back out in the summer months and often must be



Daphne

put back up and repaired after severe weather conditions.

In addition, because of the hot dry conditions the pig poops do not disintegrate back into the ground over time so all 15 plus acres of the sanctuary must be raked and the waste then hauled to the dump. Since we have hundreds of shelters instead of larger barns, scrap carpet must be procured and cut and hung on the shelters each winter and taken down and stored for the summer months. The same is true of the hundreds or thousands of blankets that we put out for the pigs in the fall and take up and store during the summer months.

Due to the severe heat in the summer we have to hire additional staff whose only job is to put cold ice towels on our many old and disabled pigs who now occupy special areas throughout the sanctuary. We purchased a large commercial ice machine to meet the needs of the pigs in the summer.

Also in order to keep many of our old pigs or pigs with medical issues hydrated we give nearly 40 gallons of diluted juice or diluted vanilla syrup to our pigs each day. It is mostly water but 1 ½ ounces of vanilla syrup in a half gallon of water makes the pigs more eager to drink and thus helps to avoid more medical issues. Juices have to be made, they have to be taken to the fields and pens and given to the pigs and the many bottles have to be washed.



day. They have to bail then fill the many wallows we provide for the pigs, dump and scrub pools and water bowls and the hundreds of automatic waterers throughout the sanctuary.

This all adds up to many daunting tasks, but with your support we have been able to provide all of these many needs

through proper staffing. Our many hundreds, now thousands, of pigs who have come to our desert sanctuary over the years have lived long happy, content lives even in these harsh desert conditions. You make it all possible with your generous donations. Thank you so much.

After all we don't have winter snow, wet soggy muddy fields most of the time, or hurricanes, fires, tornadoes or other life threatening situations. But don't think I don't turn "green" with envy when I see the green fields, large shade trees, and ponds and streams other sanctuaries enjoy. I know they have their own unique problems with which to cope.

But most importantly is meeting the water needs of our 550 plus pigs. Because our wells are not sufficient to meet our needs we have to haul most of our water in two 4,000 gallon water trucks which is a two hour round trip for each load. We store the water in our 115,000 gallons of storage. We have a crew of four whose only job is to water 4 to 6 hours a



The Sonoran desert in which we are located is really very beautiful and quite vegetated. But Shepherd's Green in TN and Pigs Peace in WA are very inviting indeed. No snow please! ---Mary



Pig's Peace in WA



Baby Girl

FROM BATHTUB TO BEYOND

Hii! My name is Baby Girl but when Ironwood first heard about me they called me the Bathtub Pig. Sounds weird, right! But that was me....spending nearly all my time living in the bathtub. I grew up in a mobile home that was up off the ground like most mobile homes are and there were these steep stairs that I couldn't manage so I just had to stay indoors all the time. I admit, I was having accidents from time to time which made my mom upset, so she ended up leaving me in the tub so I wouldn't mess up the house. It was totally boring being in a tub all day. I had trouble even standing up because it was so slippery. I lived that way for like three years. Then one day a friend of my mom's came to visit and fussed at my mom for doing that to me and said that was no way for a pig to live. She talked and talked to her about it and said she was going to find somewhere else for me to live. And lucky for me, she found Ironwood!

I came here in June when it was really hot. After being inside all my life my skin was really pale, I didn't have hardly any hair and I was rather chubby (it's not my fault!). I had to live in a pen with lots of shade for a while until I got used to being outside. The people let me go out to play in a yard real early each morning before the sun

came up so I wouldn't get sunburned. Another problem I had because of not being able to stand up in the slippery tub was my leg muscles were weak and I



couldn't walk very far without getting really tired and sore. Sometimes I was limping but I had to get some exercise or I would never get strong or lose any weight.

Little by little things got better for me. My skin darkened up and my legs got stronger. I still don't



have much hair but I keep hoping it'll grow out more this winter. Then one day the people told me I could go live in a bigger place with four other girls. That was exciting news! They had to load

me into a carrier because it was too far for me to walk then I got to ride in a wagon hooked up to an ATV. Whoa! That was sorta fun but sorta scary too! Anyway, I was taken to a place called Tombstone to live with Flower, Miss Piggles, Mary Lue and Ariel. It was hard. I didn't know how to act around other pigs and I think I just got overexcited. I was trying too hard to be their friend and kind of overstepped my boundaries, or at least that's what Ariel said even though I'm not



really sure what she meant. There was some pushing and shoving and even some biting over the next few days. I ended up hurting my legs again just because I wasn't used to moving around like that. I mean, geez, how was I supposed to learn how to box growing up alone in a bathtub! It just wasn't working out and the people didn't want me to get hurt, so they loaded me up in the carrier again and took me to a new spot over by the Northeast Field.

Heaven! I have found heaven here! This new place is the perfect home for me. A beautiful older pig named Rosarita lives there and she had just lost her best

friend. I love, love, love Rosarita! She is so nice to me and we get to



share a house together. She lets me snuggle up with her as close as I want to. While she is lying around outside I like to wander



around our yard, but I just have to keep going over to her and touching her and giving her kisses. And she lets me!! When we wait for breakfast to be served, we stand right beside each other with our snouts sticking through the fence. We graze on hay together. Lots of times we both have to lie down to eat our hay. Rosarita has arthritis and her joints hurt. My legs still aren't as strong as I want them to be so I lay down to give them a rest while I chew my hay. But I get to do that right next to my best friend in the whole world! I am so blissfully happy living here with Rosarita. Isn't life wonderful!

---Baby Girl

Open House 2016

Ironwood's annual Open House was a day of perfect weather, just right for touring the sanctuary and visiting with the pigs. We had over 450 visitors this year not only from the Tucson/Phoenix areas but also from around the country.



Several of our supporters planned their vacations to include a visit here. Others made a special trip just to attend Open House. Seven different families came from other states to meet the pigs they sponsor including one woman who dealt with her fear of flying just to come see her pig that she has sponsored for many years!

We love it that so many of you make the effort to come and meet the pigs!

All our visitors were able to take a tour of the sanctuary and meet



a lot of pigs including Ziggy and



Benji who took turns being the "mascots" hanging out up front to greet everyone. We welcomed a lot of familiar faces as well as many new ones we hope to see again. There was plenty of great vegan food prepared by our staff and volunteers.

If you were not able to make it this time, make your plans for next year. Open House is always held in November. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped to make the day a huge success. A big thank you also goes out to all of you

visitors, supporters and sponsors who brought donations and enjoyment to all our pigs!



Front and Back Covers



Betty arrived at Ironwood in January 2013 along with Louis, not yet neutered, Glenda and Patsy. They all came from the Aztec Animal Shelter in New Mexico. Glenda and Patsy were both strays found during the cold winter in New Mexico.

Betty and Louis were owner released from the same household. They got too big of course. Betty was quite overweight when she arrived, so we placed her in the West Field which is one of our smaller fields where she would not have to compete quite so much with too many other pigs.

She has lived in the same field for the past three years and has made friends with one of our old fellows, Jumper and also Sasha. She gets to eat in a pen every day since we had to have her on a diet for quite a long time. Now she is a good weight and happily living her life with her West Field companions.



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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 74

Miki was named after one of the staff's grandmother after she arrived at Ironwood. Miki was released to us from the Pima Animal Care Center in October of 2011. She had been seized from an abandoned home that had been foreclosed on. Rob, who had worked for us in the past, saw her at the shelter and alerted us. Animal Control placed her at a feed store where she would be more comfortable until her stray time was over and then she was transported to Ironwood by Rob and staff from PACC.

Miki also eats in her own pen because she too had to lose a lot of weight before she could be spayed. She is now spayed and much trimmer and doing well over these past few years.

Even though she had a rough beginning she is very sweet and friendly to this day and loves her belly rubs. She lives in our West Field, just as Betty does. She spent quite some time on her own but has now become friends with Jack who came to us as a stray from out by our Annex several years ago.

On the left is a picture of the home from which she was rescued. Looking at this picture makes me so happy to know she is here at Ironwood living with us these past 5 years.

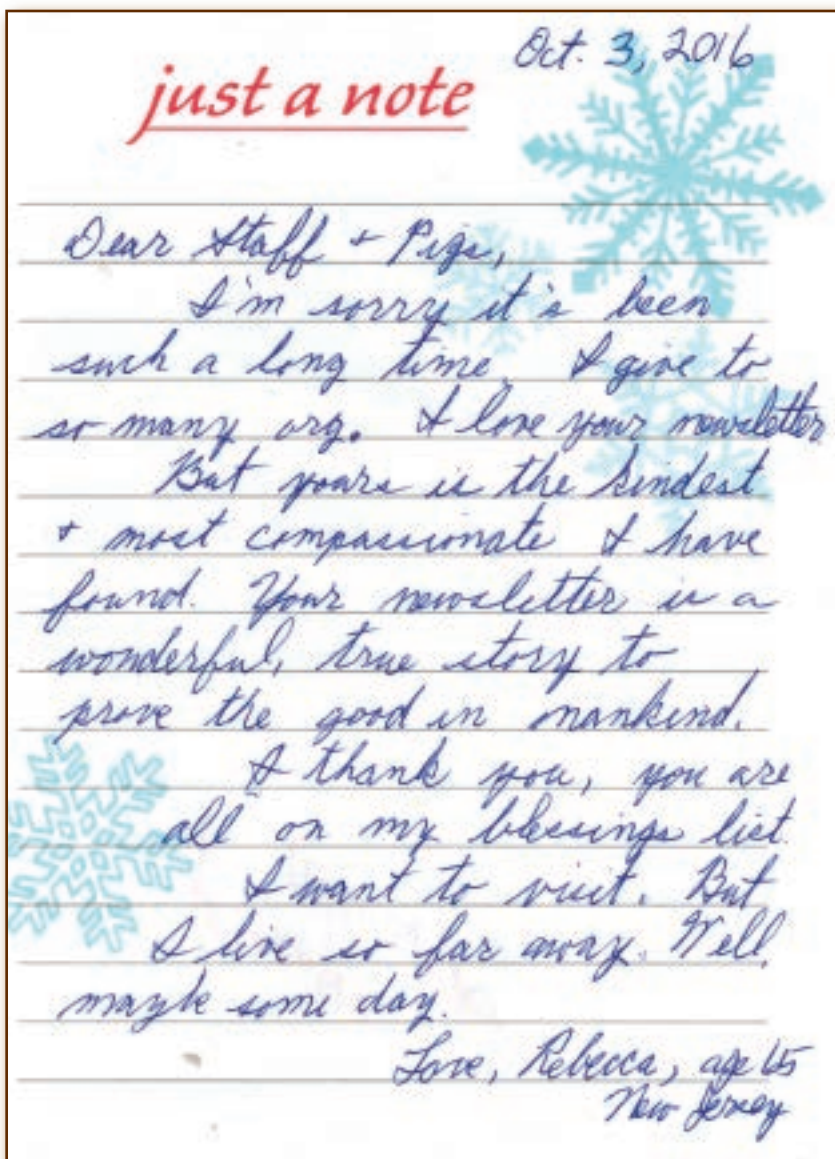


MISSION STATEMENT

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.

Our Supporters Write



June 2016

Thank you again for giving us a tour of your wonderful facility on 6/10/16. We enjoyed seeing all the pigs and were impressed with the wonderful home they have.

You do amazing work. We will share about the shelter and keep you all in our prayers.

Blessings. Bill, Nancy,
 Amanda, Karen + Claire.

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Miki