

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary Post Office Box 35490 Tucson, AZ 85740

May 2019

Dear Supporter,

We are now ending our 18<sup>th</sup> year at Ironwood. Our front and back cover spans the 18 years we have been providing a home for so very many pigs in need. Collie has been here the longest and is among the oldest while the Puerto Rico girls who recently joined us are among the youngest. We have gone from 0 to 614 pigs who currently call Ironwood home with so many hundreds of others who were with us along the way who have either been adopted or have continued their journey.

Each year I try to take time to reflect on where we have come in the past year and what the year ahead will look like. This past year I have seen a great amount of growth not just in our number of pigs but in all aspects of sanctuary life that comes with an increase in the pig population and becoming better known in the community. As always, life here is always buzzing, but this year was particularly busy. Each year we strive to improve the care of our pigs and with that the workload increases dramatically. At one time taking pigs to our vet was a monthly occurrence except for emergencies and a monthly on-site visit by our vets. Now we make weekly elective visits for surgeries and other procedures in addition to emergency visits. Since our number of pigs has increased so has the staff, training, maintenance, building, water hauling and moving the many new pigs to new fields which requires more time for breaking up fights and getting the new pigs settled. The administrative work has also increased greatly. Many new requests to take in pigs requires a great deal of time working out details, picking up pigs, getting them vetted with some being transferred to Better Piggies Rescue where some will get new homes.

We have welcomed many more visitors from across the nation, individuals, school groups and other organizations who want to visit our pigs. There have been invites to educational events and volunteers wishing to help either by the day or by the week. All of these good things increase the time required to manage the sanctuary and keep the wheels moving. Ben works hard to get new people on board so we are able to maintain the increase in the activity we see on all levels of the sanctuary. So the 18th year at Ironwood was a very busy one indeed.

After looking back on the year just past, I look ahead to much more activity with no real hope of the pace slowing down. With your support we will not only be able to save many more pigs in the coming year like those described in the articles in this newsletter, but we will also be able to continue to spread the word on how every living creature deserves our compassion and respect. This is what we do and what we are here for. Thank you so very much for your kind support.

Sincerely,

Mary Schang

President & CoFounder

At Age 17 1/2 Angel is Still Enjoying Life Here



#### ronwood Sanctuary Pig celebrates their 18th anniversary this month. The time has flown by with hundreds of pigs having made their way through our front gates. thanks to your support we're still here and still providing sanctuary to those piggies in need. There is quite a diversity of needs for the Ironwood residents. The senior citizens live in the Assisted Living fields to receive special care as they deal with arthritis and other age related issues. babies live in holding pens with

daily access to an exercise yard

until they grow up and can join a



age groups are hundreds of others simply enjoying their lives as herd members out in the many different fields set up for the

#### And Everything In Between



variety of ages, personalities and physical abilities.

Collie is an 18 year old pig who arrived at the sanctuary in the summer of 2001 when he was 6 weeks old. He is a very sweet, gentle soul who spent the majority of his life living in the Main Field. When mobility issues due to arthritis made living in such a large area difficult for Collie, he was transferred to Assisted Living Phase 1 where he could be with a small group of pigs with similar physical limitations. While Collie has been living here the longest, he is not our oldest resident. There are currently three pigs here that are 20 years old, well past the average life span of 14-18 years. Richie, Martin and Gumby are the surviving members of a herd of 54 pigs that were moved to Ironwood in January of 2002 from an overcrowded rescue facility. These "grandpas" are good friends that have spent their entire



lives together and now share a small area of their own. There are also several 19 year olds who have spent nearly all their lives here. Waylon arrived in March 2002 while Cinder came in May of that year. Josh and Sasha came that summer with no record of their ages but they must be at least 19 by now. Mary Helen is also 19 but didn't move in until January of 2014.



Not only do we provide special accommodations for the elderly pigs, but the babies that come in have unique needs too. We have been very careful to have never had any pregnancies occur with the pigs of Ironwood, but there have been occasions when a female arrives already in that condition. The first mother was

Frances back in September of 2003. She was a stray that arrived so thin and dehydrated that it never even occurred to us that she might be pregnant. Imagine our surprise when a few months later Frances' weight gain turned out to be more than just the benefits of healthy nutrition! There have been other moms giving birth here over the years; Bernadette in



2008, Charlotte in 2014, Jezebel in 2015, Ruby in 2016, Tabitha in 2016 and Crystal in 2018 just to mention a few. All these ladies arrived already pregnant and some with little time to spare! Tabitha gave birth to five babies just four days after her arrival. Crystal, a stray found during a rainstorm, blessed us with six little ones within 36 hours of getting here. The moms were placed in a

special pen that has the bottom portion of the fencing blocked so that the babies cannot get through into the neighboring pens or yards. The shelter is filled with bedding hay rather than blankets to prevent the babies from getting tangled inside a blanket. Shallow water bowls are used rather than

our usual large bowls to prevent drowning. Their living area must be "baby-proofed" for their protection.

Currently our youngest resident pigs are the group from Puerto Rico. (See page 10 for their story.) There are also 3 adorable girls that came here together in



December of 2018. Sweet Cheeks had her first birthday last month while the sisters, Rosalie and Sugarfoot will turn one year old in July. Pot-bellied pigs don't reach their full adult size until 3 years of age, so there are many more youngsters that are growing up here. Pua, Nacho, Twizzler, Popcorn, Pooah and Wilbur are all 2019 arrivals that are not yet fully grown. The Lil' East Field is a field that was built specifically for



the increasing number of youngsters that have come in during the past two years. Over



half of the herd of 41 pigs is less than 3 years old.

The very young and the very old hold the opposite ends of the spectrum while several hundred other pigs fall into that middle area. Most of those, such as Buster in the Princess Field and June in the Sunset Field, are healthy, well adjusted pigs living in large fields within big herds.



Some like Craig from West Field and Woody in Spike's Field are very shy or skittish and live in smaller fields with a herd size more fitting to their personality. Maple, Wilbert and others arrived obese with limited mobility and live in a small field with less competition while they are on diets. There are other fields that were designed for specific groups that were rescued in large numbers. Kwili and her companions were feral pigs captured in New Mexico and have



a field to themselves. Over 50 pigs came from one home in an abuse/neglect case in the town of Peoria. We built a large field specifically for them and call it Peoria Field. It remains our largest herd with 56 pigs. There is a field called Special Needs that

started out as a field for pigs with emotional issues. Fido was its first resident. She was a huge girl that was absolutely terrified after we placed her in the Main Field. The other pigs frightened her so that she wouldn't budge from a spot just a few feet inside the gate.



Over the years Special Needs has become home to a small group of pigs that are a mix of mild

physical disabilities like Hammie, shyness such as Pierre or obesity with the now trim Pumba.

All of the Ironwood pigs, 614 of them at the last count, have you to thank for having such a special place to call home. The past 18 years could never have happened without your support dedication. We are looking forward to many more anniversaries to celebrate with you. Thank you from those who have grown old with us...Poncho, Fred, Angel, Huey, Louie, and more. Thank you from those who have many years ahead of them... Jelly Bean, Goldie, Dennis, Ivy, Ewok and many more.

---Donna

eet Deeanna, one of Ironwood's animal caregivers. She has been here for many years helping to feed the pigs and tend to their day to day needs. When asked who her favorite pig was, there was no hesitation to name Hamlet.

Hamlet from Main Field is one of my favorite pigs. I love his cute droopy face and that black polka dot in the middle of his chin. Whenever it rains some of us are put on blanket duty which means we feel each blanket in every one of the pigs' houses throughout the sanctuary. We take out any blankets that are wet, hang them up so they can dry then replace them with dry blankets. Every time I'm on blanket duty in Main Field I'll feel a gentle nudge on my leg or back and it will be Hamlet saying "Hi". He'll then keep me company as I go from house to house where he'll nose at the wet blankets I pull out as if to say "Thank you". I love this encouraging, adorable, sweet boy so much! ---Deeanna

### Deeanna's Favorite Pig







# Humanity at its Best

eople often wonder how an individual can make a difference. These are the stories of but a few pigs who have made their way to Ironwood because of the compassion and willingness of people to get involved and make a difference for these animals. I want to give a special thank you to these people and to many others like them who have saved the lives of so many pigs just because they cared enough to get involved.

#### August 2018 Nick:



Nick's rescue is probably the most dramatic. The owner was planning on slaughtering him for a barbecue that night. The owner's wife wanted to save his life. She had her friend post it on Facebook and Nickie (hence Nick's name) saw the post and quickly asked her friend Jen who owns two pigs to help save this pig. Jen sent out a desperate appeal to us to help since she could not take another pig. Of course we said we would take him.

Nickie gave Jen some money and went to the Jen immediately. Nick was sitting in the rain in the wire cage that he had come in. His female companion was already gone and he would be next. Because of a very fortunate stroke of luck, Jen was able to persuade the owner to sell Nick for the money she had received from Nickie. brought him to Ironwood that night. Because of these ladies' compassion and caring, Nick is now living a very good life in a large field here at Ironwood with his good friend Dawson. A very happy ending to a horrifying story.

#### December 31, 2018 Piggy Smalls:

Meagen contacted us on the 31st. A friend of hers had reached out to her since she also has pigs and does some rescue. Her friend saw a posting on Craigslist about a 2 year old pig being given away free. Meagen contacted the owner and they said she had one day, until the 1st to find her a home or it was first come first serve and that often means people taking them to eat. Of course the "micro pig" had gotten too big. Again we



agreed to take her so on January 1, 2019 Piggy Smalls arrived at Ironwood because Meagen and her friend cared enough to get involved. Piggy Smalls was moved to Better Piggies Rescue in hopes of finding her a new forever home.



#### January 14th Spark:

In the evening we received this email, "Hi I just got a pot belly pig and I had no idea my dogs would be so violent with him bleeding kind of bad and is there anyone who can help me." I contacted Carrie from Adopt a Pig right away since she is on the east side of Tucson where the pig was However, during that located. brief time the owner called back to say she had gone out to check on him and he had escaped into the night and she could not find him. He as it turned out, was a she, a tiny baby girl bought from a breeder.

Carrie sprung into action and posted it on all pig groups, the neighborhood groups and Facebook, putting her cell number



there so if anyone saw the pig t h e y c o u l d call her. Early the next

a lady who had seen it on the neigh-borhood posting called. The pig was standing outside in her yard. Carrie said she was on her way to get her and alerted the neighborhood not to try to catch her until she got there. When she arrived there were many people ready to help and to surround the scared little girl. With the help of all of them Carrie was able to quickly get her in a carrier. Carrie said the pig was so exhausted and dehydrated by that time that she took her directly to the vet for treatment. Her wounds were treated and she was released, now appearing like a little patchwork



girl. She went directly to a foster home where we are hopeful she will remain. From these pictures it looks like she has a home.



#### Conner Being Rescued From South Mountain

March 5, 2019 Conner:

Tarvn received a Facebook notice with a picture of a pig who had been rescued from South



Mountain then picked up by the Department of Agriculture. The very next day I got a call from the Department of Agriculture asking if we could take a pig they had taken in. The pig was a stray who had been rescued at South So the people who Mountain. rescued him could now rest assured he would be safe at Ironwood. The officer said he could bring him to us in a few days. Officer Conner brought him to us and thus our new boy was named Conner. It had been a few days but Officer Conner had made a nice bed for him in a horse

trailer and covered the trailer with a tarp since there had been some rain. He told us Conner had been loose for months and all postings were not responded to. hikers had finally managed to trap We don't have and him information about whether hikers had been feeding him or just the wet winter had helped him survive. But now he is safe with us and beginning to mix with other pigs and will later make his way to one of our large fields.

Four stories out of so many in the past months and years where individuals or groups of people have reached out to save the lives helpless animals. of these Because of you and your support, we have been able to accept them here at Ironwood where they are now safe and have a home. I want to thank these folks and all others who have taken the time to get involved and save helpless animals of all kinds wherever in the world they may be. This is humanity at its best.

---Mary

# Sponsor a



My owners moved away and just abandoned me at the house with a litter of babies. It was awful! We were slowly starving to death but luckily got saved.



I was just a baby when I came here almost a year ago. I'm growing up fast, but I don't think I'll ever get as tall as my namesake. That would be cool though if I did!



My owner was a 100 animals. Aft I came here with all so lucky to be plenty to eat no





year you will get an update and new photos to keep you connected to your pig's life. Please consider joining our family of sponsors today! Thank you for your support!

---Donna



Can you guess who are on this page? Very together and are be we've been here si babies. It's been furthere together.

# Special



s a hoarder with over After she was arrested th my friends. We're be safe and getting t now!



who my brothers? We all "stick" best friends. e since we were n fun growing up



Most of the pigs here are potbellied pigs, but I'm a breed called Kunekune. I have these cool dangly things on my neck called wattles. Not many pigs have those.



I came here with 11 other pigs. We all got spayed and neutered then were supposed to go back home. That was over a year ago. Dad never came back to get us.



My owners said they rescued me but then decided they really didn't want me around. I like living at Ironwood where I get to be in a field with other pigs.



My brothers and sisters and I were an unwelcome surprise at our first home. Our owner didn't know the pigs were breeding... duh! I'm glad we all get to live here instead.

# Pigs From Puerto Rico

hen Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico in

September 2017, it caused immense widespread damage. The clean up and recovery is still underway in many areas. Due to the complete devastation of houses, not only were countless people left

homeless, but their pets which included pot-bellied pigs were also displaced and left running the streets. Over time this led to an overpopulation of stray pigs which is believed to have reached over 400. The USDA's answer to this rapidly increasing problem was to trap the pigs, take them to the local landfill and shoot them. Yes, shoot them! This inhumane statement brought a surge of people willing and able to come up with a better solution. One of those groups was Women United For Animal Welfare (WUFAW). They filed petitions asking the government to hold off on the killing and allow them time to formulate a humane plan. Thankfully, their efforts worked. The next step of the plan was acquiring a piece of land to use as a sanctuary for the pigs. Here they set up a spay/neuter program as well as a local and international adoption program. With that in place, the goal became capturing females first and spaying as many as possible. Some were too far along in their pregnancies and were placed in foster homes



where they could safely give birth to their litters. Later, after the weaning process, moms and babies were all spayed and neutered. The stray males on the streets will be captured and

neutered as well, but getting the females first prevented many more litters from being born out on the loose where they could continue to reproduce. This process has saved hundreds of pigs already and will continue to strive toward alleviating the problem completely.

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has seen the product of WUFAW's efforts. Some of the babies born in Puerto Rico to mothers too far along for immediate spaying ended up in Las Vegas for adoptions. Petey flew from Puerto Rico to Vegas then went to a home in Kingman, AZ to become the companion to another pot-bellied pig in the household. Sadly, things did not work out in this situation. Petey had an infection in his incision from being neutered. The owner said she couldn't afford the vet bill but also commented that he wasn't very friendly and wouldn't let her pet him. That statement was made only 3 days after she brought him home. Give the poor guy a chance! Anyway, a volunteer in the Phoenix area agreed to meet the woman halfway to pick up Petey and bring him

to Ironwood in late January.

We were experiencing cold weather when Petey arrived and since he was still so tiny, only 8-



10 weeks old, he spent the majority of his time in the large bathroom in the Visitor Center. Soon Petey made his first trip to visit our vet for a checkup. The swelling and infection at his surgical site turned out to be a reaction to the suture. That issue began to clear up with antibiotics, but then Petey developed a cough. A second trip to the vet was necessary and he was diagnosed with pneumonia. He stayed a few days at the clinic for monitoring and a change of medication. After



returning to the sanctuary, Petey was definitely feeling better. He was up and chatty, wanting to play. The bathroom was filled with quilts and toys for him, but he soon got bored and began a remodeling project that involved stripping the wallpaper. Uh oh! Now that Petey was feeling better and the days were a bit warmer, he began spending the majority of the day out in one of the holding pens as well as getting a couple of



turns in the exercise yard. We tried letting him hang out with Pua, a young recent arrival, but she was rather mean to Petey so that didn't last long. Two little boys about his age were here temporarily to recover from being neutered as well as waiting for their mom to get spayed before returning to their owner. The boys got along great with Petey and soon he was not only having "recess" in the exercise yard with them, but also having sleepovers

in their pen. That worked out great until the boys had to go back to their home. It's warm enough at night now that Petey can stay in a holding pen by himself. We are now working on him developing a friendship with Wilbur, a new youngster recovering from a severe dog attack. The boys do

great at recess but haven't yet



gotten to the point of being able to settle down together inside a pen. But it is looking hopeful! Petey has turned out to be a complete delight...so sweet and lovable. It's too bad his adoptive mom didn't take the time or effort to get to know him once he was feeling well.

While all this business with Petey was going on, we got word of a litter of 5 girls ready to fly out of Puerto Rico from the foster home where they were born. The hope was to get them into Arizona and



adopted, but they needed a place to stay in the meantime. So on February 15th we welcomed Manteca, Azul, Kirbita, Zantina and Hermosa...beautiful Puerto Rican names for five adorable sisters. The girls flew into Tucson and were picked up at the airport by Carrie and her daughter who them straight brought Ironwood. The little girls, only 4 months old at that time, had had a very long day and were ready to get out of those carriers and get They immediately some food. chowed down on some grain then began exploring their pen. Despite their extensive time inside the carriers that day, the girls were in good spirits and ready to play. All had been spayed in Puerto Rico and were in excellent health.



The area where the girls are living has a huge exercise yard with plenty of room to roam. The five of them love going out to run and explore, sometimes together as a pack or off on their own. They are a curious bunch. Petey has come over to visit and play with them in the yard. All is well as long as



they are outside but after returning to the pen, the girls get a little defensive with poor Petey.



He is content to just go over for recess with the girls then back to his area where he gets a second recess with Wilbur. He does a great job of simply trotting along behind us as we lead him back and forth for playtime.

Azul has gotten very tame and enjoys being petted and having her ears rubbed. Hermosa is working up her courage and allowing brief touches at this point. Manteca, Kirbita and Zantina could care less about being social with people and just want to go do piggy stuff! The hopes of getting them adopted are looking slim because there are always more and more pigs coming in that need to be placed too. Petey and the

girls may end up making Ironwood their permanent home and that would be just fine with us. They are very cute and lots of fun to watch as they play. Thanks to your continued support, we are in the position to provide the Puerto Rican piggies with a lifetime home if necessary.

---Donna

#### Blanket and Donation Drop Offs

The temperatures are warming up but the need for comforters and blankets is ongoing, so please keep collecting them! There are now four locations where you may drop off blankets and other material donations from our Wish List (no monetary donations can be accepted here).

For east Phoenix area, please drop off donations at Carolyn's in East Mesa near Superstition Springs Mall. Call 480-981-8069 for directions.

For north Phoenix, you may go to Danette's near the 101/Cave Creek Rd area. Call 602-376-1086 for directions.

For northwest Tucson, please go to Ben and Mary's near N Oracle Rd and W Hardy Rd. Call 520-631-6015 for directions.



For east Tucson, go to Sandra's in the Civano neighborhood. Call 804-840-5296 for directions.

## Friends For Life Donation

ne of the items that we are always telling people we need donated is blankets. We currently have over 600 pigs so you can imagine how many blankets we use and go through. Between normal wear and tear, the pigs ripping up their blankets and other issues we tend to go through a lot of blankets.

Another animal rescue, Friends For Life Animal Rescue in Gilbert, Arizona, receives many donations of items including blankets, towels and sheets, which are also items we use. They are fortunate enough to receive an excess of these items and were looking for somewhere to donate the extras to. They had become aware of Ironwood from seeing our newsletter and saw that we also need these items. Ever since then Friends For Life has been helping Ironwood by dropping off many of these items at our Mesa donation drop off location.



We've been able to make many pigs happy with their donated blankets. We especially needed



extra blankets for the past couple of months with all of the rain we've been getting. A lot of the blankets will get wet and we need to hang them to dry then need dry blankets to replace them in the houses.



We've been using the towels and sheets for different reasons. We will often sheet the ground of a pig's pen space for when they are recovering from a medical procedure. This way we can keep

the pig as clean as possible during their recovery. In the summertime we will use sheets instead of blankets so the pigs will still have something to snuggle in.

We have many uses for the towels. Sometimes we will put towels in a pig's bed if they are known to sometimes make a potty mess in their house. It can help soak it up and we can switch the towels out and clean them as needed. In the summer we cut the thinner towels in half and use them along with chilled water to drape over a pig to keep them cool.

It's been very nice to have the extra blankets, sheets and towels donated. We have been very grateful for this and appreciate the kindness of Friends For Life for thinking of us. Rescues helping rescues is a wonderful thing and we are happy to see it happening.

---Taryn



# Our Wish List

#### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

#### \*\*Used Blankets are needed year round.\*\*

Miralax Powder
Antibiotic Ointment

**Animal Crackers** 

Fig Newton Cookies (NOT individually wrapped)

Ranitidine Acid Reducer, 150mg

Vitamin E Capsules, 400 IU

Children's Multi-Vitamins, NO Iron

Canned Pumpkin

Flaxseed Oil Capsules 1000 mg

**Stool Softeners** 

**Prunes** 

Sheets

#### GIFT CARDS

Master Card
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Fry's

Home Depot

Lowes

Office Max

Office Depot

Staples

Walmart

Amazon

Walgreen's

#### Smile.Amazon.com

The easiest way to provide for the pigs' current needs is to order from our Amazon Wish List. It is kept up to date with items required to properly care for the pigs. Most items on the list are things we need on an on-going basis, so even if it was listed over a year ago, it is still something we use and need daily. The list is checked frequently to guarantee that you are sending

something that is currently needed.

Please make all your purchases including your personal purchases on smile.amazon.com and designate the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary as your charity of choice. Log on to smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0999483 using the same log-in information that you use for your amazon.com account. At the top of the



page you will see "Supporting: Mary C Schanz Foundation". The Foundation is our parent organization and is doing business as (dba) the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your total purchases to Ironwood. And by signing up for Amazon Prime you also receive free shipping on many items which is particularly helpful when sending something heavy or large.

All your packages and donations are a great help to the pigs and are much appreciated! Thank you!!

#### 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.

## Supporters Write

Dear Ironwood falle, I wish I could send

Dear Gronwoods It amazes me that with all that you do to care for the pigo, you still manage to produce such a good quality newsletter with so my wife and I support and receive newsletters from several animal welfare organizations. yours is the only one of read cover to We're happy to support the good work to do.

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#### IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



