

# IRONWOOD

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Mexico

## PIG SANCTUARY

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490  
Tucson, AZ 85740

September 2012

Dear Supporter,

In the past couple of months we have taken in a number of pigs, most of which were living in horrible conditions. Oddly enough, many of the people who we picked the pigs up from claim to care about their pig or pigs and even love them. But most of them lived without shelter or shade and sometimes even without water, had hooves that were never trimmed or were extremely overweight. This is not unique or new to us. Over the years probably 80% of the pigs we have picked up lived in small, dirty pens even if a large yard could be available to them. Many had little or no shelter and inadequate shade and water. One little guy we picked up this past week had no shade, shelter or water and was hiding under an old mattress to get out of the sun. Another old gal named Penelope had a huge uterine tumor and was living in a tiny chicken coop that had never been cleaned. There were clouds of flies and she was covered with them. With temperatures well into the hundreds and extreme heat being forecast, we rushed to pick up several pigs to get them out of their present conditions.

When I meet the owners, I am always expecting to meet a monster with three heads, but they are not. They are generally normal, nice people that one could meet anywhere. So I always ask myself, why don't people understand that their pig or other companion animal needs the same considerations that they do? Is there a fundamental flaw in humans that we think we are the only ones who need basic life requirements like shade, water, shelter, clean food and space to move around in and explore?

I don't think that education, religion, environment or culture is the answer. If one could identify what the fundamental difference is between those who care and those who do not, perhaps we would have no more wars and no more animal cruelty. A world we would all love to live in.

Mary Schanz



President & Co-Founder

P.S. My mind is forever tortured knowing we humans have the capacity to be so caring and do so many good things, yet all too often, especially for animals, we do not exercise that capacity but do just the opposite. Penelope was living in horrible conditions and the owner seemed to not have even noticed.



Penelope



# Joey's Tale

**S**o how does a potbelly pig rescue end up with this adorable sheep Joey?

Although we don't have the capacity to rescue other species we love all animals, so over the years we have occasionally rescued another animal who comes along with one of our rescued pigs. Our wonderful and much loved Whitey, a mostly black goat, was with us for many years and anyone who ever visited us knew what a character he was. He arrived with our sweet pig Emily. When we went to pick up Pepper we ended up coming home



**When Tucker Was a Baby** with her companion, Charmin the chicken. I loved having her around.

I was first introduced to Joey many years ago when Kathy called us to help her neuter her male pig Tucker. She had found Tucker wandering along the road. Tucker and Joey became fast friends as Tucker grew up. Over the next few years Kathy took in several more pigs, some of which were adopted from us. They were Taz, Tyler, Theodore, Tommy, Timmy and Toby, seven in all. Sadly this past fall Kathy had personal problems and asked us to take her pigs. That was a big

order and it took us several months to finally make arrangements to take all seven pigs. We took the four smaller pigs first. We had asked Kathy about her plans for Joey. She had planned to give him to the neighbor family but said she did not think that would be a good idea. Joey is very shy and they have several children who she felt, probably rightly so, would chase him and stress him out. She did not want that to happen so she said since he was old she would have him euthanized.

When we returned for Tucker, Taz, and Tyler, Joey was clearly very distressed. He began to bleat and as shy as he was he came to the area where we were loading the pigs. He ran repeatedly around the carriers and kept looking in. He was so upset to see his good friends leaving without him. Well that was all it took for us to tell Kathy we would take him and they could bring him to us as soon as possible. I am sure Kathy was very relieved as well. Shortly after we got the pigs

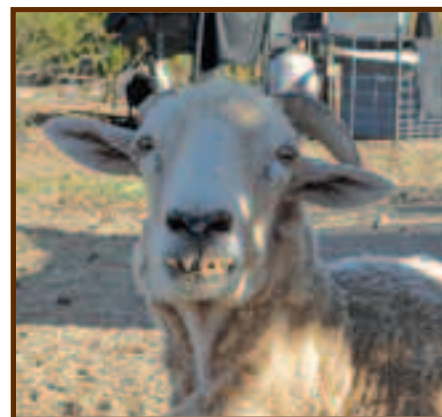


## Reunited At Ironwood

settled in, Kathy and her husband brought Joey down to us. He immediately went over to Tucker and nosed him. What a delight it was to see them reunited. These are the precious aha moments that

make it all worthwhile.

Joey settled right in with all the pigs living in his field. But we had challenges having a new species in with our pigs. Joey had a very heavy coat of wool that had to come off before the really hot weather arrived. An on line search produced a sheep shearer who came right to us and within a



## Our Sweet Joey

short time Joey was rid of his heavy coat and ready for summer.

Sheep cannot eat pig food because the copper in the pig pellets is poisonous to sheep. After building Joey a pen of his own and many failed attempts to get him in, we instead built him a pedestal for his food high enough that the pigs could not reach it. For the most part that has worked well. We still have to watch him closely since he is partial to pig food and likes getting into the troughs with the pigs.

Joey is very happy with us now and although he is still shy he is right up front with the pigs in the morning waiting to be fed and he won't say no to a little animal cracker when they are being passed around. We are so glad Joey made it clear to us that he wanted to come live with his pig friends. ---Mary

# Salute To Our Staff

**I**ronwood Pig Sanctuary is located in the Sonoran Desert where temperatures hover around 105+ degrees for 4-6 months out of the year. Yes, it's a harsh environment for pigs and people, but this is where the need is. When we started the sanctuary over eleven years ago, we never imagined there were this many pigs in the area that would need our services. So here is our staff out in the heat making sure that all of our pigs are protected, fed,



**C.J., Samuel and Jason**

medicated, watered, shaded, etc. It is not an easy task and often very uncomfortable due to the high temperatures, but we do it because we care about the welfare of the pigs. You may have heard the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." Out here it takes a village to raise a pig! It is not easy to find people willing and able to handle working outside in the heat day after day. This article is dedicated to our staff that works on site on the variety of tasks that

are required to care for the nearly 600 pigs that we are responsible for.

The most important task at the top of the list, particularly during the hot season, is providing fresh water. We have staff members that do nothing but water and we even hire extra people to keep up with that daunting task in the summer. The pigs need clean drinking

water as well as water in their pools and mud wallows to keep them cool. Each day water bowls and automatic waters have to be cleaned. Pools must be scrubbed. Wallows have to be bailed and refilled. It can be monotonous work, but Jason, C.J., Samuel, Jeremy and Eric go at it every



**Jeremy and Eric**

morning to get the job done. Imagine providing water for hundreds of hot thirsty pigs! That's a lot of watering! Thank you Water Team for getting us



**Ben, Willie and Grendel**

through another summer! The piggies love you!!

And where does all that water come from? We do have a water well which is sufficient for our winter months but cannot keep up with the demand during the hot season. Thanks to Ben and Willie, along with his sidekick Grendel, for hitting the road in the water trucks (at times without air conditioning). Two days of the week, these guys are back and forth from the sanctuary to the water station near town hauling water to keep our holding tanks full. Ben keeps a close eye on the water level in the tanks, figuring out how much is used each day and how many trips he and Willie will have to make to ensure we have enough water for the pigs as well as the people who live on site.



Ironwood has been open for eleven years, so many of our original pigs are now in their senior years and aren't able to get around like they used to. Special care is necessary to provide for their needs, particularly during the heat. One task that has become overwhelming to the point of needing a full time staff member for it alone, is keeping our old folks cool and



**Stephanie, Arnold and Petunia**

comfortable. This summer we have Stephanie and Sharon making the rounds with buckets of cold water and bottles of juice. They dip towels into their buckets then drape them over the pigs that are on the list of those that tend to overheat easily or are unable to



**Sharon and Anxiety**

make it to the wallows to keep themselves cool. The ladies also provide diluted juice during the afternoons to keep the old piggies hydrated.

Mary, Taryn and Karisha take turns coming in before sunrise to have the special foods prepared and the tubs loaded up with meds, mashes, juices, etc. The rest of the feeding crew (Andy, Tim, Rob, Lenny, Jonny, Deeanna and Sam) arrive early each morning to get the pigs fed field by field. This process takes several hours to complete, then all the food related items have to be washed or restocked for the next day's use. After taking a break, the staff splits up to take care of the wide



**Lenny Plumbing a New Waterer**

variety of chores necessary to keep the place up and running. We are fortunate at this time to have people on staff with special skills to deal with the maintenance around the sanctuary. Lenny is responsible for installing and repairing water lines, automatic waters, mister systems and other plumbing related issues. Julian has taken on the task of building shelters, feed

troughs, and other carpentry jobs. Jonny keeps all our vehicles in



**Julian Building a Shelter** shape with weekly checks; a list that includes the van, pick-up trucks, water trucks, ATVs and trailers. He also maintains our backup generator and is the "fix it guy" for the many things that crop up.

Besides feeding and caring for the pigs, there are many miscellaneous chores to do throughout the day. Medical issues must be tended to daily.



**Jonny Repairing the B-Pen Cooler**

The next day's medications have to be prepared. Packages of donated items from supporters must be accounted for and put away. Grain and hay have to be



### Mary and Taryn Treating Miss Piggy

restocked at all the feed stations in the different fields. Shade ramadas must be built or repaired.



### Deeanna Unpacking a Box of Donations

The new arrivals and pigs recovering from illnesses or surgeries that live in the holding pens must be rotated for their turns in the exercise yards. Medicines and other supplies have to be inventoried and restocked. Pigs have to be transported to vet appointments and back. The cemeteries have to be maintained and grave markers made. Mud wallows need to be dug out. Fields have to be raked and cleaned. Someone has to make trips to the dump. Cracked pools need to be repaired or

replaced. And so on and so on...the work is plentiful and endless. Some jobs all of us take turns doing while other chores are done by specifically trained staff.

We now have the best hoof and tusk trimming team that we've ever had! Donna, Tim, Rob, Sam and Jonny spend a few hours one or two mornings each week to keep our pigs in shape. We have never had this many people properly trained at trimming. It's wonderful to know that we can keep our pigs' hooves in good condition. With nearly 600 pigs, that's a lot of feet to take care of!



### Andy Stocking the Feeding Stations

We're like ants scurrying around, working hard all day to keep things running smoothly. Sometimes we're working with partners or in teams and at other



### Karisha Rotating Pigs

times individually. Each job is important and necessary to the overall welfare of the pigs and the upkeep of the sanctuary. We are very thankful for our wonderful staff. A great big Thank You goes out to Andy, Ben, C.J., Deeanna, Donna, Eric, Jason, Jeremy, Jonny, Julian, Karisha, Lenny, Mary, Rob, Sam, Samuel, Sharon, Stefanie, Taryn, Tim, and Willie for being out here on site and persevering through the heat to get the job done! ---Donna



### Best Hoof & Tusk Team Ever!



# Open House Coming Soon



Cinder

Every time I think about our annual Open House, I can't help but smile! It's so much fun! We love having everyone out to visit the sanctuary and meet all us pigs. I hope you'll be able to join the festivities coming up on



Saturday, November 10, 2012. Put that date on your calendar! More information will be in the next newsletter. I'll be looking for you!!

Love, Cinder

## Shop Till You Drop



Actually, you can drop first! Drop into your chair, that is, and shop online for shirts, hats, etc. all with the Ironwood logo. It's easy!

Just go to [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org) then go to our Support Page and click on the picture of our staff sporting their Ironwood shirts and hats. Or use your smart phone above. Enjoy shopping from the comfort of your home!



## 2013 CALENDAR

Taryn is busy putting together our Ironwood calendar for 2013. It will feature pigs around the sanctuary. It is of great quality with plenty of room for notes.

The calendar is \$28 which includes shipping. These make great gifts! Order yours today with PayPal by using the donate button on the home page of our web site at [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org) or with your check or credit card in the enclosed remit envelope. Make sure that you indicate that it is for the calendar.



# Sponsor a S



Kwinna

I have been living here for a few years and was quite the "wild child" in the old days. My life began as a feral pig living off of garbage and junk that my family and I scrounged for at a landfill. Life was tough, but now I'm all domesticated and living high off the hog, so to speak!



Dharma

My silly owner took me from a neighbor knowing that she had to move in a few months then had to "get rid of me" when she couldn't (or wouldn't) take me with her. Just as well...this place is way better than living with her!



Timmy

You've probably... My owners got a c... and well.... here I... piggy family got t... live together in a big pigs.



Meleah

I came here at a few months of age and this month I'm turning two years old. I'm a big girl now and ready for a sponsor! My owner broke up with her boyfriend then ran off and left me with him. He didn't even want me!



Olivia

I came here six months ago with my sister after our owners moved to a place in town where they couldn't have us. I love it here! There is so much room to play and explore and people pet me all the time. My sister got a sponsor, so now I want one too!



Lawrence

Don't expect m... accordion or any... some fancy hoo... My namesake's... can entertain yo... life!



# Special Pig!



I've heard this story before. My parents got a divorce, sold their house and moved to a new town. I'm 12 now. At least all of my friends are coming with me. We have a big field with lots of other



June

I came to Ironwood with my brother Johnny after he started scaring the kids at our home. (Way to go, bro!) We have settled into life with a herd out in a field. Different than how I grew up, but I like it!



Laura

I've heard that there are people who want to sponsor an older pig. I'm in my senior years and have some arthritis issues. It would be wonderful if someone would be willing to support me in my golden years. I've been here for awhile and do not yet have a sponsor.



Welk

I want to start playing the guitar, although I can do a little bit of work to a nice polka. I don't have the talent I don't have, but I have you with stories about my

## JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

The sponsor program at Ironwood represents a huge part of the support system for the pigs. Become a part of our family of sponsors by choosing one of these piggies in need. In return for a \$30 monthly



Louie

Donna

donation to provide your pig's share of sanctuary expenses, you will receive pictures and updates of your special pig. Please help us continue to meet our goal of providing a nurturing environment for pot bellied pigs in need!

---Donna

# CryoSurgery

**W**e are often asked about how our pigs handle being exposed to the Arizona sun. It actually is a big issue for us. Aside from the heat we also have to worry about skin cancer. Pigs, especially white ones, are very susceptible to skin cancer just like people and many other animals. We have had very few black pigs get melanoma, but quite often many of our white pigs get squamous cell carcinoma.



## Dewars and Cryogun Including Attachments Were Donated by Brymill Cryogenic Systems

Squamous cell carcinoma in pigs is not much different than in people. These cancers start off small but if left untreated can become very large, irritating sores that have the potential to metastasize and grow deep. However, if caught early enough they can be dealt with and may not return. We have observed the cancer most commonly develop on the sides of the pigs' stomachs but we have also seen them on

their sides, legs and behind their ears. Not only are they painful sores, but they also attract flies which can add to the annoyance for the pigs.

We provide a lot of shade around the sanctuary for the pigs but often times they choose to sunbathe and even a small amount of sun can hurt their skin just like ours. For the ones that are prone to sunburn, we apply a sunblock mix to their ears and any other sensitive areas. We have even used shirts on some that are extra sensitive. Even with all of our preventative efforts, we still have many pigs that succumb to the squamous cell cancers. When we notice these cancers forming we perform cryosurgery as soon as we can on them.

Cryosurgery involves using a cryogun, which Brymill Cryogenic Systems of Connecticut donated to us along with a large and medium sized dewar for liquid nitrogen storage a couple of years ago. It sprays liquid nitrogen to freeze the affected tissue. Ben and Mary have been trained to do this so they are the ones who perform it here. Ben always ensures that there is enough liquid nitrogen in the storage dewar, but we often have to refill the cryogun during a surgery depending on how many cancers the surgery pig has.

Depending on the number of



## Archer During Cryosurgery

cancers, this can be a fairly quick procedure. Sometimes we have more serious cases, like Demetrius shown in the pictures,



## Ben Freezing Skin Cancers on Archer Using the Cryogun

which can take longer and may even take more than one session. We will usually do two pigs in one day, one with fewer cancers and one that is a more severe case. In order to prepare the pigs for their cryosurgery, we bring them



into our pen area where we can monitor them. They are taken off of food and water the night before their surgery. Prior to their surgery we give them a sedative injection before we can mask them down with anesthesia. Once we know that their vitals are good and that they are handling the anesthesia well, we begin the surgery.



### Demetrius Recovering From Cryosurgery

We spray the affected areas three times each throughout the surgery to ensure that they are fully treated. In severe cases Mary will use a blade to cut the cancer down. In these cases we need to use styptic sticks to tighten up any

blood vessels to ensure they won't bleed. Once we are done spraying the cancers we stay with the pig until they are awake and stable.

The next day we start applying a thuja cream which is typically used for burns. We also give them pain medication based on the size and amount of cancers we froze. The spots we freeze will scab over and heal. We try to take before and after pictures to monitor if the cancers come back and how many new cancers the pigs develop.

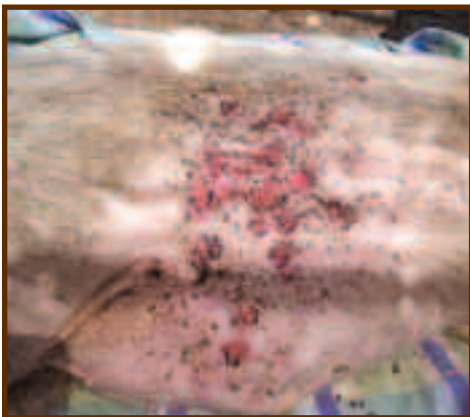
We currently have 590 pigs, 74 of which are white, plus a black and white girl that gets skin cancer on her stomach. We are continuously

monitoring these white pigs, watching for skin cancers and evaluating their healing after we freeze them. Some need cryosurgery more often than others while some of our white pigs never develop cancer. We keep a close eye on the ones that we know are more prone. Archer is one of our pigs that has had cryo surgery a few times and will undoubtedly need it again.

Demetrius has only had the surgery once but can't handle the anesthesia for too long, so we weren't able to freeze all of the cancers. We will have to bring him in for another round.

Before we had the cryogun we had to take our pigs to the vet for the surgery. It's been a great help to be able to perform these surgeries at the sanctuary. Not only does it save us money, but it saves the pigs the stress of being transported to the vet and then back home. We are very grateful to be able to help these cancer prone pigs.

---Taryn



### Demetrius During Cryosurgery

## Ironwood Jigsaw Puzzle

As some of you know I am always posting new photos on the Ironwood Facebook page. After seeing a recent photo someone said they would like it as a jigsaw puzzle. Well, I have decided to run with this idea. I ordered a couple of puzzles and was very pleased! They are 250 pieces, great quality and come in a photo box. They make great gifts!



We are selling them for \$30 which includes shipping. If you would like to order one, you may do so with me, Taryn, through our Facebook page, with Donna at [pigsponsors@yahoo.com](mailto:pigsponsors@yahoo.com) or use the remit envelope included with this newsletter. You can send a check, use your Credit Card or use PayPal. For PayPal go to our web site at [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org). Make sure that you specify that it is for the jigsaw puzzle.

# Miki's Path To Ironwood

**L**ast year Petfinder Foundation funded a quality of life program at Pima Animal Care Center. I was hired as the trainer, my job being to work with adoptable dogs that had been housed at the shelter for more than two weeks to help stave off the negative effects of long-term kenneling. The majority of animals that come into PACC are dogs and cats. However, one day last October as I was making my rounds, I looked into the owner row kennels, the cages where the stray animals wait for their families to come and claim them, and saw a scared black pot-bellied pig anxiously pacing in a kennel.



The Animal Control Officers told me the pig had been seized from an abandoned home that had been foreclosed and that the county would have to hang onto her for ten days to give the owners an opportunity to come get her. In the meantime, some of the higherups at the shelter thought that she might be more comfortable somewhere besides the shelter. The feed store that



supplies PACC with dog and cat food agreed to house her. Under a tree in the back of their parking lot, they built a 10x10-foot cage, put down some straw and made her a little house. After her time was served I headed over to the feed shop along with the Properties Manager from the county. We put the pig in a large plastic dog crate, loaded her into my little Pontiac Vibe and I drove her out to Ironwood.

Shortly after arriving at the Sanctuary, Miki, named after a staff member's grandma, moved into the West Field. Now she can often be found napping in a house in the back of the field that looks out onto the hogs' barn.

---Rob

*[Miki is a friendly girl that enjoys being petted and really likes to have her back rubbed. She is a rather solitary pig and has not yet made any close friends with the other pigs. However, she does mingle with the group while grazing on hay or hanging out under the shade ramada to take a*

*dip in the pool to cool off. Miki is very interested in our four hogs and spends time chatting with them through the fence. She is on a diet, striving to lose enough weight so that she can be spayed. (That was all our idea, not hers!) We feed her in a pen to control the amount of food she eats. Miki is a sweet beautiful girl, whether sporting her completely shedded summer look or modeling a full winter coat.]*

---Donna

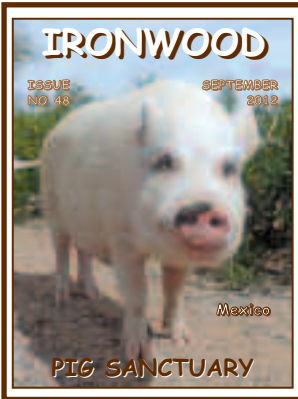
## Hoof & Tusk Trimming

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](mailto:hoofandtusk@yahoo.com) to set up an appointment.





# Front & Back Cover



**M**exico and all of his companions, 9 adults and 10 babies arrived at Ironwood on a hot day in May in 2007 from New Mexico. They are feral pigs and came from a bad situation where many others had been shot. Their rescue was the result of the efforts of many folks

who got involved to save the lives of these pigs. Mexico was one of the adolescents of the group. The babies were adopted although some have been returned. Mexico and the other adults have remained with us in their large field in the back of our property. They are still wild animals, but they accept us on some level. It has never been possible for us to trim their feet and tusks in spite of great effort on our part, but all their other needs have been met. Mexico is quite a beauty, so it is nice to show him off as our cover boy.



**P**ictured here are a number of our Annex pigs enjoying the shade under a tree. All of these pigs were left on the property when we bought the facility in foreclosure

in May of 2003 in order to save the pigs from going to auction once the property was sold. Most of these pigs have lived their entire lives at our Annex. Many were born or rescued in the 1990's and many more were born in 2000 on the property. They are cared for by a family who lives on the property and as they are in need of extra care they are brought to us at our main facility. There are now only about 50 pigs at our Annex facility. They roam the property as they have done for years and will do until their time comes to leave this earth. Many have never been socialized with humans, but they have never lacked companionship with each other as seen in this picture.

## Our Wish List

### GIFT CARDS

Fry's  
Home Depot  
Lowe's  
Office Max  
Office Depot  
Staples  
PetSmart  
Target  
Discover  
MasterCard

### TOOL TIME

Lineman's Pliers  
Utility Knives  
Duct Tape  
25' Power Lock Tape Measure

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Postage Stamps (Forever, 45, 32, 20 cents)  
Used Blankets are always welcome  
Flaxseed Capsules  
Ensure or Equivalent - Vanilla Only  
(Liquid or Powder)  
Peanut Butter - Creamy Only  
Mineral Oil  
Antacid comparable to Zantac - No Tums  
Children's Multi-Vitamins - No Iron  
Digital Video Camera - Late Model

### BIG STUFF

Van, Cargo - Late Model Full Size, rear A/C  
Truck - Late Model 3/4 Ton Long Bed Pickup  
Skid Steer  
Golf Cart

## Additional Ways to Support Your Sanctuary

### Credit Card

Share your passion for Ironwood by getting a Sanctuary credit card then 2% of gas and grocery purchases and 1% of all other purchases will be donated to the Sanctuary. Plus we will receive a \$50 bonus when you make your first purchase. Apply today by visiting [www.CardLabConnect.com/ironwoodpigsanctuary](http://www.CardLabConnect.com/ironwoodpigsanctuary).

### Be a 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 checking or savings account each month.

You can use the enclosed Envelope or go to the Support page of our web site to sign up.

**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](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org).**

### Visit Our Web Site

[www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org)

You can read any of our 48 newsletters, make a donation using PayPal, sponsor a pig or make a sustainer donation by going to our Support page. At the bottom of the Support page is an extensive list of businesses that will match or triple your donation.

### Sponsor a Pig

The sponsor program at Ironwood represents a huge part of the support system for our pigs. Become a part of our family of sponsors by choosing a piggy in need. In return for a monthly donation you will receive pictures and updates of your special pig. Please help us continue to meet our goal of providing a nurturing environment for pot bellied pigs in need!

## 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. These donors feel that they need their assets during their lifetime but decided to link themselves with the ongoing life of the Sanctuary by making bequests through their estate plans.

Many 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. The 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.



## 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.

## Blankets

**W**e truly appreciate all the blankets and comforters that are sent in or dropped off for our pigs. We continue to stockpile those all summer in preparation for the winter weather. Having nearly 600 pigs means we need probably triple that number of blankets. The pigs love to burrow down in piles. Some love to shred them to make nests. Sometimes blankets get drug through cactus and are no longer useful. Some get mildew from the rains. In other words, we never really have enough.

The past few years we have been very lucky to have gotten access to mass quantities of blankets which have carried us through. Unfortunately, we are without those sources this year. One supporter was able to get hundreds of blankets for us a couple of years ago through a Las Vegas hotel that was “upgrading” and getting rid of their bedspreads. If anyone has contacts in the hotel business or hears of a hotel remodeling or shutting down in their area, it would be a tremendous help if you were able and willing to contact the management about donating unwanted blankets or bedspreads (but not sheets) to the sanctuary, which would be a tax break for them since we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



**Porkchop Loves Her Blankets! She Wraps Herself Into a Cocoon**

Another volunteer made scheduled trips to Goodwill’s major donation warehouse here in Tucson to collect truckloads of excess blankets that were destined for a recycling plant. If that could happen in several cities, our pigs would be set!

We need your help! Any other ideas you have and are able to follow through with that would provide large quantities of blankets would be very much appreciated by all here at Ironwood but especially by the piggies!

---Donna



**Waiting in Line at the Water Fountain**

Snuggles and Hero are best friends. She waited patiently until Hero finished getting his drink before she moved in to get hers.

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# **IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS**



**Annex Pigs Enjoying The Shade**