

IPSONWOOD

19th ANNIVERSARY

SUE
NO 94

MAY
2020

Honey

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

May 2020

Dear Supporter,

As we end our 19th year at the sanctuary and begin our 20th I want to thank all of you who have been with us for nearly all of the 19 years as well as those of you who have joined us along the way. It is truly humbling to have such great support that has allowed us to have a thriving sanctuary. We have



Luke, In His Upper Teens

literally save thousands of pigs' lives. We have not only saved their lives but have given them a good full life at Ironwood and a peaceful passing when their time has come. We have also avoided hundreds of births through our spay and neuter efforts and our outreach programs. Just this week we were contacted by a woman who had rescued 9 pigs who she said were starving. However, her situation was spiraling out of control because of the breeding. One of our volunteers went to her place and got the pigs separated and we made the arrangements to have all the males neutered immediately. We avoided the birth of many more babies by taking this action quickly and were able to make that decision because of your continued support.

We have had nineteen years of rewards and trials. In the beginning we were just Ben, Mary and Donna. Donna had sold her house and had to move in while we were still under construction. Ben and I were still living in Tucson. We quickly made a yard for her pigs, but Donna still had no electricity, no running water, was using a port-a-potty and it was hot! We worked to get Donna set up and drilled our first well. We then started to get our Visitor Center on line while we were in the process of building our first pig pens. Our first pigs arrived on June 10, 2001. The construction continued through the summer and on 9-11-01 we were all here building our first field while listening to the ensuing horror developing that day. We purchased an old military generator and that, along with one other military generator and our few solar panels, supplied our power for the next eight years while we were off the grid. We had battery banks and invertors to store the power so the generator needed to run only a few hours a day.



Gracie & Neil, Elderly Friends

The herd began to grow and the construction continued. As the numbers grew we began to divide the large field into smaller fields to better suit the pigs' personalities, abilities and ages. We ran thousands of feet of water lines throughout the property.

Those were the early days. We have come a very long way and life is much easier with paved roads and electricity so we can enjoy air conditioning during these brutal summers. Water is still a huge issue. We have drilled three more wells over the years and none have fully supplied our needs. We must continue to haul a great deal of water. We have two 4,000 gallon water trucks and have added water tanks with a capacity of 112 thousand gallons. We get enough water from one of the wells to sustain us only during the winter months.

We have taken in pigs from 3 failed rescues over the years including over 200 from the rescue where we first volunteered. The owner went into foreclosure in 2003 and we bought her property along with the remaining 113 pigs. This became the Annex. It is now closed and the final pig from there passed away this past week. Richie was in his twenties. Most of the pigs from the other rescues have passed on now as well. We were so glad we were able to step up and take those pigs in their time of need.

So here we are today with 620 plus pigs and 33 full time and part time employees. We owe so much to our staff, many of which have been here for many years. We now have 30 fields, 450 plus shelters, two 4000 gallon water trucks, tons of hay and grain, and of course hundreds of blankets donated by all you supporters. We also have financial audits and all that goes with keeping those records. We are now a large sanctuary and continue to save many pigs like

Penny who came to us two days ago after having been attacked by the owner's dogs. Little **Emmie** was found squeezed into a tiny cage and being sold at a swap meet. A lady who had been here to volunteer purchased her then brought her to us. These are the rewards that we so often have. Having these pigs in a safe, happy environment is what we do, what we have done for 19 years and what we will continue to do with your support.



We are once again in uncharted waters with COVID-19 raging around the world. I am hopeful by the time you read this newsletter the worst will be behind us. We will do all we can to keep our staff safe and healthy, our pigs cared for in these uncertain times and emerge intact and ready to face whatever other challenges we may have in the coming months and years. We are strong because our support is strong. Thank you so very much for these 19 years of saving pigs.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder



Celebrating Mothers

With Mother's Day coming up this month, I thought we should honor the piggy mothers currently living at Ironwood with their children. We have been 100% successful in preventing any pregnancies from occurring at the sanctuary during the 19 years since we opened the doors, but there have been rescues of moms with babies as well as pregnant moms who later gave birth here. It is always fun to have the babies around and watch them grow up, but reproducing pigs is certainly nothing we condone or encourage. There are simply too many unwanted, homeless pigs without intentionally adding to those numbers. All the mothers in this article arrived at Ironwood with their children. The majority of them have maintained a loving, caring relationship with one another over the years.



Precious



Precious' Kids
Christie, Lily and Patch

Stella and her daughter Morgan have lived at the sanctuary since August 2014. They live with a herd of 17 pigs in the Northwest Field. The girls have been the very best of friends all these years.

They have always shared a shelter together. As she has aged, Stella tends to rest more often and stick closer to home. Morgan still likes to wander around the field but always comes looking for Mom when it is time to settle down for the day. The dad, Dexter, visits with them on occasion but has nothing close to the bond that mother and daughter share.

Precious, her mate Mr. Pitts and their children came to Ironwood twice actually. They first came in December of 2015 to be spayed and neutered then returned home after their recovery. A year later in December 2016, all the pigs came back due to the medical and financial problems of the owners. Precious has a daughter, Lily from one litter then Christie and Patch from another litter. All four of the

girls as well as Mr. Pitts continue to live together in one shelter. They have a fantastic relationship with one another while also being independent. All of them like to wander throughout the large North Field that they share with a herd of 39 pigs. They go off to do their own thing each morning but when nap time rolls around, everyone comes home to hang out with Precious and relax with the family for the remainder of the day. They are a sweet group.

Momma arrived in June 2018 with her daughters, Smokey and



Smokey, Piggy Pooh & Momma

Piggy Pooh. All three were very obese so were given an area of their own due to their inability to compete within a herd. Momma and her girls love each other dearly. They are always snuggled together in their house. After nearly two years all three girls are down to their goal weight and look great. Momma is rather lame



Morgan & Stella (mom)

with joint issues, so the ladies are still on their own for now, but they like it that way.

made a lot of other friends that all hang out together

in a community area.

Another loving family that has embraced

many other friends

is Miriam and her daughters, Liz and Janelle. I often see the three



Ruby (mom), Pearl & Sapphire

wanderer while Ruby and Pearl stick closer together. Daisy and Jade are a mother/daughter pair in the North Field. Like Sapphire, Jade wants to explore and will spend a lot of time out and about while

Daisy putters around close to the house. They always end their

day snuggled up in the house together just like Ruby and her girls.

Two families came in the summer of 2017 and later moved to the Main Field at the same time. Lucinda's children, Latoya and Johnny Rocket do visit with her some but both found other groups



Charlotte & Sweet Cheeks



Rosalie, Charlotte & Sugarfoot

In December 2018 Charlotte came here with her daughter Sweet Cheeks and her best friend Rosie who had two daughters, Rosalie and Sugarfoot. All five girls soon went to be spayed. Sadly, Rosie died of surgical complications. Charlotte immediately took Rosalie and Sugarfoot under her wing and became their adoptive mom. She is a great mother and does a good job of looking after her 3 girls.



Latoya



Johnny Rocket

of them napping together in the afternoons under a favorite palo verde tree. Sadie, Teddy and several others frequently join them there. Miriam is quick to defend her girls though if anyone starts any trouble.

Then there are three beautiful gems in the Peoria Field...

Ruby, Pearl and Sapphire.

Ruby and her daughters have lived

here for four years and are still very close. Sapphire is a bit of a



Liz & Miriam



Miriam & Janelle

They all live out in the Princess Field now but have maintained a close relationship. The family has



Jade & Daisy (mom)

to spend the majority of their time with. Shakira has kept in close contact with her daughters, Shelley and She-ra. Those three are almost always together. Her son Pedro is a bit more independent but has recently begun to spend more time with his mom after the sudden loss of his brother Miguel.



**Pedro, Shakira (mom),
Shelley & She-Ra**

Onyx is actually Iris' grandmother but their relationship is much like mother and daughter. The two came here in August of 2019. They live in The Galaxy, a small field with a herd of 8 pigs. Onyx and Iris chose a shelter in a quiet corner of the field and spend nearly all their time side by side.



**Onyx (grandmother)
& Iris**

Mothers are special in many ways. The piggy moms show their love and affection toward their offspring by nuzzling and snuggling with them. They provide comfort and safety by remaining nearby as

well as sleeping next to their babies. It is always a sweet sight to see pigs cuddled together, but there is something especially heartwarming when it is a mom and her children, no matter how old they've grown. Thank you for making it possible for these families to live happily together at the sanctuary. Happy Mother's Day everyone!

—Donna

For those of us that work here, there are always particular pigs that you develop a special attachment to. When asked who her favorite was, there was no hesitation when Kim said it was Phil. Kim has been here for just over three years, starting as a member of the watering team then becoming an animal caretaker and joining the trimming team.

Phil in Far East Field is my favorite pig at Ironwood. He is my favorite for numerous reasons but just to name a few... Phil first caught my attention because of his beautifully multi-colored coat. He is also very friendly and always hangs out with me while I'm working on anything in his field. He comes running when I call his name. Phil really is the best pig friend anyone could have.

...Kim

My Favorite Pig



Rescue Update

With the overwhelming response and concern for the animals involved in the hoarding/neglect case in the March newsletter, I wanted to send an update to let everyone know about the remaining animals on the property and the wonderful news about the pigs we rescued.

I'm happy to report the two horses pictured in our newsletter have both been removed from the property. The extremely emaciated pony was surrendered to a local horse rescuer and placed in a home qualified to aid in his recovery. His teeth were floated and he has been gaining weight and doing very well. He'll spend the rest of his days as a happy, healthy and very spoiled boy. The owner sold the larger horse to a local, private horse owner and it's reported that he's doing very well. There is one remaining pony at the property and the owner refuses to surrender him. We had his feet trimmed while we were there and I have confirmed his teeth were floated back in January. We have made several attempts to acquire the pony and several offers for his safe placement, but sadly, with very few laws in place to protect livestock animals in the state of AZ, we have been unable to take custody of him. I can confirm that he is still a healthy weight, his feet are comfortable and he is able to eat when he's fed.

For the same legal reasons, we are unable to remove the nine goats on the property. We had someone come and look at them to assess their needs and we advised the owner they were in desperate need of hoof trims, proper diet and parasite medications. We strongly encouraged her to surrender



Minnie

This is Minnie and she was by far the worst pig we removed from the property that day. She was skin and bones and we were all very worried she wouldn't make it. She has had some medical issues and needed an emergency spay, but she's doing absolutely amazing now and looks fantastic!! She's being fostered by Samantha with her two bonded mates in Surprise, AZ.

the goats, as we had safe placement in rescue for every one of them on site. Unfortunately, she has consistently refused our requests and continues to house the goats at this location. We have made several calls to the sheriff's department to request welfare checks on the remaining animals, especially when it's reported that she has no feed on site, but every time they have responded to our calls, she has the necessary feed and water the law requires and they have been unable to get involved.

Of course we would like to be allowed to remove the remaining animals, the same way she allowed us to remove the pigs, but without her agreeing to surrender them, we can only keep a close eye on the situation and involve law enforcement when we believe the

animals aren't being fed. I can assure you, we have not forgotten about them and it certainly has made us take a closer look at the laws we have in place in our state, or the lack thereof.

It's been two and half months since we called on the pig community to open their homes to these neglected, malnourished and starved pigs and I have to admit, I was nervous about all the things that could potentially happen with so many animals going into homes with possible problems we were unaware of. Once again, I've been overwhelmed with the amazing lives these pigs have been provided by the generous people who took them in. I've been getting updates and pictures continuously of all the progress they've been making – so many of them were fearful, untrusting and had seemingly given up but the difference in just a few months has given me so much hope for their futures. We had a few medical emergencies initially, a pyometra that needed an emergency spay, an engorged belly full of food and most recently a hoof issue, but overall, not as terrible as it could've been. I commend the families who've done an amazing job at taking care of these pigs, the rescue team for the wonderful support they've provided and the vets that have been willing to answer questions and give advice during this entire process. It would take several pages to give an update on each pig but I can assure you, every story has brought a smile to my face. Some of these pigs have found their forever homes with their foster families, some have been adopted by other families and a large portion of them will be ready for adoption into good homes this year.

—Carrie

Sponsor a S



Domino

I was dumped out with my babies near a goat farm. The farmer was going to shoot us but one of his workers called Ironwood to come save us.



Waddles

I was lost and wandered into a nice man's yard. He took care of me and tried to find my owners but couldn't. A vet told him to call Ironwood and now, here I am!



Floki

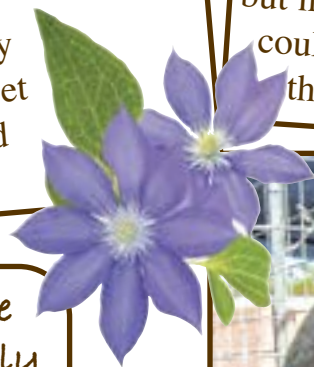
My family lost to foreclosure. The mom but never could come live at the sanctuary



Miles & Donna

These piggies need your love and support. A \$30 monthly donation will help provide the basic daily needs of the pig of your choice. You will receive pictures along with information on your pig's background. Later in the year you'll get an update to keep you connected to your piggy. Please join Ironwood's family of sponsors today!

—Donna



Wilma

My family couldn't take me anymore. Mom and Dad had trouble with everything. I need to make things easier

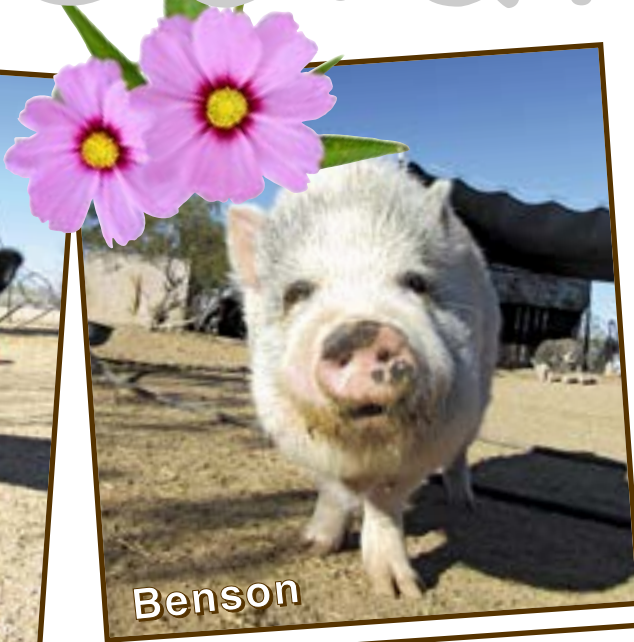
Special Pig!



their house in a
ey boarded me here
find a place where I
e with them. Now
is my home.



n't take care of
om got real sick
ble keeping up
I came here to
er for them.



Benson

My family was moving and
didn't want to take me along.
That made me sad, but then I
got to come here to live
with a whole herd of nice
piggies. How cool is that!



Hansel

My owner had my sister and me for
only 8 months then decided she
couldn't afford to keep us. The
truth was she bred us but didn't
make much money off our babies.



Chewey

Another rescue put me in a foster
home, but those people said I was
aggressive and mean. Then I
came to live here.
Everybody is so nice to
me. I love it here!



Gretel

I'm so glad Hansel and I came to
live here. We got fixed so there
will be no more babies. We live
with other pigs and have lots of
space to play in. It's peaceful!

Ashley's Pigs

My name is Ashley. I have been working at Ironwood since June 2019, and as of December 31, 2019, I adopted two pot-bellied pigs.

I have always been an animal lover. It didn't matter the size, species, color, or breed, I have always loved animals. One animal in particular I always wanted to adopt was a pot-bellied pig. A couple of years ago, a friend introduced me to Ironwood Pig



Mimosa, Ashley & Alden

the Princess Field and now the piggies needed to be watched. Four others and I spent the whole work day watching, learning and making sure the pigs were safe and not harming each other. As time went on and the pigs settled into the field, I became trained on different things: watering, towels and other general tasks. After a month I was offered the position to be a full time feeder. I accepted without any hesitation. I love being at the sanctuary. Being around and caring for the pigs brings me a joy that no other job could provide.

As a feeder I get to work one-on-one with more of the pigs. I get to see what it takes to care for these animals: the highs and the lows. I've seen a lot of the health issues that can arise such as arthritis, skin problems, abscesses and hoof/tusk issues. I have seen that with proper love and care these beautiful and loving animals can make great family members for a

very long time. However, of all the things I've learned, the most important is that a pig needs another pig.

When adopting through the sanctuary, one of the things that we stress is the need to adopt not just one but two pigs. A lot of pigs that come into the sanctuary from single-pig households have a lot of aggression issues. As a coworker once told me, "They need another pig to speak pig with." Pigs can get along with other animals but in the end they need that familiarity of each other to return to; their own herd with its own hierarchy even if it is just a herd of two.



Sanctuary. I always read the newsletters. I meant to come do a tour but kept missing the tour season. At that time owning a piggy of my own wouldn't have been possible. In June of 2019 I began searching for a new job. One of the first jobs I came across was for Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. I applied and was hired.

When I first came to the sanctuary my job was as a watcher. We had just integrated 19 new pigs into



I had been working at the sanctuary for about five months when I felt like I finally had done all of the necessary research. This included contacting the city zoning department, learning about nutrition and shelter and factoring in possible future medical costs. In November we as a family made



the decision to adopt two pot-bellied pigs. We decided to forgo any gifts under our tree and work together to get the yard ready for the piggies to come home. We prepared a separating fence, a shelter, proper shade and several watering areas. In our house we have four dogs. I knew we needed to be able to separate the dogs and the pigs, especially when we weren't around. We were also prepared that if our dogs and pigs didn't get along that

a large metal fence with chicken wire to keep them separated. We are fortunate that our dogs and pigs coexist when we are home, but we still do not leave them unattended together. They get to share the backyard and sometimes the inside of the house when we are home.

One day after work I brought my family up to decide who we would adopt. We ended up adopting Mimosa and Alden. Just like any animal, it feels like they chose us. We went into different pens and my husband and kid both petted and loved on the



piggies, but when we went into the pen with babies who had been born in June, it was just meant to be. Mimosa immediately walked up to my son and wanted all the attention and Alden just wanted to be around us. Once the yard was completely ready and we passed our yard check, the babies came home.

Almost three months later, Mimosa and Alden are part of the family. When we get up in the morning to feed them before going to work, they are standing

by their gate ready. Once we are home we open the gate for the



babies to have full reign of the house and yard; they are always there waiting for us. They love all the attention they get from all members of the family, even my toddler. Mimosa is definitely our bossy little lady; she loves getting belly rubs but she also likes to remind everyone she is in charge from time to time. Alden is our talkative old soul; he is a bit shy but always willing to talk to you when you are around. Mimosa loves to come and stand at the edge of the kitchen while my husband cooks dinner asking for



they wouldn't have to coexist. Half of our 5000 sq. ft. backyard belongs to the pigs and the other half belongs to the dogs. We have



as many fruits and vegetables as she can get. My husband

almost always complies and the piggies get lots of fresh produce

all the love and attention we give to them.



There was a lot of research and patience that went into bringing our babies home. My biggest piece of advice for anyone interested in adopting a pot-bellied pig is to do the research and spend some time being around the pigs through volunteering.

treats. Alden's favorite thing to do is come in the house and steal one of the dog beds from the pups. I have a feeling during the summer he will be found lounging in the house most days. They both wander and sunbathe and enjoy

They really are such a great addition to our family and we plan to love and spoil them for as long as we possibly can.

— Ashley



Mimosa & Alden

Coronavirus

Our thoughts are with you, friends and supporters, as we all try to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and attempt to keep up with the evolving news from around the world.

At Ironwood Pig Sanctuary the health and safety of our staff, the pigs and the community remain our highest priority. We suspended all tours and visitors to minimize unnecessary contact and exposure. Our staff is following health and safety protocols recommended by the CDC. Everyone here is working hard to continue doing what we do best...tending the 620+ wonderfully sweet piggies in our care.

We are all facing uncertainty with and prayer is that those of you support Ironwood as they have go above and beyond your a blessing to make up for those even stop their donations due These are trying times for us together physically, we can still needs of the sanctuary's pig



what the future holds. Our hope who are able will continue to in the past. If you are able to current giving, that would be who may need to decrease or to financial difficulties. all. Even if we can't be work together to meet the population.

From all of us at Ironwood...Stay Positive, Live Smart and Be Healthy!
Thank you for your support!

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

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

>>No Sheets or Towels at this time<<

Fig Newton Cookies
(NOT Individually Wrapped)
Animal Crackers
Miralax
Heavy Duty Duct Tape
Boost Breeze Nutritional Drink
(Orange Only)
Probiotic Capsules
Utility Knives
Famotidine Acid Reducer, 20mg



Hero

GIFT CARDS

Master Card
Discover Card
Fry's
Home Depot
Lowes
Office Max
Office Depot
Staples
Walmart
Amazon
Walgreen's

Blanket and Donation Drop Offs

Winter is over but we continue to stockpile blankets and comforters for the next cold season. Keep 'em coming! There are four locations to drop off those as well as other material donations from our Wish List (no monetary donations can be accepted here).

***For everyone's safety and peace of mind, please make this a "No Contact" drop and simply leave your donations at the door or other specified location. Thank you!**

East Phoenix: Carolyn's in East Mesa near Superstition Springs Mall. Call 480-981-8069.

North Phoenix: Danette's near the 101/Cave Creek Rd area. Call 602-376-1086.

Northwest Tucson: Ben and Mary's near N Oracle Rd and W Hardy Rd. Call 520-631-6015.

East Tucson: Sandra's in the Civano neighborhood. Call 804-840-5296.



Priscilla

Front & Back Cover



Since this is our 19th year Anniversary, we are featuring some of our very senior pigs on the front and back cover this month. We brought Honey, along with 45 others to Ironwood on the 4th of July, 2004. A rescue in Queen Creek, AZ had closed suddenly when the wife and kids left without notice to go

back to England and the husband was left with all the pigs he could not take care of.

The historical information was erased from the computer, so we had almost no history on any of the pigs. All 46 pigs were put into the Northwest Field that was made especially for them. In the 16 years Honey has been here her tongue has always hung out of her mouth. We were concerned that it would dry out or crack, but she keeps it moist and it never has. We are told this is a neurological problem, but other than her desire to bite everyone who goes through her field she has not had any issues.

Honey may look like a sweet girl in this picture, but she was far from it in her younger years. It seemed that someone was always yelling "Here comes Honey. Be careful!" Since most of our tours would go through the Northwest Field, we sometimes would put her in a small side pen until everyone was safely through. I think she loved seeing everyone scatter in her wake.

Well, that was years ago and Honey is now living in the hospice area, but in all these years she is one of the very few pigs living here who has never gone on meds for arthritis. She doesn't run after anyone anymore however. She sure enjoys the comfort of her barn and afternoon treats and juice that are brought around every day. She must be 20 or more since she came here as a full grown adult. We have loved her spirit all these years.



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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 94

Tank was part of another big rescue we did in April of 2008. We were alerted about a couple in Peoria who had 62 counts of animal cruelty against them and most were for the pigs they had that were breeding. They started with a boar (Tank) and a couple females that quickly grew into a large herd. Many of the babies were being taken by coyotes and hawks while others were simply dying from exposure. We geared up to go get them and went up with staff, carriers and hog panels to make a chute. We loaded 33 pigs including pregnant females and brought them to Ironwood. We soon had a total of 45 due to births. We built a field for them and called it Peoria since that is where the pigs came from. Tank is the granddaddy of them all. He lived in the Peoria Field with his extended family for many years. Once he became too old to live in a large field he was brought to one of our small areas for his retirement. He enjoys his retirement which also includes his fruit and juice every afternoon. He developed a blocked urethra awhile back and had to have a tube cystotomy from which he recovered and is enjoying more years of good life with us. He has always been quite shy, but he has endeared himself to us and we love him.



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.

CARES Act Helps Non Profits

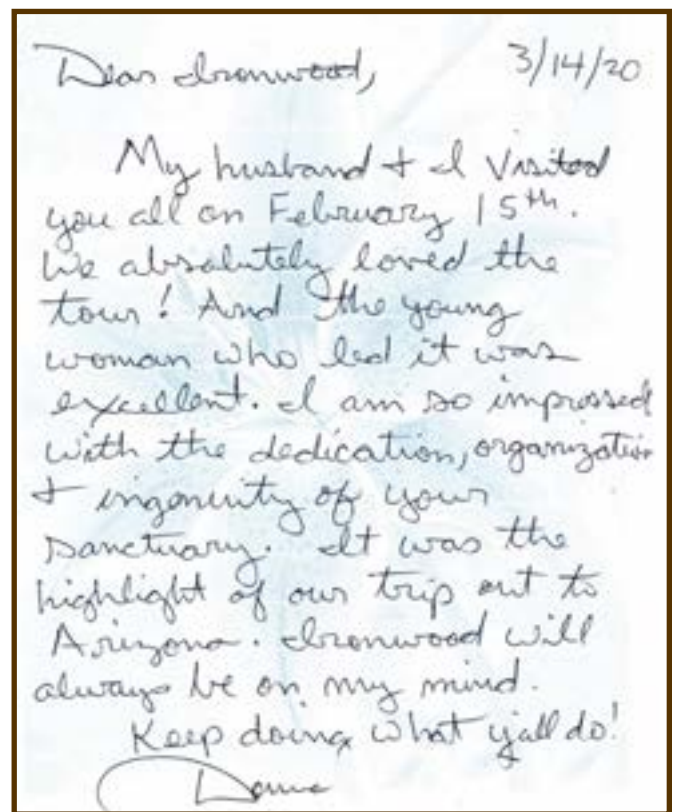
Friday, March 27, 2020 Congress passed and the President signed into law the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**, a \$2 trillion economic stimulus package legislated to provide immediate relief for nonprofits, businesses, individuals and state and local governments.

One of the reasons for the Act was to help nonprofits deal with the anticipated loss of income from their supporters due to the loss of jobs across the nation. We hope that you are able to take advantage of this aid when donating to Ironwood.

Charitable Giving Incentives:

The Act creates a new above-the-line deduction up to \$300. This deduction is taken directly from your income before taxes and is particularly helpful for those that do not itemize their donations. This applies to contributions made in 2020. Refer to Section 2204 of the Act.

And for those who itemize their deductions, the law also lifts the existing cap on annual contributions, raising it from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent. For corporations, the law raises the annual limit from 10 percent to 25 percent. Refer to Section 2205 of the Act.



IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

POST OFFICE BOX 35490

TUCSON, AZ 85740-5490

520-579-8847

ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com

www.ironwoodpigs.org

www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

www.instagram.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Tank