

Every year I learn more lessons on my journey. Hope you enjoy this Holiday letter - sent to you with our gratitude!



A Bounty of Blessings

*Sometimes it scares me to be this lucky.
My life is so full and I am so blessed.
This stormy old November day has stirred
up the need to be quiet and grateful -
to reflect on this whirlwind of a year and
to thank you for all you have done!*

*Family - James spun off his own business
this year and it is going so crazy great!
As always, he is my safe harbor and very
best cheerleader - lucky, lucky me.
Ryan C, and darling Kristen, got engaged and
are expecting a baby girl for Valentine's!
Kate graduated with her Masters from Tulane
and we had a wonderful week driving her
to her great new job in Washington D.C.
Kevin is in touch and getting it together.
Ryan P and Chelsie tied the knot at a
wonderful and joyful wedding in April.
Ashley and Justin are really great parents for
red headed, busy and hilarious Baby Bert.
Our moms are our amazing role models - daily
setting the bar for perseverance and support!*

*Lakecliff was less busy this year - only eight
weddings and guests on the weekends.
Still love the weddings - 175 in 12 seasons - so much joy
and laughter and music and tears - blessed!
Guests, as always, make summer so fun. Strangers
when they arrive, huggable friends when they go!*

*WINGS is six years old this month. Over 80 young
men's lives have been changed because of you.
This has been a very profound month for me, as I
reconnected with five former WING-men.
If you have been with us from the start you will
remember Daren - our very first WING-man.
He is doing great and worked at Shell by Rosauers
for over a year - now at Cardinal Glass! Whoo hoo!*

*Brandon stopped by with his wife and two daughters -
two years of sobriety and working at Cherry Growers!
Pablo came by, ran into Riley and got a text from Cody
Edwards - all working, healthy - all forever changed!
Can't tell you how much it means to have these young
men coming back to say how grateful they are - for
our believing in them until they believed in themselves.
You make this happen for our young men - every day!*

*WINGS flipped a house this year. The amazing Walt
wrangled young men, giant boulders, pushy me and
produced the cutest house ever! We're proud of the work,
the guys learned so much, and the house sold in a day!
So many wonderful subs to thank - but special thanks to
Max and Karon - could not have done it without you!
We have been hired by Patricia Kaseberg to work on her
flip - so grateful for her belief in our program!
Patient and loving Petrina has six formerly homeless
women and three kids in housing in The Dalles - wow.
Shawn still rocks out the weekends and guides
the program with his wisdom and kindness.
Gina and Alan are our great new houseparents - they
have brought love and cleanliness with them!*

*We hope to get a YouthBuild grant next year to allow
us to expand and to train kids who don't need housing!
We would be able to add younger kids and women to
train in construction and life skills - fingers crossed!
We are filled to overflowing at the moment with Dillan
& Daniel wrapping up their GEDs - on their way!
Nothing would be possible without my amazing board.
They put on a great event this year - so much support!!
The guys cooked "Friends-Giving" dinner for 30 people.
The dinner's gratitude speeches always make me cry!
Without you and your kindness and support there not be
a WINGS program - Can't begin to thank you!*

*I am not sure why I get to be so lucky, but I do know
I spend every day being consciously grateful.
Hugging the dogs makes everything better and
having great friends is SUCH a blessing!
I am trying to pay more attention, to speak more softly,
to worry less, to laugh more and to pay attention.
I wake up each day and ask to be put to good work
and, sure enough, there is always more to be done.
Knowing I am not really in charge, but just on my
journey, makes the ride so much more wonderful.
So great to be able to give my life over, to trust,
To ask for what I need and create intentions.
I am feeling lighter, hopeful, and knowing you all have
my back - it makes me brave beyond measure!
Thank you all - for my bounty of blessings!*

Wishing you a Bounty of Blessings & Joy in 2015!

Allyson & James!