

# Shannon and Mikey's Eggs and Plants

Destruction Bay

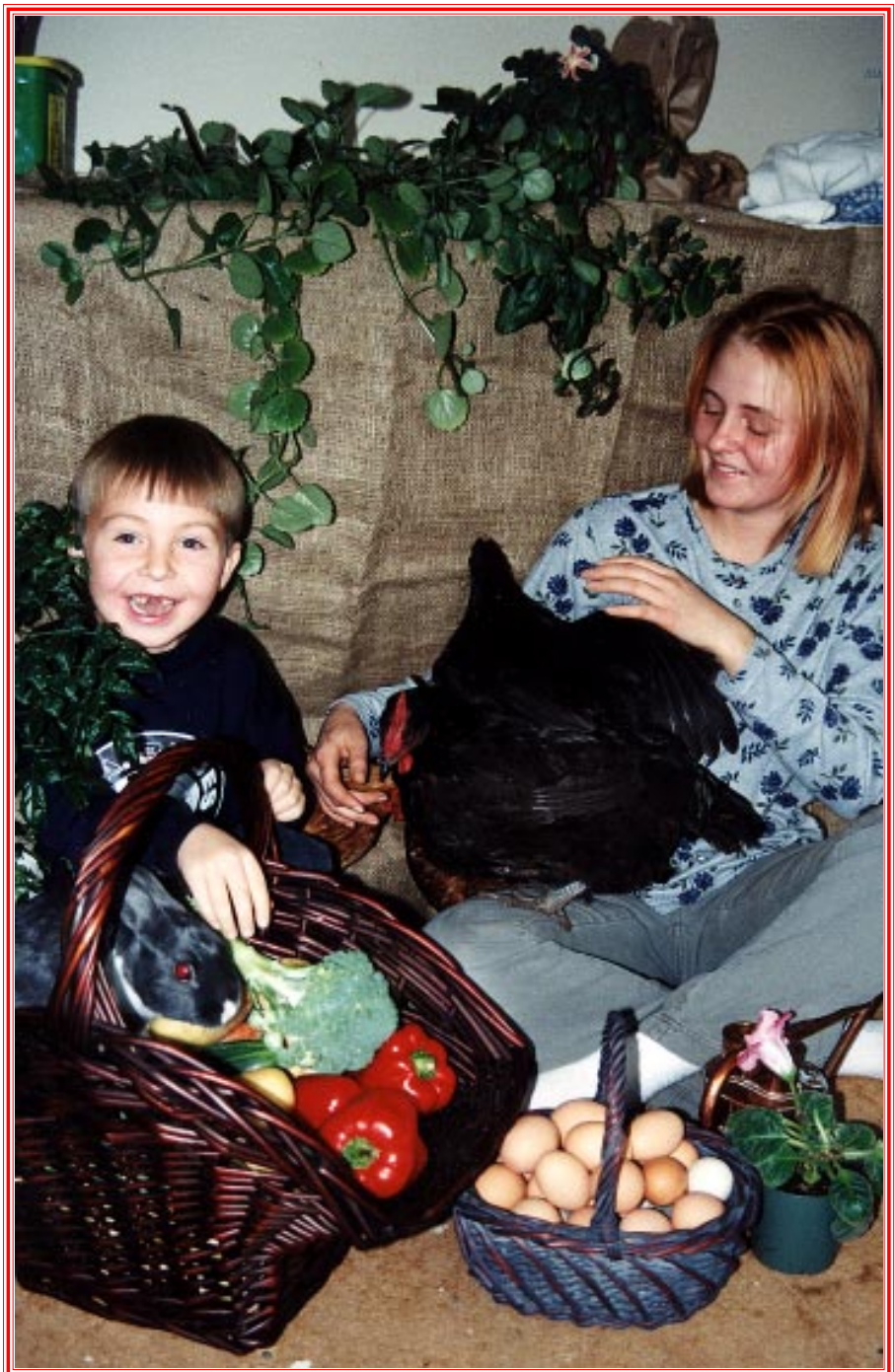
Started: 1997

Contact: Shannon Blahitka

At the age of 13 and 6, this sister and brother team sells eggs, hanging baskets, vegetable and flower bedding plants, and flower pots. Individuals, local campgrounds, lodges, and the Klwane Museum all purchase plants or eggs from Shannon and Mikey.

**Getting started:** When Shannon was ten she researched the cost of buying chicks and how to raise them. Then, after she and her family built a barn and fenced in area for the chickens, she used her savings and a loan from her parents to buy 40 chicks. Her first summer she sold eggs and the following summer she borrowed more money so she could expand the business to include plants. Her brother helps her out with washing eggs and tending the plants. With profits from the egg sales, Shannon has paid back the loans from her parents.

**Key to success:** Shannon gives regular egg buyers a discount, and will do special orders for plants or try new flowers or vegetables people suggest. Shannon and Mikey also spend a lot of time moving the plants in and out of the greenhouse to slowly harden them up. Reinvesting her money into the business has helped it grow.



**Lessons learned:** The biggest difficulty has been trying to collect for eggs and plants she has sold on credit so Shannon now requires money up front for her products.

**Future of business:** Shannon will cull her chickens this fall to lower overhead costs but will buy even more chicks next spring. She would like to get an egg washer to lighten the work load. Her family is building a bigger greenhouse using some of Shannon's profits and she also wants to have a shed built so she can sell nursery products like soil and pots. Shannon plans to race her sled dogs this winter and reinvest any winnings in her business.