



Wings For L.I.F.E. – WINNER of American Probation & Parole Association’s national Award of Excellence in Crime Prevention



What is Wings For L.I.F.E. (WFL)? Why is it so important?

Wings For L.I.F.E. – Life-skills Imparted to Families through Education, is an empowerment program that provides life-skills, education, training, and support for children and family members of prisoners. There is a Pre-K and Tutoring Program for the children after dinner and some of the educational topics that are addressed for the adults include single parenting, finances and how to stretch a dollar, discipline, acceptance issues, prison visits, feeding a family, substance abuse and signs, reintegration and reunification issues, legal issues, public defenders, work/job issues, holidays, and anything else of interest to the group. Search Institute’s® 40 Developmental Assets® are an important part of the training.

In our society where children are all at risk in one way or another, children whose parent(s) are in prison face even more challenges.

WFL is UNIQUE & there is no program in America like it!

- The United States is the world's leader in incarceration with 2.2 million people currently in the nation's prisons, a 500% increase over the last 30 years. (The Sentencing Project, 2015)
- 1 in 35 adults in the United States are under some form of correctional control. Currently 100 million people (1 in 3 U.S. adults) have a criminal conviction that impacts their employability and future. (New Mexico Prison Population Forecast, 2015)
- 95% of offenders will be released back into the community and of those, 50% will return to incarceration within 5 years. (Fiscal Overview of Criminal Justice System, 2015)
- Nationally the female jail population has been the fastest growing correctional population, increasing by an average of 3.4% annually. (NM Prison Population Forecast, July, 2015)
- In the fiscal year 2015 the number of female inmates in New Mexico increased by 11% and male inmates increased by 3.4% (New Mexico Prison Population Forecast, 2015)
- New Mexico spends nearly \$300 million every year to house an average of 6,700 offenders and supervise another 18,000 offenders. (NM Legislature, 2012)
- United States annual correctional costs in fiscal year 2012 was \$52.4 billion. (The National Association of State Budget Officers, 2013)
- **Children of prisoners are up to 72% more likely to become incarcerated themselves. NM is 3rd in U.S. for kids with imprisoned parents.** 52,000+ children in NM (about 10% of NM’s child population) have had a parent in jail/prison. (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016)
- Of the 10% of New Mexico children with an incarcerated parent, 19% are Native American and 11% are Hispanic. (datacenter.kidscount.org, 2015)
- **The annual cost to incarcerate one juvenile in New Mexico is approximately \$182,000** compared to the lowest, \$46,662 in Louisiana, and the highest, \$352,663 in New York. (Albuquerque Journal, 2015)
- **In comparison, New Mexico spends \$7,933 annually on education per child and nationally \$11,014.** (National Center for Education Statistic, 2015)
- WFL is FREE and everyone is welcome!

In 2016 Wings annual budget of \$174,822 served a total of 8,457 people including 2,212 children & teens at a cost of \$20.67 per person.

\$45,724.04 was the cost Wings spent on 2,212 teens and children which is less than 1/3 the cost of just one incarcerated juvenile in the State of NM. (\$182,000)

Just imagine what your donation will allow us to do to expand our programming and teach even more people!

Because of these difficult factors we believe that committed, caring people in our communities need to take an interest in our children. Education and life-skills are necessary to help prevent another generation of inmates and to cut recidivism.

Wings For L.I.F.E. is a program that can work anywhere; inner-city, suburban areas, large and small communities.

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Be a WFL Monday Night Sponsor!

Four Mondays each month Wings offers a dinner and 2 hour program where we share a delicious dinner together, learn something new, and have fun. WFL teaches Search Institute's Developmental Assets[®] (ways to cut at-risk behaviors), manners, life-skills, and ways to strengthen families by providing expert speakers in relevant fields who over the course of a month address finance, jobs, parenting and family communication, and issues unique to incarceration. Children's after-dinner Pre-K and K-12 programming provides tutoring, reading, communication skills and asset awareness.

We are making headway but could use your help.

Average attendance for 2016 ... 70 people per night

Average Dinner cost per person ... \$2.00

Average other expenses ... \$50.00

Average Monday Night Expenses ... \$200.00

Be a designated Dinner Sponsor ... \$250.00 per week

Sponsorship includes: Listing on quarterly WFL schedule and emails weekly to about 8,000 local contacts; set-up of display table, business cards, etc. at dinner you are sponsoring; promotion on all Wings materials.

Or any amount you would like to donate to help provide WFL weekly meetings is gratefully appreciated!

Wing For LIFE International's mission:

Transforming lives to break the generational cycle of incarceration.