

**Comments about Wings Parties from Warden Mark Saunders  
Southeastern Correctional Institute – Lancaster, OH**



- Serves as an incentive because the attending inmates must remain clear of major rule violations for several months leading up to the event to be eligible. Thereafter, the offenders are held, inasmuch as possible, to the high standards that are set in order for them to participate - essentially we know that if they can do it for Wings, then they can do it all the time.
- Inmates who wish to repeat their experience understand and adjust to the fact that they must avoid internal discipline to attend the event the next year.
- Serves as a recruitment tool for our Chapel programs.
- Family involvement is enhanced due to Wings. The prison employees become "real people" to the inmate family members and the event has served as a springboard for greater family involvement in reentry planning. We believe family involvement has great value towards successful reintegration.

**It sometimes marks  
the beginning of a life-  
changing spiritual  
journey for the inmates.**



For our ministry to continue growing at this rate, we MUST expand our support base. PLEASE consider:

- Individual donations—no gift is too small
- Making a pledge today
- Church mission budgets/giving
- Participate in **Change n' Lives** (Collect loose change for Wings)
- United Way
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Gifts in-kind or stock, property, jewelry, etc.

Designated individual and church giving allows us to design our programs and staffing around ministry needs instead of one-time grant funding.



A child of a prisoner is faced with a daunting prospect. Children of inmates have a **70% chance** of ending up in prison themselves!\*

**But this does not have to be!**

**Your gift can make a difference in the life of a child!**

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift for:

- \$25   \$50   \$100   \$250  
Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities in my area.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Wings Ministry is a 501(C) 3 nonprofit organization.

Wings accepts United Way contributions from anywhere in the United States and Combined Federal Campaign #66605.

**Thank You!**

\*Bureau of Justice Statistics

**Special THANKS to our 2008  
Staff who made so much of this  
possible.**

Dolores Hughes  
Database Manager

George White  
Database Manager

Jennifer Broderick, LMSW  
Community Educator

**Donations to Wings can make it  
possible to rehire our dedicated  
staff!**



**Special THANKS to our  
Wings Board of Directors**

- Paul Collins—President
- Jim Harmon— Vice President
- Beth Rose—Secretary
- Debbie Foster—Treasurer
- Karen Bramlitt
- John Compton
- Shirley Compton
- Tracey Meisenheimer
- Judge John Romero, Jr.
- Erma Sedillo

**Wings Ministry**  
2270 D Wyoming Blvd NE #130  
Albuquerque, NM 87112

1-505-291-6412  
1-505-291-6418 Fax

[www.WingsMinistry.org](http://www.WingsMinistry.org)  
[www.WingsForLIFE.info](http://www.WingsForLIFE.info)  
AnnEdenfield@WingsMinistry.org



# Wings Ministry Annual Report 2008



**Letter From Board President – The Rev. Dr. Paul Collins**

2008 was another year of growth and expansion for the Wings Ministry. The opportunities in the Ohio correctional facilities continue to be an open door of ministry, due to the support of many dedicated volunteers and correctional officials. The State of Tennessee, under the leadership of Wings Director MaryAnn Gay, has been very open to the Wings Ministry in their facilities. Shelly Currier, Wings Director in Roswell, New Mexico reports great community support with the awarding of several grants. Colorado Wings Director Lorelei Flagler had four parties in 2008 and is looking to expand in 2009. Because of this expansion, the Board has spent much time in affiliate relationships and policies.

Stable and consistent financial support continues to be a challenge for the Board. We were

grateful for a grant in 2008 from CCF—Compassion Capital Fund, that made it possible to hire three additional part-time staff members, but unfortunately it was only a one-year grant.

We were appreciative of the addition of two new board members; Chaplain John Compton, Chaplain at the Central New Mexico Correctional Facility and Erma Sedillo, recently retired Deputy Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Corrections. One unfortunate news was the death of our volunteer grant writer, Holly Hickson, who was a great asset to us and to our affiliates. During the past year the Wings Board continued to develop our policies and procedures, updating many of our guidelines, strengthening of the role of the committees, improving the web site, developing the financial record keeping, and overall refinement of our operation.

2009 promises to be a very exciting year as we look at several changes with



Wings for L.I.F.E. We have moved to two new locations—Martineztown, near downtown Albuquerque, and the YMCA in the SE Heights. We are in need of help in the development of consistent funding, office space for the developing program, a Director for the Albuquerque area Wings Program, and a clear mandate for the expansion of Wings. We reaffirm our dedication to God and His Son Jesus Christ, and the mission God has given to us to be effective witnesses to the families of the incarcerated.

**Letter From the Executive Director – Ann Edenfield Sweet**

2008 has been another wonderful year for Wings Ministry. I'd like to express my deepest THANKS to our incredible volunteers, small part-time staff, and all our caring, supportive donors! I'd like to share some statistics with you about our ministry in 2008. When I look at these numbers, I'm humbled and honored to have been able to minister to so many people. We have only two rules at Wings events; Everyone is treated as a Child of God and everyone participates.

When I see that we had **9,234 people attend a Wings event in 2008** I am

- amazed.
- I wonder how many people we have helped avoid future incarceration.
- I wonder how a youth volunteer changes his/her perception of fellow students who have incarcerated loved ones after helping with a party.
- I wonder how many youth will one day choose ministry as their vocation by being introduced to 'the least of these' at an early age.

Only God will know the results of our efforts, but I thank you for working with me to share His love.



**2008: 9,234 people  
attended a Wings event.  
Estimated 30,000 hours  
of volunteer time—  
estimated value of  
\$567,029.69!**

2008 Statistics	Inmates	# Adult Guests	# Child Guest	# Adult Vol	# Youth Vol	Prison Staff	Total Attendance	Total Vol	Vol Hours	\$19.51/hr estimated value/volunteer
11 Total Community Parties	0	615	1143	284	144	0	2186	428	4402	\$85,913.09
9 Total Prison Parties	430	842	490	269	0	118	2139	269	4020	\$78,430.20
Total Wings for L.I.F.E.	2115	1049	625	928	0	0	4909	928	4640	\$90,526.40
Add'l Volunteer Support	Boards	Website	Raising \$	Planning	Photos	Finances	Other		16,000	\$312,160.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2545</b>	<b>2506</b>	<b>2258</b>	<b>1481</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>9234</b>	<b>1625</b>	<b>13062</b>	<b>\$567,029.69</b>

**Statistics**

- Donations of food, paper products, craft supplies, clothing, gifts, speakers, meeting space, radio & newspaper announcements for Albuquerque Wings for L.I.F.E are valued at \$332,672.
- 2186 people attended 11 community Wings Parties in NM, Colorado & Tennessee.
- 2139 people attended 9 prison Wings Parties in NM, CO, TN, TX and OH.
- 2402 children and youth were ministered to at parties & WFL.
- 2545 prisoners were ministered to at 9 prison parties and the jails in Roswell, NM.
- Zanios Foods has provided all the food for our annual banquets and all the cookies, punch, and paper products for every NM Wings Party since 1995!
- Numerous churches provided space, volunteers and entertainment for community parties.
- 60+ speakers donated their time to life-skills training for Wings for L.I.F.E. guests in Albuquerque and Roswell.

All this ministry was done on less than \$140,000 and that included one-time grant funding that is not renewable.



**What a Grandmother has to say about Wings for L.I.F.E.**

Wings for L.I.F.E. (WFL) has helped me a lot. It has given me a place to go and meet with people who have been there and understand. When you're so caught up in the emotional side of the situation it is hard to be objective... Wings has steadied me – given me a base to look at different ways to handle the situation, and to help him (grandson) as much as I can. WFL has taught me to look for answers rather than looking at the problem all the time. Incarceration is not the end of the world and WFL has given me the ability to look positively to the future.

**Wings for L.I.F.E. in Albuquerque**  
(Meals, hikes, new friends, crafts, discussion, FUN!)



**What a Warden Says about a Wings Party**

Director Kevin Estep, Cheyenne Mountain Re-Entry Center in Colorado Springs, CO

On Dec. 20 CMRC was changed by an extraordinary program facilitated by Wings Ministry. This Christmas Party was extraordinary in that it was the first time we had allowed the residents (offenders) to invite their entire immediate families (wife, children, parents, whatever) into the facility to celebrate this important holiday, in as close to fashion as possible given the fact that one of the family members was incarcerated, and it occurred inside the walls.

**Not an ordinary Christmas party!**



I've been in the prison management business for almost a quarter century. I've seen plenty of special events held during the Christmas holidays within the prisons...But this was different...Wings Ministry recruited a small army of volunteers...Wings Ministry did an absolutely great job of coordinating the whole event... it was a success. This thing went off without a hitch, which clearly proved to us (often very cautious security personnel) that big things can happen safely, and when they do, they can produce grand results. The spirit of the season, of family, of being reunited, of restoration, of fun and excitement, of children smiling and singing, of people eating and talking, and the spirit of Christ, all permeated the facility. Not just the residents and their families, not just the volunteers, but even the employees and myself felt it. And this bleeds over to those residents who weren't there, and hope to be for the next party.

**It proved the importance of working toward ways to reunite the residents (offenders) with their families, especially their children in a controlled and safe environment.**



A wise correctional system should readily seek the opportunity to engage in activities that include families.

**The spirit of the Christ permeated the facility.**



I encourage all correctional systems to evaluate policy that results in impermeable barriers, or otherwise strangles the opportunity for that small and brief taste of what freedom is like...instills hope and desire.

It proved that the investment truly does pay dividends. These dividends were obvious at the moment, during the fun and excitement. But they were also present afterward in terms of resident morale and behavior and in terms of thanks, appreciation and hope in a future better than the past.

**"Community Parties are also bringing families to church."**

This year, Wings and Wings for L.I.F.E. changed many lives in the United States. One inmate in a prison in New Mexico is currently serving a life sentence. He was so impressed with his experience at a Wings Party, he made a personal \$15 donation and wrote a touching thank you letter to the staff and volunteers.

It has become common for Executive Director, Ann Edenfield Sweet to hear "That party was the most fun I've ever had!"

Community parties are also bringing families to church. Several families that receive food boxes from Joshua's Vineyard in Southeast Albuquerque had not attended church there until they attended the Wings Christmas Party. The next morning they visited the church worship service for the first time.

As the program continues to touch lives, more people ask if there are Wings parties or Wings for L.I.F.E. in states where their loved ones live.



We hope to soon say "yes!"



The volunteers are the **angels** who share Christ's love!

