



# Wings Flyer #40

## Spreading our Wings

Wings For LIFE International  
2270 D Wyoming Blvd NE #130  
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Winter 2015

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## Wings For LIFE International



Wings For LIFE International (WFLI) is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. We are proud to call New Mexico our home and are proud of our work here and around the world. We are making New Mexico, in our opinion, the most progressive State in the United States when it comes to programming in the prisons.

### What we have done

- ◆ Wings For L.I.F.E. – Life-skills Imparted to Families through Education, (WFL) is Wings weekly education program that also operates in Roswell and Clovis, Ohio and Tennessee. WFL won the American Program & Parole Association’s national prestigious **Award of Excellence in Crime Prevention**, recognizing WFL as a proven **Best-practice Model** that works and the best program in America!
- ◆ Thousands of New Mexicans have attended Wings Parties/Family Days in prisons providing hope, inspiration, and rebuilding and strengthening families since 2002.
- ◆ WFLI has done similar programming in 19 states, India, and Kenya. In 2014 WFLI received the **Impact Award** from the State of Ohio Corrections Department for its decade-long work in Ohio adult and juvenile facilities, and Wings WFL educational program is expanding into the Ohio correctional system in 2015.

### Where we hope to be in the next 20 years

- ◆ The NM Corrections Department has expressed a desire to bring Wings For L.I.F.E. – Life-skills Imparted to Families through Education, into all 11 New Mexico prisons, which would teach the inmates the life-skills they will need to be successful on the outside.
- ◆ The NM Corrections Department has requested WFLI to host up to 4 Wings Family Days in all 11 prisons annually.
- ◆ **We are requesting your help to provide staffing and budgeting to fulfill these requests.**

## Wings For LIFE International 20 Years of creating a Legacy of Hope

Date	Event
1987	Ann’s husband imprisoned
1995	1 <sup>st</sup> Wings Event—Christmas Party
1996	1 <sup>st</sup> Wings Easter & Back-To-School Party
2002	Wings gets IRS Status, 501 (c) 3 & Board selected
2003	NM Corrections Dept requests Wings 1st Prison Party held in Los Lunas, NM
2003	Ann publishes book <b>Family Arrested—How to Survive the Incarceration of a Loved One</b>
2005	Ann starts full time with Wings 1 <sup>st</sup> Prison Party in Ohio in December
2006	1 <sup>st</sup> Wings For L.I.F.E. in Roswell, NM
2007	1 <sup>st</sup> Wings For L.I.F.E. in Tennessee Wings collaborates with Prison Fellowship & Operation Starting Line
2010	Wings gets an office and added staff & participates in Social Enterprise Class
2012	1 <sup>st</sup> <b>Celebration of Champions</b> & Wings acquires a van—Ann writes the WFL curriculum
2014	Wings moves to new office & changes name to Wings For LIFE International 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Celebration of Champions</b> Launch of 20th Anniversary Events
2015	20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events Change <i>Prison Party</i> term to <i>Family Day</i>
2015	<i>Family Day</i> Leaders hired for up to 4 <i>Family Days</i> each in 11 NM prisons WFL starts in Colorado and Alabama
2016	<i>Family Days</i> in all 11 NM Prisons WFL starts in Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Hobbs
2017	WFL starts in Farmington
2020	Wings has prison <i>Family Days</i> in 25 states & 25 WFL programs.



## 20 Ways to help Wings For LIFE International Celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

1. Order and read Wings founder's book "Family Arrested – How to Survive the Incarceration of a Loved One"
2. Purchase a copy of "Family Arrested – How to Survive the Incarceration of a Loved One" for an inmate, church, school, library, or business
3. Attend a Wings For L.I.F.E. Monday night program
4. Donate or provide funding for our Back-To-School drive
5. Share the great news about what Wings is doing on your Facebook page, Twitter or other social media site
6. Share your stories, favorite memory and photos of your involvement with Wings for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memory Book
7. Volunteer to participate in a Family Day event at one of New Mexico's prisons
8. Donate food for a Wings For L.I.F.E. program: a main dish, salad or dessert
9. Visit Wings website to learn more about our programs
10. Purchase a ticket or table for our 20th Anniversary Banquet on April 24
11. Donate items for our spring and/or fall garage sale - Dates to be announced
12. Bake cookies for one of our many NM Prison Family Days
13. Donate clothing to be given out at weekly Wings For L.I.F.E. meetings (For infants to seniors, male and female, Interview clothing, casual clothes, socks, shoes, jackets, etc.)
14. Volunteer in the Wings office—clerical, typing, filing, and a variety of jobs
15. Take photos at Wings events
16. Take video at Wings events
17. Help out webmaster with our website
18. Volunteer to be on the set-up team or clean-up team at Wings events
19. Become a tutor and donate books for the children at Wings events
20. Buy a Wings 20th anniversary pin and help us sell others for \$20 each



Group games in prison



Angels everywhere



Reading to dogs at WFL



# Wings For LIFE International

## By the Numbers

Wings For LIFE International - WFLI (formally known as Wings Ministry), was founded in 1995, and is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Mission: Transforming lives to break the generational cycle of incarceration.

### 20 Stats about Wings

1. 20 years of transforming lives to reduce the generational cycle of incarceration.
2. Held 20 Easter, Back-To-School and Christmas Community Parties in Albuquerque for an estimated 20,000 people.
3. Hosted Wings events in 19 states.
4. In 2013 Wings traveled 1,356 miles throughout Kenya and hosted 14 prison parties, 20 Wings Parties in schools/orphanages, and met and did programming for an estimated 20,000 people.
5. In 2006 Wings traveled to India from the southern cities of Bangalore, Chennai (Madras) to New Delhi and Agra. Wings hosted prison and community parties, did training to pastors and church leaders, two leper colonies, several orphanages/schools for children of prisoners and tsunami victims. Wings met tens of thousands of people and trained pastors and leaders from Bible college's to the "blackest of black Hindu villagers".
6. Wings travels as estimated 4,150 miles each year to host prison parties/family days in the NM prisons.
7. Members of 3 rival gangs came together for an unprecedented Wings For LIFE International family day of Level 4 inmates in Las Cruces in 2014.
8. May 2, 2015 Wings anticipates hosting is largest U.S. prison party/family day in Hobbs, NM with an estimated 1,000+ inmates and family members.
9. Wings averages 20 prison & community parties each year in several states.
10. Wings has fed an estimated 60,000 people at every event they have hosted the past 20 years in the U.S.
11. Wings has hosted parties/family days for an estimated 10,000 inmates.
12. Albuquerque's Wings For L.I.F.E. weekly educational program has fed and provided programming for an estimated 25,000 children, youth and adults.
13. 3,206 family members of inmates attended 42 Wings For L.I.F.E. meetings in Albuquerque in 2014.
14. An estimated \$3,000,000 has been given to Wings' families through in-kind donations.
15. Inmates in the Santa Rosa prison have printed Wings Publishing first 2 books.
16. An estimated 10,000 spiral notebooks have been given to children at Wings Parties and Wings For L.I.F.E. at Back-To-School parties.
17. An estimated 15,000 books have been given to inmates, children, and family members at Wings prison and community parties and Wings For L.I.F.E.
18. 10,000 stuffed turtles were donated to Wings and given out at prison parties.
19. There are an estimated 25,000+ children of prisoners in New Mexico and Wings has met many of them.
20. Wings has hosted 15 parties/family days for the women in prison at Grants, NM.

Dr. Seuss & families



Loved ones—dad—new Father's Day hats & bowties



A Live Nativity in Level 4



Wings in Kenya



**Wings For LIFE International**  
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 Albuquerque, NM 87112  
 505-291-6412

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Transforming lives to reduce the generational cycle of incarceration.

**Winter 2015**

**Facebook:** at Wings-Ministry  
**Twitter:** @WingsMinistryNM  
**Instagram:** wingsministryalb  
**www.WingsForLIFEInternational.org**



- ✦ A child of a prisoner is faced with a daunting future.
- ✦ 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!**



**Wings For LIFE International**  
 Reunites Families  
 & Restores Hope

- Enclosed is my tax deductible gift for:
- \$500     \$250     \$100     \$50
  - \$25     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - I would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities in my area.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Wings is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization.

Wings accepts United Way & company matching fund contributions from anywhere in the U.S.



**Thank You!**



**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet**



FRIDAY — APRIL 24

**St. John's United Methodist Church**  
**2626 Arizona St. NE**  
**Albuquerque, NM 87110**

SILENT AUCTION STARTS AT 5:30  
 DINNER 6:30 PM

**Dinner Tickets \$25 or \$322 for a Reserved Table**

CELEBRATION OF OUR PAST AND  
 EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE FUTURE!

Purchase tickets online at  
[www.WingsForLIFEInternational.org](http://www.WingsForLIFEInternational.org)

**Memorial & Designated Gifts Honor Loved Ones**

One of the many ways that our ministry partners can honor a loved one or reflect the care that a loved one displayed during his or her lifetime is to make a Memorial Gift to Wings. We appreciate these gifts and wish to acknowledge them and the loved ones on whose behalf they were given.

In memory of: **Paula Couchman & Jean Stewart Copeland** By Ann Edenfield Sweet



Help us Remember the Stories  
& Impact of Wings for 20 Years



Wings For LIFE International (formally known as Wings Ministry) is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary! I'd like your help!

**Wings would like to publish some of our history through stories, favorite memories, quotes, and photos.** If you've attended any Wings event over the past 20 years **we'd like to hear from you.**

**We'd like to hear about the impact of Wings through your eyes and your perspective, especially if you are a:**

1. Warden – How did Wings impact your facility?
2. Chaplain – How did Wings change or impact your ministry?
3. Prison staff – How did Wings change the culture of a prison or make a difference in the prison through your eyes?
4. Pastor – Maybe Wings hosted a community party in your church. What was its impact on your congregation?
5. Inmate – How did Wings help you? Your family? Change you/prison in any way?
6. Returning Citizen (former inmate) – How did Wings help you? Your family? Change your way of thinking in any way?
7. Family member – How did Wings help you? Help your family?
8. Child of a prisoner – How did Wings help you? Help your family? Help you avoid incarceration?
9. Volunteer – Why do you volunteer? Do you have a favorite memory or story from a Wings Party? What do you tell your friends and family about Wings?
10. Community leader – What impact do you think Wings has had on your community?

Each month we'd like to highlight at least one story or memory. I will put together some photos, past stories, and do some recollecting on my own. Then we will put everything together in a **book that Wings will publish.** Send us your story and you will be able to say you are a published author!

**THANKS for sharing your thoughts and stories with us.** We'd like to hear from people all over the United States, Kenya, and India. **THANKS for being part of our history and THANKS for the gift you have been to me.**

In thanks and love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Edenfield Sweet".

Ann Edenfield Sweet, Founder/Executive Director



# Change n' Lives



Congregations • Mission Teams • Children's Mission

**Your pocket change can change lives!**

**Support Wings—Change n' Lives**

Wings Vision: Transforming lives to break the generational cycle of incarceration.

**It's a simple and fun way for members of congregations to make a difference in their community and in prisons across America!**



## **TRY THESE IDEAS:**

- Take a weekly or monthly offering plate donation with a bulletin notation: "With your loose coins Wings is **Change n' Lives.**"
- Child/youth ushers can regularly use special buckets for Wings — **Change n' Lives** mission giving.
- Sunday School classes, women's and men's groups collect their change.
- Pass around a soup bowl at church dinners for pocket change.
- Children can decorate family banks for their dinner table. Dedicate a **Change n' Lives** Sunday for families to place their filled banks on the offering table.

**Schedule a presentation for your congregation, church staff, or mission committee.  
Call Ann Edenfield Sweet at 505-291-6412. [www.WingsForLIFEInternational.org](http://www.WingsForLIFEInternational.org)**