



The WINGS Flyer #8

Spreading our Wings

WINGS Ministry
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The WINGS Flyer Fall 2005

Wings for L.I.F.E. Program Receives State Funding!

The Rev. Barbara Dua, Executive Director of the New Mexico Conference of Churches, announced the following exciting news about a grant received through the Congregation and Community Outreach of New Mexico.

“The New Mexico Conference of Churches has received a grant of \$175,000 from the Department of Justice through the Department of Children, Youth and Families of the State of New Mexico (CYFD) to establish a collaborative to expand outreach to youth at risk and their families. The collaborative, Congregation and Community Outreach of New Mexico, includes the New Mexico Conference of Churches' program, SAFE 2000 Youth and Family Program, the **Wings Ministry Program, Wings for L.I.F.E.**, and the Baptist Ministers' Union program for after school program for youth. The grant will allow for the expansion of the collaborative's outreach to Roswell and Las Cruces. Understanding that governmental entities, faith communities and community organizations must join together to help solve our collective challenges, this grant will enable new partnerships throughout the State of New Mexico.”

What does this mean for Wings?

Part-time Wings for L.I.F.E. Directors have been hired for Roswell and Las Cruces. Shelly Currier will be the Wings for L.I.F.E. Director in Roswell, and Karen Sivils will head Wings for L.I.F.E. in Las Cruces. Ann Edenfield Sweet will oversee the program, and continue to direct the Albuquerque Wings for L.I.F.E. program. One judge is already requiring participation in Wings for L.I.F.E. as part of probation/parole plans, and we are hoping this policy will be supported by judges around the state.

Upcoming Dates

- ◆ Nov. 21—Guideposts Thanksgiving Day of Prayer, Pawling, NY
- ◆ Dec. 3—Christmas Party Southeastern Correctional Facility, Lancaster, OH
- ◆ Dec. 10—Christmas Party, Holy Family Catholic Church, Albuquerque, NM
- ◆ Jan. 31—American Correctional Association (ACA) Convention, Nashville, TN
- ◆ Feb. 11—Lorraine Correctional Facility, OH
- ◆ Feb. 18—Valentine Party, Grants, NM Women's Prison
- ◆ Mar. 3—Spring for Wings Celebration Banquet, Central United Methodist Church, Albuquerque, NM

For more information about Wings for L.I.F.E. contact:

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Wings for L.I.F.E. — New Directors



Karen Sivils,
Las Cruces
(505) 650-2096

KarenSivils@WingsMinistry.org



Shelly Currier,
Roswell
(505) 317-2042

ShellyCurrier@WingsMinistry.org

Wings for L.I.F.E.



VISION: Imparting Life-skills for Inmate Families & Education
WHO: Inmate Family Member & Former Inmates
WHAT: Discussion, Mentoring, Empowerment, Support
WHEN: Twice a Month-Sundays 6:30—8:00 PM Albuquerque
WHERE: Catholic Center— Sandia Room
 4000 St. Josephs Place, NW (by St. Pius High School)
 I-40 W to N Coors, right on St. Josephs Place to Catholic Center

Nov. 20 Time Together – Building Family Strengths Dick Long
 Dec. 11 Probation/Parole, What you Need to Know Darryl Rice, P/P Director

2006 Dates:

January 8 January 22 February 5 February 19 March 5

Wings for L.I.F.E. Mission Statement (from Wings Board Retreat October 23, 2005)

Building relationships with families and former inmates through discussion, mentoring, empowerment, and support by teaching life-skills and addressing unique needs of family members of incarcerated individuals, strengthening families by building Search Institute'sSM 40 Developmental AssetsTM and, mobilizing and networking community stakeholders to identify and reach families in need. Stakeholders include congregations, Corrections, school systems, the Justice System, and community programs such as Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Your Wings Board

(See photos of your board at www.WingsMinistry.org)

Board Retreat, October 22, 2005

Trinity @ the Marketplace was the site of the 2005 Board Retreat. During the all day meeting a vision and mission statement were formulated for Wings for L.I.F.E. The 2006 calendar and budget were reviewed. President Tracey Meisenheimer urged all board members to consider their call to Wings and how to help ensure the roots of Wings Ministry are deeply grounded so as not to be uprooted. Ann shared the good news about the grant monies and introduced Karen Sivils, who was present, as the new Las Cruces director (see front panel).

Called to Wings

I have been giving a lot of thought to my 'call' to the Wings Ministry. I realize that one important reason I am involved is because I believe that I have a responsibility to offer, not only to my own children and grandchildren, but to all children a chance to have a 'normal' and fun childhood. Wings gives a number of children who are living under tremendous stress a chance to have a fun time at a party or other event. Not everyone can grow up in a "Leave it to Beaver" household. Wings volunteers are here to offer love and acceptance to 'the least of these'.



Board Member Cindy Davis

Spring For Wings Celebration Banquet

The second annual Spring For Wings Banquet will be on March 3, 2006 at Central United Methodist Church in Albuquerque. It's not too early to think about donations for the Silent Auction and friends to invite! Call Ann now so you don't miss out on this fun event!!

Tickets can be reserved for \$10/person. You can sponsor a table for yourself or a Wings family for only \$100.

Special THANKS to all our donors!

All gifts help fund future Wings events.

- ◆ Under \$50 feeds pizza to 40 people!
- ◆ Wings can accept all gifts including property, jewelry, stocks, and vehicles. We can show you how to save money on taxes and help Wings!
- ◆ Buy **Family Arrested** books for inmates & family members.
- ◆ **India Trip**—Help buy snacks for Wings Parties in Indian prisons, orphanages, leper hospitals and churches.
- ◆ You can make donations to the Wings Foundation.

Wings Ministry is a 501(c)3 organization and can accept United Way contributions from anywhere in the U.S.



Members of the Wings Board gather at Trinity @ the Marketplace

Albuquerque Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) Receives Children's Book for Jail Visiting Area

The Wings Ministry sponsored two projects for the Oct. 23 "Make a Difference Day". We collected children and adult books and magazines from congregations all over the city. The reading material will be used for the reception and visiting areas at MDC (jail). Extra books and magazines will be distributed to the 2300 inmates at MDC. Wings hopes to soon donate toddler tables, chairs, and toys to MDC to help make the visits a little easier for the families (see pg. 6). We commend the staff at MDC for recognizing the need for helping the families and we hope other facilities around the country will soon follow their example.

**Albuquerque
Make a Difference Day
October 23**



Some of the Wings volunteers and families during the hike and clean-up along the Rio Grande Bosque in Albuquerque.

Bosque Cleanup

The second Wings for L.I.F.E. project for “Make a Difference Day” in Albuquerque was to clean up litter in the Bosque area, the land next to the Rio Grande River. Our volunteers ranged in age from age 3 to 86! We hiked, picked up litter, had a potluck dinner, and played mixer ‘get to know you’ games.

Fun was had by all!



Even the littlest ones helped!



After the work—it’s time for hotdogs.



Marissa and her daughter Gabriella

**Relational Sensibilities
Organizational Storytelling for Wings**

Marissa Nordstrom Perez is conducting interviews with a cross-section of Wings volunteers and families. She asks questions like, “Why are you involved in Wings?” and, “Where do you see Wings in 10 years?” From the responses she will compile an ‘Organizational Story’ that will help the board determine future growth and direction for the ministry. Marissa’s work will also provide the basis for explaining Wings in grant proposals and to new volunteers.

Marissa is donating her time and talent to this effort. We owe her a huge thanks for all the work!

Marissa is President of **Relational Sensibilities**, a company specializing in creating ‘Organizational Stories’ for companies and non-profits organizations. She also spends plenty of time with her daughter Gabriella.

To contact Marissa at **Relational Sensibilities**, call 505-235-0912 or marissa@relationalsensibilities.com.



Wings to INDIA

Do you feel called to share Wings in India? Ann Edenfield Sweet has received an invitation to train over 1000 pastors in the Wings Ministry models in India. The trip is tentatively scheduled for March 15-30, 2006. If you would like to be part of this historic mission outreach as a team member or to make a donation, let Ann know.

NM Youth Challenge Academy Wings Party Roswell—October 15



The Color Guard officially started the Wings Party with the presentation of flags.



Judy Stubbs, of the Roswell Mayor's office, reads the **Roswell Mayor's Proclamation** designating "Youth Challenge/Wings Ministry Day" while Thomas Edgett, Youth Challenge recruiter listens.



Bible Study—Jesus and His disciples in the boat, including a towel sail.



Florence Spohn (oldest Wings Volunteer) and Shelly Currier (Roswell Wings for L.I.F.E. Director) share a hug.



Music—Making a joyful noise to the Lord!



Cup Stomp Champ!

600+ people at the party competed in the Cup Stomp Championship. The winner was the person who made the loudest noise when stomping on the cup.



Games—Working together on TWISTER!!

Why a Wings Party at Youth Challenge?

by Shelly Currier - Director, Roswell **Wings for L.I.F.E.**

Wings utilizes teens as part of the ministry. Youngsters seem to relate to and emulate teens better than adults. With that in mind, encouraging the participation of the teens at Youth Challenge Academy (NMYCA) seemed an ideal resource for positive teen role models. One of the ways volunteers learn about Wings is to participate in a party.

Youth Challenge has always wanted to try a "Family Day", so Major Longoria, Director of NMYCA, & I decided to combine the two. NMYCA mentors were also invited because mentoring is a very important part of the program. There is also a mentoring component in Wings for L.I.F.E.

Those completing the Youth Challenge Program can continue in Wings for L.I.F.E. as volunteers. Graduates can assist in Wings Parties held in the various correctional facilities throughout NM. I must say working with these talented teens has been an awesome experience.

For more info about Youth Challenge check www.nmyca.com

Guadalupe County Correctional Facility Wings Party—Santa Rosa, NM Sept. 17



Fruit Loop Necklaces

Participants listed highlights including:

- Singing with the talented Santa Rosa Band
- Seeing my son helping his son on crafts
- Putting a cheerios necklace around my dad's neck
- Seeing my wife
- Singing "This Little Light of Mine"



"I wanted to see my dad and all be together as a family to sing Christian songs."



The Band

"I feel so welcomed and relaxed visiting this way."

"Families are so important to the success of inmates completing their sentence and then making it when released."



New outfits for State Fair after the Table Game.

Sister Vincentia led the Bible Study and made new friends.



"Good for inmates and families"



"[A Wings Party] allows the inmates to feel human and be able to visit with their family like a real family."



Thanks to Central United Methodist for use of the van!

So much happens at a Wings Party, and it's hard to describe how God's unconditional love is shared and felt by everyone, including staff. To read more of the powerful comments from this party, visit our website: www.WingsMinistry.org.

www.WingsMinistry.org

The Wings Ministry is a 501 (c) 3 Not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Christ's unconditional love shared with all families of prisoners.

Vision:

Wings Ministry

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Mentoring Partnership With Big Brothers Big Sisters

Wings has joined with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS). We are beginning to form mentoring relationships with some Wings Ministry children. BBBS meets and trains volunteers in preparation for mentoring. An application process, background check and reference calls are made by the organization.

Volunteers must be trained by BBBS before mentoring. This provides a safeguard for both the mentor and the child. Expectations, money and time commitments are some of the items covered.

Families are interviewed prior to the start of mentoring. BBBS offers guidelines and direction as well as follow up during the mentoring. Contact Ann Edenfield Sweet if you are interested in finding or being a mentor.



Mentoring & fishing go hand-in-hand

WISH LIST

- Help with website
- Paper shredder
- Digital & Overhead projector
- Portable sound system
- Arts and crafts, toys, games, books and magazines, and musical instruments for prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities
- 2 plastic tables and 8 plastic chairs for toddlers visiting MDC in Albuquerque
- Toddler toys for MDC
- 700 candy canes for the ABQ Christmas party
- Yarn, plastic knitting needles and plastic crochet hooks—for inmates to knit sweaters for Guideposts Magazine
- Colored and white paper, 8x11, 8x14, 11x17
- Small envelopes
- Mentors for children
- Recycled Christmas cards

What is NM Youth ChalleNGe Academy?

The National Guard directs the 22-week alternative school, Youth ChalleNGe Academy. This intense, voluntary program for “at risk” teens who have dropped out of high school gives them the opportunity to turn their lives around by acquiring their GED as well as some college credits along with valuable life-skills training in this quasi-military environment. The transformation is incredible! I believe it is because these teens embrace the change and welcome the structure and discipline of this program.

by Shelly Currier - Director, Roswell **Wings** for L.I.F.E.