



Help WINGS "Spread our Wings"

WINGS Ministry
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Dear Friends,

They need our help. The smiles on their faces do not reflect the pain in their hearts. Their loved ones are in prison. The faces you see in the picture are the invisible victims of crime.

Families of prisoners have several strikes against them. Children of prisoners are at a very high risk of turning to destructive behaviors: promiscuity, drug abuse, aggressiveness, poor school performance, and crime. Marriages often fall apart when a spouse goes to prison. And prisoners who have no supportive family when they get out are at greater risk of returning to crime. (See page 2 for some startling statistics.)



Wings Ministry is making a difference! Wings intergenerational Christian volunteers provide a supportive, caring community for families of prisoners to grow in love and learn how to change the course of their lives in several unique ways.

Our money can either go to house criminals and support their families through social programs or we can use our resources to build strong children and families.

Wings community parties are a fun way for families to experience the unconditional love of Christ as they interact with caring volunteers. Relationships grow through sharing together: singing, crafts, Bible stories, games, and eating pizza. Similar parties are held in prisons by reuniting children and other family members with incarcerated loved ones. Both of these events are designed to strengthen the bond within the family and to help them find the love and support of a church home.

Wings for L.I.F.E. is another way Wings Ministry makes a difference. "L.I.F.E." stands for **L**ife-skills for **I**nmates **F**amilies & **E**ducation. Many programs target just the children, but Wings believes that the whole family must change in order to achieve lasting success.

I started Wings Ministry in 1995 after my first husband went to prison and I was left alone to raise four small boys. I had never felt so alone. I experienced first-hand the humiliation and rejection that comes with having a spouse in prison. Wings was born so other families of prisoners could find love and support through a network of caring Christians.

As a non-profit organization, **Wings Ministry is looking to the community for financial support; we are asking for your help.** We have parties scheduled for 2007 in New Mexico, New Jersey, Ohio, Florida, Tennessee, Hawaii, and Texas. (See page 3 for a partial calendar of upcoming events.) Wings for L.I.F.E. programs serve families in three cities in New Mexico and other states are hoping to start programs – thus the need for training and the creation of resources and manuals for new leaders. This exciting expansion requires additional funding to hire a capable office manager. I also need a boost to my \$1500 per month salary, so I can continue doing this work full time.

We're looking for ways to increase both our data base of over 3000 names and our number of donors. If every person gave \$10, some of our goals would become a reality. If every person gave \$100, it would allow Wings to provide compensation to our three directors, two grant writers, and treasurer who are currently donating many hours to this ministry. With extended paid staff, think of the additional lives we could touch!

Please consider making a life-changing donation today and sharing this letter with others you know who might also be interested in our vision. Thanks for your prayers and your support.

In His love and service,

We are all affected by crime – either directly or indirectly.

☞ The Statistics are Startling ☞

- ◆ ¹One in 10 American children has a parent behind bars, on probation or parole; for African American children it is 1 in 8.
- ◆ ²It is estimated that as high as 70% of the children of prisoners will become prisoners themselves.
- ◆ ³One in 32 adults were behind bars, on probation, or parole in 2005.
- ◆ ⁴If the current trends continue, 1 in 15 Americans will spend time in a state or federal prison.
- ◆ ¹98% of all prisoners are released.
- ◆ ¹67% of all prisoners released are re-arrested for continued criminal activity.
- ◆ ⁶Estimated cost: \$450,000 to arrest, convict, and imprison one drug dealer for five years.
- ◆ ⁷Corrections price tag exceeds \$60 billion a year.
- ◆ ⁷“The country has created a growing felon caste, now more than 16 million strong, of felons and ex-felons, who are often driven back to prison by policies that make it impossible for them to find jobs, housing, or education.”
- ◆ ⁸Based on current rates of first incarceration, an estimated 32% of black males will enter state or federal prison during their lifetime, compared to 17% of Hispanic males and 5.9% of white males.

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken adults.”

Anonymous



Wings reunites families and builds healthy values.



SOURCES

¹Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2005

²5th Annual National Reentry Conference, Dallas, TX, 10/14/06

³An AP article reprinted by *The Southern Standard*, McMinnville, TN, 12/01/06

⁴Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006

⁵Taxpayer’s Network website, 2006

⁶*The Southern Standard* article “Centerstone, State Combat Meth in Area’s Highest Seizures”, 12/01/06

⁷*New York Times* editorial “Closing the Revolving Door”, 1/25/07

⁸U.S. Dept. of Justice Statistics, 2006

Wings Ministry Mission Statement:

The Wings Ministry brings families of prisoners and Christian volunteers together as children of God

- ◆ By conducting joyous celebrations of Christ’s unconditional love that breaks down barriers,
- ◆ Building relationships that transform both the lives of the families and the mission of the congregations, and
- ◆ Providing ecumenical mission opportunities for local congregations worldwide.

Wings for L.I.F.E. Mission Statement:

Building relationships with families, probationers, & former inmates through discussion, mentoring, empowerment, & 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.

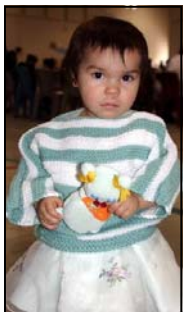
Highlights of 2006



Ohio inmates—knitting partners for *Guideposts* "Knit for Kids"



Spring for Wings 2006 Banquet and Silent Auction



Guideposts donates sweaters, books, and magazines for all Wings parties



Training and discussion in Tennessee



Everyone participates at Wings events



Youth at Wings for L.I.F.E.



Wings volunteers in Ohio



Spoon hanging champs

Events in 2007

- ◆ March 24—First Florida Wings Party
- ◆ March 31—Wings Easter Party, Albuquerque, NM
- ◆ March 31—Wings Easter Party, McMinnville, Tennessee
- ◆ April 14—Wings Banquet, Central United Methodist Church, Albuquerque, NM
- ◆ May 5—First Asbury Park, NJ Wings Party
- ◆ June 2 & 9—Two Wings parties in Maui, Hawaii
- ◆ June 16—First Oahu, Hawaii Wings Party
- ◆ August 25—Albuquerque Back-to-School Wings Party
- ◆ October—NM & TX Operation Starting Line Parties
- ◆ December 1—Lancaster, Ohio Wings Prison Party
- ◆ December 8—Albuquerque Wings Christmas Party
- ◆ Year-round—Collaboration with *Angel Tree*, Prison Fellowship

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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SPRING FOR WINGS CELEBRATION BANQUET



SATURDAY — APRIL 14, 2007

Central United Methodist Church

1615 Copper NE - 243-7834

1 block N of Central Ave. on University by UNM

Silent Auction 5:00 pm, Dinner 6:00 pm

Donations are being requested for the silent auction.

Items given in the past included time shares, artwork, pottery, jewelry, books, gift certificates for hotels, restaurants, clothing, quilts, and craft items.

Speakers: Secretary of Corrections Joe Williams and Chaplain Shirley Compton

Sponsor a Table for only \$100

Individual Dinner Tickets only \$10

Purchase tickets for yourself or sponsor seating for inmate family members.

You do not have to attend to sponsor a table.

Please call Ann to reserve your tickets 505-291-6412