2016 Annual Report

Wings Celebrates 21 Years!

2016 has been another exciting year! Wings signed a contract with the New Mexico Corrections Dept. to host up to 15 Prison Family Days in all 11 of our NM prisons. In addition to the actual Family Days, I did specific training for the inmates attending each event about ways to cut at-risk behaviors. Then during the discussion time of each Family Day I shared with the family members about Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets©, and it always pleased me to see how interested the families were to discover a language that could help them strengthen their families and the relationship with their incarcerated loved one. A short survey was given to everyone during meal time about the assets and everyone’s comments can be found at: http://wingsforlifeinternational.org/gallery/2016/2016.html

It’s wonderful to be able to give people concrete ways to make positive change and see the hope and joy in their faces.

- Wings hosted 2 prison Family Days in Colorado, 4 prison Family Days in Ohio, and 3 community parties in Albuquerque.
- Wings ministered to and fed 3638 in prison and 1379 in NM community parties.
- 2765 attended 43 Wings For L.I.F.E. (WFL) meetings in Albuquerque (Life-skills Imparted to Families through Education). After-dinner tutoring and Pre-K programming was offered to 652 children and youth. A healthy, nutritious meal was served to 2765 people.
- 8,457 people participated in Wings events in 2016.

I could never do this by myself. In 2016 we had at least 1741 volunteers who helped in the prisons and at WFL in Albuquerque, and that doesn’t include the hundreds of cookie bakers and other volunteers who help us in the office, with fundraisers, and other events throughout the year.

Of course we have a wonderful staff and Board of Directors too, and without their help and support this all would not be possible.

Wings was also recognized this year by NBC’s Channel 4 Pay It 4ward.

Wings also won the Community Champions Award from Molina Healthcare. What an honor both awards were!

It brings me the great joy and sense of fulfilling my call to wake up each day and be able to minister to and work with all our staff, volunteers, donors, inmates, family members, and prison officials, and would like to thank everyone for all they did to make 2016 such a fantastic year!

Ann Edenfield Sweet, Founder/Executive Director
Wings For LIFE International (Wings) is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. The two main programs are Wings prison and community Family Days and Wings For L.I.F.E. (WFL) educational program. Combined gross income in 2016 was $174,822.29. Wings primary fundraiser is the Celebration of Champions gala which accounted for $48,530.03 of their income. Wings finished the year with $77,622.14 in cash, $9,742.41 in current assets which includes book inventory and prepaid assets, and $17,395.50 in fixed assets and publishing rights. Wings’ only liabilities were $1,368.72 in expenses that was paid in early January, 2017. The equity balance is $104,760.05.

Roger Riley, Contract Accountant

Roger Riley, Contract Accountant
Repeat attendance at WFL proves program satisfaction.

43 WFL Meetings
• Dr. Seuss—Read across America
• Back-To-School Fashion Show
• Make a Difference Day ABQ
• Mother’s Day Potluck
• Keep Albuquerque Beautiful
• Christmas Go Shopping
• Manners, life skills, jobs, money, parenting, issues unique to prison
• Pre-K programs
• Tutoring
• Ukulele classes

70 people average per meeting

WFL Ethnicities for 2016

WFL Totals | Inmates & Staff | Adults Guests | Teens & Children | Volunteers | Total | Total In-kind Donations
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
WFL Totals | 0 | 1334 | 541 | 1111 | 2986 | $112,894.16
Prison Family Days | 1187 | 1504 | 1415 | 422 | 4528 | $255,000.56
Community Parties | 0 | 260 | 256 | 208 | 724 | $60,947.04
Misc. Volunteer Projects | 0 | 0 | 0 | 219 | 219 | $275,017.68

2016 TOTALS | 1187 | 3098 | 2212 | 1960 | 8457 | $703,859.44

WFL 2016 Times Attended

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<tr>
<th>Times</th>
<th>1 time</th>
<th>2 - 5 times</th>
<th>6 - 10 times</th>
<th>11-15 times</th>
<th>16 - 20 times</th>
<th>21 - 25 times</th>
<th>26 - 30 times</th>
<th>31 - 35 times</th>
<th>35 - 39 times</th>
<th>40 or more times</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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2016 Unique Attendees | 992 | 100%

WFL Ethnicities for 2016

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<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>56%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
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Genders Served 2016

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<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>63%</td>
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National Award of Excellence for Crime Prevention!
American Probation & Parole Association

Great FUN with new friends!
I am Don Shapiro, Chairman of the Wings Board of Directors, as well as a professional who has worked in the field of community and human services with a focus on youth and family development for nearly 50 years in NY and NM. I am also a professional counselor and program developer employed by the NM Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) providing wraparound services for young people transitioning from the State’s Juvenile Justice system to the community.

Through the tireless and effective work of its Executive Director, Wing’s committed staff, its diverse group of volunteers, and its professional Board of Directors, Wings is demonstrating that it has evolved into a unique and highly effective vehicle for elimination of the generational cycle of incarceration. Greg Marcantel, former NM Secretary of Corrections wrote, “Wings, through its partnership with the Department, has effectively been preparing inmates to become productive returning citizens when released to our communities.”

Having become familiar over the past 20 years with the many agencies comprising New Mexico’s health, behavioral health, education and human service system, I am impressed with the special professional, ethical, and organizational attributes of Wings and I am convinced of its great potential to help make a meaningful difference in NM and wherever it is. A unique aspect of Wings programming is its ability to continuously engage community participants from diverse cultures, backgrounds, and ethnicities. It is no wonder that Wings has been honored with numerous awards this year, including once again "Top Rated" by GREAT NON-PROFITS.

Wings has, in my view, created an empowering vehicle for true social and cultural change, while demonstrating the power of unrelenting commitment to the well-being of the families who participate in the program. Wings events are noted for the positive and joyful spirit of activity, and it is remarkable that the weekly events effectively attract, engage, and enable the growth of so many diverse cultures; Hispanic, Native American, White, African American, Asian and Middle Eastern. It is also remarkable that in the four years that I have attended Wings events, I have never experienced troubling tensions or interpersonal conflicts or any sort of verbal or physical violence at these events. Wings has discovered a way to build sustainable community in diversity.

From a methodological perspective, Search Institute has identified 40 Developmental Assets® that are necessary for healthy growth in individuals, families and communities. Wings provides an arena within all of its program activities for effectively building assets in the lives of all who participate, which appears to be greatly reducing or preventing their involvement in at risk behaviors. I have witnessed this change among some of the youth from the CYFD Transition program whom I have introduced to Wings.

One of my clients is a 19 year-old Puerto Rican/African American youth who spent three years in the Juvenile Justice system. As the child of a father spending 40 years in prison for a gang related homicide, he and his 16 year-old brother had not seen their dad for over a decade. Over this time he had made great strides in his own life. He and his brother, who was beginning to show signs of delinquency and drug abuse, attended a Wings Prison Family Day at the Santa Rosa prison where their father was incarcerated. The experience was life changing in their own words. They spent an entire day in conversation (and hugging!), prayer, games and a shared dinner. Both brothers shared that they learned how their father, whom they had previously harbored only negative thoughts and feelings, was in fact now a man who had changed in many positive ways. They also shared how their father was able to express love for them and pride that they were living a better life than he had. Wings Family Days continues to offer this life changing experience to hundreds of young people and adults every year.

Wings has mentored hundreds of volunteers who have had opportunities to contribute according to their talents and skills, and to develop as compassionate and effective human beings. Wings staff are consistently engaged in studying and disseminating information about the trends and events affecting NM families, children and young people, and has continued to shape the Wings programs to meet the current realities.

Within the families who attend, instead of anger, we see loving family members; instead of chaos and disorganization, we see seeing stability and hope. Instead of children walking in the footsteps of incarcerated parents, we are seeing a recognition that education, and skillful living is desirable; Instead of substance abuse, depression and suicidal behavior, we are seeing a search for a more meaningful life and lifestyle. Instead of isolation, we see kids making positive and enduring friendships. For example, an early elementary Native American and a Caucasian girl who attend every week, met as toddlers at Wings and have developed an enduring friendship.

We have seen an expansion in the diversity of the Board with new members coming from the business community, arts and culture, adult and juvenile corrections, legal field, education, courts, architecture, workforce training, and a Miss New Mexico.

The Board has also been dedicated and instrumental in organizing Wing’s major fundraising events this past year and has worked closely with development consultants to create innovative strategies for fund raising. Wings has also developed an endowment fund that can accept assets such as real estate, vehicles, jewelry, insurance policies, etc.

In sum, this has been a most productive year for Wings For LIFE, International, and I am privileged to be of service to this special organization, and its constituents.

I will end with a quote from one of our Board members, Paula Burns, Retired Deputy Director, NM Corrections Department.

“Wings continues to be a sincere passion of mine. I appreciate what it represents… bringing hope and love to those in need. I look forward to another successful year with Wings!”
Wings Highlights for 2016

Family-style meals

Make a Difference Day

Tutoring

Pay it Forward

Bully Buddies

Back-to-School Fashion Show

Dr. Seuss comes to WFL

Back-To-School

UNM Lobos visit WFL

Reading

Reading Volunteers of the Year

21st Banquet

Celebration of Champions

Ukulele Class

Friends for Life

Christmas Angels
Prison Family Days

Jesus is the friend next to you.

Many THANKS to all our volunteers & donors!

Angels with wings!

Reuniting families

Bible story: Prodigal Son

Learning the 40 Assets

Children join the band

Going for the Gold Olympic Relay

Many volunteers!

Christmas at new women’s facility at Springer