Wings Volunteers of the Year Named at Spring for Wings Banquet

Tracey Meisenheimer and Karen Bramlitt were honored at the April 14 Spring for Wings Banquet for their years of dedication to the ministry. Tracey served as first President of the Wings Board and has been active with Wings since it began in 1995. She has coordinated crafts for all the parties and been part of many music teams. Karen has coordinated the kitchen team and baked thousands of cookies for parties, serves on the cooking and serving teams at Spring for Wings Banquets, as well as coordinating the Silent and Live Auctions each year.

SPRING FOR WINGS BANQUET
APRIL 14, 2007

A special thanks to our keynote speaker Chaplain Shirley Compton and speaker NM Secretary of Corrections Joe R. Williams. Thanks also to Zanios Foods, all the donors of Silent and Live Auction items, and everyone who served and attended the Banquet.

Upcoming Dates
♦ June 2—1st Hawaiian Wings Party, Maui
♦ June 9—1st Hawaiian Prison Party, Maui
♦ Aug. 6—Roswell Back-To-School Party
♦ Aug. 25—Albuquerque Back-To-School Party
♦ Sept. 15—1st NM Prison Fellowship/Operation Starting Line Party with Wings, Las Cruces
♦ Dec. 1—Wings Prison Party, Lancaster, OH
♦ Dec. 2—Roswell Wings Christmas Party
♦ Dec. 8—Albuquerque Wings Christmas Party

Everyone commented on the outstanding servers.

The youngest server—Terrance

Bidding was brisk at the Silent Auction where a variety of items were available.
Highlights of Annual Meeting of the Wings Board

The Annual Meeting of the Wings Board was held January 16 at Trinity@TheMarketplace. Tracey Meisenheimer, Jim Harmon, and Paul Collins agreed to serve a second term to 2010, and Chaplain Shirley Compton joined the Board. Tracey Meisenheimer was succeeded by Paul Collins as Board President, with Jim Harmon continuing to serve as Vice President. After much discussion, the Wings Ministry Statement of Policy and Procedure was revised as follows:

Wings Ministry Statement of Policy and Procedure: Safety

1. Wings Ministry brings families of prisoners, probationers, and former inmates together with caring Christian volunteers and is determined to provide a safe and supportive environment for everyone.
2. Wings Ministry cannot allow participation by any person convicted as a sex offender. This protects children in the program and ensures that offenders do not violate the terms of their probation/parole by being in the proximity of children.
3. Because the Wings Ministry believes everyone is a child of God, any person restricted from attending a Wings Party or Wings for L.I.F.E. event will be referred (with their permission) to an appropriate ministry and/or program.
4. The Wings Ministry Safety Policy Statement will be printed on all sign-in registration forms and agendas. All attendees are required to sign in at the registration table using Wings Ministry registration forms. Policy statement shall read: Wings Ministry Parties & Wings for L.I.F.E. cannot allow participation by any person convicted as a sex offender.
5. Any person on probation and/or parole attending a Wings for L.I.F.E. event must check the appropriate box on the registration form and name his/her PPO and contact phone number. Wings for L.I.F.E. personnel will contact the appropriate probation/parole officer for written approval to ensure that the probationer gets community service credit, if applicable.
6. All Wings Parties and Wings for L.I.F.E. events are organized and set-up in a way to follow the most up-to-date safety practices.
7. Wings Ministry reserves the right to ask a guest to leave an event if his/her behavior is threatening or inappropriate.
8. All Wings Parties and Wings for L.I.F.E. events are drug, alcohol, and weapons free.
9. Violence, property damage, or verbal abuse will not be tolerated at any Wings Party or Wings for L.I.F.E. event.
10. Out of respect for everyone, all participants at Wings Parties and Wings for L.I.F.E. events are encouraged to dress appropriately.
11. No volunteer will EVER be alone in a private area with anyone at a Wings Party or Wings for L.I.F.E. event.
12. No volunteer EVER takes a non-family member to the restroom.
13. All Wings Parties and Wings for L.I.F.E. events will include an orientation/training that will review these safety policy statements.
14. To be considered a Certified Wings Volunteer, one needs to complete a NCIC, prison, or other approved background check. Only Certified Wings Volunteers will be allowed to wear a Wings Ministry T-shirt.
15. Certified Wings Volunteers and board members are encouraged to attend training in sexual harassment prevention, non-discrimination policies, and to review current safety policies on an annual basis.

WINGS GOES TO HAWAII

When you think of Maui, what comes to mind? Beaches, sunshine, vacations, and volcanoes. Wings Ministry has been invited to Hawaii to host two parties! Volunteers, funds, and prayer support are needed for this Wings outreach to Maui. A community party will be held on June 2, 2007, followed by a party in the Maui Community Correctional Center on June 9.

Housing has generously been provided by Roswell Wings director Shelley Currier & her husband Charlie. Each volunteer is expected to pay their own way. Funds will be needed for pizza, punch, craft supplies, and paper supplies.

Special Thanks to our Donors

♦ Maribel Mullins To honor Ann Edenfield Sweet
♦ Doug Sweet In honor and memory of Jan Ahlstrom Sweet
♦ Jan Walther In honor of Char & Ed Martindale
♦ Pearl Fultz In memory of Willie Fultz for the Tennessee Wings Valentines Party
♦ Sacha Blair & Jayson Rael In honor of their daughter Abigail Pilar’s Baptism, Dec. 17, 2006
♦ Guideposts Magazine for the sweaters, books, and magazines at all our parties
♦ Jim & Patsy Zanios of Zanios Foods for their 12+ years of supplying cookies, punch, and paper products for all NM Wings Parties and donating ALL the food each year for the annual Spring for Wings Banquet.
Memorial Donations to Wings

My Nephew Gary
by Ann Edenfield Sweet

My nephew Gary Koehler, age 21, became the 3012 casualty of the Iraq war on November 1, 2006. Gary was the All-American kid. He grew up in Ypsilanti, Mi. I followed his life through phone calls from my mom and sister, Christmas newsletters, and occasional visits to Michigan. I didn’t know Gary as an adult until my sister and brother-in-law moved to Albuquerque three years ago after Gary graduated from high school. A high school athlete, he was voted “most likely to succeed”, played on the All-Michigan Football and Baseball Teams, and he was a general all-around fun-loving, popular boy.

Gary’s dream was to join the Marines right after high school, which he did. Gary was like so many of the young people serving in the military for us today – bright, courageous, a positive role model, and thank heaven, Gary was also a man of faith.

As the point person (leader) for a special volunteer assignment, Gary died a hero. He saved all the other men in his unit. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

I am proud of my nephew Gary! I grieve the loss of his life and his death, and all the others who have also given their lives for me. Gary inspires me to rededicate myself to the task of promoting an enduring peace.

What does this have to do with Wings? EVERYTHING! For peace starts first in our families and close relationships; then when we learn to live in harmony with our loved ones we can expand our love to those in our community, including our prisons; and lastly, our challenge is to try to share Christ’s love and acceptance for all humankind, throughout the world.

Thanks to the donors who gave gifts to Wings in Gary’s memory: Maribel Mullins, Bob and Joann Sheets.

5th Grant’s Valentine’s Party
Dedicated in Honor of Robin Callaway Tillman
February 17, 2007

Approximately 350 people were at the 5th Valentine’s Party at the Grants NM Women’s Prison, including 92 inmates. The praise band from Trinity@TheMarketplace in Albuquerque led music. Children played percussion instruments for several songs.

Bible study, led by Chaplains Shirley and John Comperton, was the story of Daniel in the lion’s den. Ann Edenfield Sweet told the history of the Wings Ministry and Beverly Zamora, from Roswell, shared the untimely death of her daughter Robin. Inmates, volunteers, and children made gifts for loved ones. Dinner conversation, pizza, cookies, and punch were followed by a hilarious Valentine relay race.

The party ended with a huge circle prayer, celebrating Jesus’ love for each person present. One inmate stated, “I feel God already blessed all of us inmates the day Wings Ministry was born.”

Memorials were given by: Ann Edenfield Sweet, Ed & Karen Bramlitt, Rosemary Smith, Chaves County Retired Senior Volunteers Foundation.

Rev. Jacob H. Gardner

MaryAnn Gay, daughter of the Rev. Jacob H. Gardner, is our Tennessee Wings Director. MaryAnn continues following in her father’s steps, in her gentle, compassionate way, in full confidence of God’s providence.

Memorial gifts were given to the Wings Ministry by: Doug & Ann Edenfield Sweet, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Tucker, Ethel Horton & Beverly Tucker.
No one is too young to be a musician at Wings.

“Twisted fun”

Easter eggs are great fun

New Easter fashions

New sweaters, magazines, and books from Guideposts Magazine and Library of Hope.
Wings Ministry -- New Beginnings in DeKalb County -- Smithville, Tennessee

Mary Ann Gay reports, “It’s exciting to announce that an energetic and mission-minded group of women in DeKalb County (Smithville) is interested in getting Wings started there. They have been actively involved in a women’s jail ministry for some time now and want to expand their ministry to include the children/family members of prisoners. We are blessed by the gifts this group of women bring to the Wings community: their great compassion, love of God, and dedication to His call to serve others.

If you’d like to help:

- **Be a prayer partner:** Pray for our leadership teams as they grow in both Warren and DeKalb counties. Especially pray for the families who will receive the invitations. For many of us, accepting such an invitation would be a hard step. For family members of prisoners who have met rejection face-to-face, accepting such an invitation takes much courage. And please pray for our churches -- that family members of prisoners and former prisoners might find a place of welcome, Christian nurture, and care within their midst.

- **Come as a volunteer:** Volunteers of all ages are welcome. A Wings Party makes a wonderful family mission project.

- **Share in the cost of a party by donating any of the following items:** Cookies, lemonade mix, apples, 8 ounce cups, paper plates, napkins, zip-loc baggies of assorted sizes, or a cash offering to cover other party costs such as pizza, printing, postage, craft and game supplies, etc.

- **Thanks to Guideposts Magazine our Corporate Sponsor:** Guideposts supports our parties in two unique ways. They provide a variety of devotional materials for our guests -- a much appreciated gift. They also provide hand-knit (or crochet) sweaters for each child. This is a very special gift for the children in that each stitch is knit with a prayer for the child who will receive it.

Guests comments: "It was awesome!" "I have found out there really is a God and He loves me." "It means a lot to me to be with people who care." "It was fun and can I go again?" **We hope you can join us!**
Wings for L.I.F.E.
Life-skills for Inmate Families & Education

**Roswell, NM**

Wings for L.I.F.E. Director Shelly Currier shared, "The activity we were doing was in relationship to the topic we were addressing--Search Institute's® 40 Developmental Assets™. Different groups were given different amounts of paper cups. They were instructed to build the sturdiest structure they could with the amount of cups they were given. Many realized that it was unfair because some groups received more cups. That was the point being made. The paper cups represented how many assets a child might have. The more assets our youth have (good things you need in your life and yourself such as self-esteem, creativity, integrity, conflict resolution skills, a sense of purpose and optimism about the future)--the stronger their foundation and the easier the transition from adolescence to adulthood. They all got the message and had a great time as well."

**Las Cruces, NM**

Faces of hope

Wings for L.I.F.E. participant Yesenia Fernandez has learned that 'angels have a big heart'.

Close attention is paid to the speaker.

Families come together

Small group discussion

New friends

A complete ‘asset’ structure

Constructing an ‘asset’ tower

Wings for L.I.F.E. participant Yesenia Fernandez has learned that ‘angels have a big heart’.

ROSwell, NM
**Wings for L.I.F.E.**

*Life-skills for Inmate Families & Education*

**VISION:** Imparting Life-skills for Inmate Families & Education

**WHO:** Inmate Family Members & Former Inmates

**WHAT:** Discussion, Mentoring, Empowerment, Support

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**In Las Cruces, NM**

**WHEN:** Twice a Month-Tuesdays 6-8 PM

**WHERE:** Holy Cross Catholic Church
1327 N. Miranda

**CONTACT:** Olga Granado
(505) 524-1746, OGranado@peoplepc.com

*Call if you need a ride.*

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**In Albuquerque, NM**

**WHEN:** Starting in July!!

2nd & 4th Mondays 6:00—7:30 PM

**WHERE:** Boys & Girls Club, 3333 Truman NE
(one block W of San Mateo, between Candelaria & Comanche)

**Call if you need a ride.**

**CONTACT:** Sacha Blair
(505) 975-4712 cell
sblair7291@aol.com

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**In Roswell, NM**

**WHERE:** Roswell Boys & Girls Club
201 South Garden
Twice a Month-Sundays 6:30—8:00PM

Women’s Group at Chaves County Detention Center
1—4 PM every Friday (back-to-back classes)

**CONTACT:** Shelly Currier
(505) 317-2042, ShellyL@cableone.net

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**Wings for L.I.F.E. works in Chaves County Detention Center**

Ten weeks ago Shelly Currier began working with the women in the Chaves County Detention Center. They are teaching life-skills, and easy methods for moms to teach Developmental Assets™ to their children, as well as anger management, forgiveness, building self-esteem, focusing on solutions instead of the problems, and various other topics. Tutoring and computer programs are available for the men and women at the jail working towards their GED. Participation in the program has doubled and visible changes can be seen in the women who attend regularly. One woman who was released is now working full time and attending substance abuse classes and meeting with her counselor regularly. She commented that she felt good about herself and what she is doing. For the first time in its history, Chaves County Detention Center allows non-contact family visits for children. Fighting at the jail is down and the attitudes of the inmates have improved. The women have more self-confidence, a positive outlook for the future, and most importantly hope.

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**In McMinnville, TN**

**CONTACT:** MaryAnn Gay
(931) 224-2264, MaryAnnGay@WingsMinistry.org
PO Box 695, McMinnville, TN 37111

Community Wings Back-To-School Parties will be held in Smithville and McMinnville, TN in August (dates TBA).

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

Building relationships with families, probationers, 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’s 40 Developmental Assets™ 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 and Boys & Girls Club.
The Wings Ministry is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

www.WingsMinistry.org

WINGS Ministry
2270 Wyoming NE #130
Albuquerque, NM 87112-2620
(505) 291-6412     Fax (505) 291-6418
E-mail: AnnEdenfield@WingsMinistry.org

WISH LIST
DONATIONS to fund our growing Wings Ministry

~Also~
• Office space for Albuquerque, Wings
• Volunteer office assistants
• Mentors/tutors for children & youth
• Yarn, plastic knitting needles & plastic crochet hooks
• Digital projector
• Overhead projector
• Arts and crafts, toys, games, books and magazines, & musical instruments for prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities
• Toddler toys, 2 plastic tables & 8 plastic chairs for toddler visits to MDC in Albuquerque
• Colored and white paper, 8x11, 8x14, 11x17
• Kitchen teams—Albuquerque Wings for L.I.F.E.

1ST NEW JERSEY WINGS PARTY
ASBURY PARK, NJ
MAY 5, 2007

This Wings Party had a Mother’s Day theme. The table game was to create Mother’s Day outfits. Here are the creative results.

New sweaters, friends, and fun music were highlights of the party.