I can’t believe it has been 20 years since I first started Wings! It seems like just a few months ago, and yet I see familiar faces in prisons, watch children grow from infants to college graduates, and I have come to realize that I have been doing Wings for almost a third of my life.

What a blessing and joy it has been! To date I’ve been able to do Wings work in 19 states, juvenile, male, and female prisons. I’ve been all over India and literally ministered to and trained thousands of people. Our Wings team ministered in 14 prisons all over Kenya, and did an additional 20 Wings events in Kenyan orphanages, schools, and congregations. Our white American Wings team actually opened the door for Kenyan pastors and church leaders to go into their prisons and minister to the inmates. I’ve never seen a more Christian country and everywhere we went the doors swung wide open.

I’m a picture taker, and I love to see the photos from the Wings Family Days (old name Wings Parties). I guess what surprises me the most is that it doesn’t matter what state we are in, whether the photo was taken in 1995 or 2015, the smiles, the family reunifications, joy and the tears are all the same. It doesn’t matter if we are in New Mexico, the United States, or a foreign country, the reactions are the same. The comments too don’t vary much, and I’m pleased that this is true.

Wings Family Days are based on scripture – Acts 2:42. That’s why the response is universal. People come together and experience Christ’s unconditional love. They sing, dramatize scripture, do arts and crafts, and eat together in a very intentional way. They talk over dinner. They play an after-dinner game, and everyone laughs together and rebuilds relationships. New positive memories are created and families start to reunite.

Wings second program, Wings For L.I.F.E. – Life-skills Imparted to Families through Education, came out of all the things I learned and wrote about in my book Family Arrested. All the difficulties, emotions, and ultimate joy I can now share with others and love to wake up each day to see what new opportunities await me. That’s the way life should be lived, and every day I get to experience God in so many ways. I don’t know what is in store for the next 20 years and beyond, but I’m excited to experience each day to see what transpires.

I am SO very grateful to all the mentors, pastors, teachers, friends, and family who have helped and encouraged, loved and inspired me along the way. No one could ask for more. As I look back on my life I see how God brought just the right people to me. I can now see how He worked in my life, and carried me through the tough times, but always provided in His time for me to now be so blessed to follow my calling. I always say I’m uniquely qualified to do Wings, and I wouldn’t change any of the various paths I’ve been on because they all have brought me to this point in time.

My dream is to train leaders in all 50 states so that Wings prison and community Family Days are held in all the prisons and communities where prisoners and their loved ones lives. (Yes, that means all over the place, in communities and prisons small and large. All it takes is a few caring and trained people in each community and we can do this!) Our vision to have Wings For L.I.F.E. be to families of prisoners what AA is to alcoholics is a huge vision, but one that can be reached with today’s technology. We have leaders all across our country and around the world who I can’t wait to meet and to train.

God didn’t intend for his children to live behind bars. My goal is to give people “wings to fly” and to break the generational cycle of incarceration. Wings has the ability to truly change lives, give hope, and teach people how to maximize their lives so they can be the children that God intended them to be.

If you are reading this it means that you too care and see the vision. Please share your God-given gifts and resources with Wings so that even more people can be reached, motivated, and live fulfilled lives.

I thank all the hundreds of thousands of volunteers who have helped us minister and train all the inmates and their loved ones in all the places we have been. I thank the correctional leaders for their vision and their caring about “the least of these”, and I thank those who have helped us as volunteers or as donors, who have no one in prison and yet can see how this is God’s work and they share their caring, loving hearts with all of us.

THANK YOU! Thanks for believing in me, in Wings, in the so often lost and lonely and forgotten.

May God richly bless you!

Ann Edenfield Sweet
Founder/Executive Director

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

Summer 2015
© 2015 Wings For LIFE Int'l
All Rights Reserved
Highlights from the past 20 years

- Live Nativity—Level 4
- The Cat in the Hat visits WFL Read Across America
- NM Governor’s Mansion
- Games in prison
- Make a Difference Day
- Quilt made by OH inmates
- What a prison looks like for 891 people before it starts
- So many memories—touched many lives—19 states, Kenya & India, bringing joy & hope.

Kenya
The 3rd Celebration of Champions fundraiser was a night filled with tribute to Wings 20 year history and honor and recognition to two New Mexico families—the Zanios Family, who has supported Wings efforts for the past 20 years, and the Nellos Family, who turned family tragedy into the Nicholas C. Nellos Foundation, whose funding has helped Wings weekly program grow into what it is today. We are forever grateful to these amazing families and their support of Wings!

The Prelude Reception started in the Hotel Albuquerque with hors d’oeuvres and the program, raffle, and live auction including the $17,300 “Maddison Earrings” donated by Paula Chevoshay. The after-party continued at Casa Esencia for gourmet fare, cigar bar, networking, music and dancing. It was a wonderful evening and special thanks to all our sponsors, volunteers and special guests.

Philanthropic Champions
Jim Zanios Family & Zanios Car and Truck Gallery
Nicholas C. Nellos Memorial Fund for At-Risk Children of the Albuquerque Community Foundation

Good Samaritan Champion
Paula Crevoshay Jewelry

Local Hero Champions
Laurel Westman
Marc Powell and ReCARnation
Old Republic National Title Insurance Company
Starline Printing

The Extra Mile Champions
First National Rio Grande Heritage Hotels and Resorts
NAI Maestas & Ward
Rio Grande, Inc.

Celebration Champions
French Funerals and Cremations
Janet Kerr

VIP Patrons
Greg and Barbara Ellena
Flawless Med Spa
Wells Fargo

Steadfast Champions
Frame-N-Art
Bob Gustin
Robb Janov
Lea County Correctional Facility
Monte’s Cigars
Rio Grand Dermatology
Sandia Automotive Corporation
Santa Fe Advisors

Special THANKS to:
All our many other donors, the board, staff and volunteers of Wings For LIFE International whose tireless efforts provide the life skills, education and resources children and families of prisoners need to break the generational cycle of incarceration.
Transforming lives to reduce the generational cycle of incarceration.

**Summer 2015**

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

See more photos at  
http://wingsforlifeinternational.org/gallery.html

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!

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 For LIFE Int’l  
Reunites Families & Restores Hope

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!
What is Wings For L.I.F.E. (WFL)? Why is it so important?

Wings For L.I.F.E. – Life-skills Imparted to Families through Education, is an empowerment program that provides life-skills, education, training, and support for children and family members of prisoners. There is a Pre-K and Tutoring program for the children after dinner and some of the educational topics that are addressed for the adults include single parenting, finances and how to stretch a dollar, discipline, acceptance issues, prison visits, feeding a family, substance abuse and signs, reintegration and reunification issues, legal issues, public defenders, work/job issues, holidays, and anything else of interest to the group. Search Institute's© 40 Developmental Assets® are an important part of the training.

In our society where children are all at risk in one way or another, children whose parent(s) are in prison face even more challenges.

WFL is UNIQUE & there is no program in America like it!

- The United States is the world’s leader in incarceration with 2.2 million people currently in the nation’s prisons, a 500% increase over the last 30 years. (The Sentencing Project, 2015)
- 1 in 31 adults (3.2%) in the United States is under some form of correctional control. Currently 6.89 million people (1 in 4 U.S. adults) have a criminal conviction that impacts their employability and future. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2014)
- 95% of offenders will be released back into the community and of those, 50% will return to incarceration within 5 years. (Fiscal Overview of Criminal Justice System, 2015)
- Nationally the female jail population has been the fastest growing correctional population, increasing by an average of 3.4% annually. (NM Prison Population Forecast, July, 2015)
- New Mexico spends nearly $300 million every year to house and average of 6,700 offenders and supervise another 18,000 offenders. (NM Legislature, 2012)
- United States annual correctional costs in fiscal year 2012 was $52.4 billion. (The National Association of State Budget Officers, 2013)
- Children of prisoners are up to 72% more likely to become incarcerated themselves. An estimated 1,706,600 minor children have a parent in prison. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2010)
- The annual cost to incarcerate one juvenile in New Mexico is approximately $178,073 compared to the lowest, $46,662 in Louisiana, and the highest, $352,663 in New York. (Justice Policy Institute, 2014)
- In comparison, New Mexico spends $7,933 annually on education per child and nationally $11,014. (National Center for Education Statistic, 2015)

In 2014 Wings annual budget of $232,610 served a total of 8,901 people including 2,466 children and teens for only $26.13 per person.

Only $64,436.58 was spent on Wings 2,466 children and teens which is less than half the cost of incarcerating one juvenile in the State of NM.

Just imagine what your donation will allow us to do to expand our programming and teach even more people!

Because of these difficult factors we believe that committed, caring people in our communities need to take an interest in our children. Education and life-skills are necessary to help prevent another generation of inmates and to cut recidivism. Wings For L.I.F.E. is a program that can work anywhere; inner-city, suburban areas, large and small communities.

Please make a donation today so we can continue & expand this vital program!
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