

Wings For LIFE International – Aspire Solution – Jobs For LIFE (JFL)

Contestant Capacity

Wings For LIFE International

Ann Edenfield Sweet, Executive Director/Founder

505.291.6412 Office

505-554-6698 Cell

AnnEdenfield@WingsForLIFEInternational.org

Organizational Background: Wings For LIFE International (WFLI) was founded in 1995. In 2003 WFLI founded its 2nd program: **Wings For L.I.F.E. - Life-skills Imparted to Families through Education (WFL)** and is a national Best Practice Model and it won the **National Award of Excellence in Crime Prevention** from the American Probation and Parole Association. WFLI has also won the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections' **Impact Award**, and in 2017 has received the NM Children's Law Institute's **Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Award**, the Martin Luther King, Jr. **Keep the Dream Alive Award**, and the **NM Innovative Program Star** as one of the top 10 behavioral health programs in the state. **Mission:** Transforming lives to reduce the worldwide generational cycle of incarceration.

WFL teaches life-skills, manners and ways to improve quality of life through expert speakers in relevant fields who address money, jobs, parenting/communication, and issues unique to incarceration. Past research indicates intervention through WFL programming reducing recidivism, teaching positive behaviors, improving grades and graduation rates, empowers participants find gainful and sustainable employment, and strengthens the family unit.

WFL aims at intervention, prevention, and positive adult and youth development through successful implementation of Search Institute's® 40 Developmental Assets®— evidenced-based principles which focus on prevention and resiliency to promote positive, healthy development and find meaning and purpose in one's life and cut at-risk behaviors for all ages.

WFL empowers returning citizens (former inmates) and their families in the greater Albuquerque area feel safe, be socially engaged, accepted and live with dignity through group mentoring, support and education. WFL meets 44 weeks per year for 2 hours. Sites were strategically chosen in proximity distressed neighborhoods and accessibility to public transportation. Weekly attendance in 2016 averaged 70 people per meeting, including 10 women from the Women's Recovery Academy in Albuquerque, returning citizens from local halfway houses, clients referred by probation and parole, their loved ones, and volunteers from all walks of life.

WFL collaborates with the NM Department of Corrections, state, federal, and Bernalillo County probation and parole offices, as well as 36 local agencies and non-profits. WFL serves as an intern practicum site for universities (UNM, CNM, and NMHU). Students do service learning at WFL and many returning citizens do community service at WFL.

Management Team: Charles E. Becknell, PhD Charles is exceptionally qualified to lead the training for **the Jobs For LIFE** program. He is a former *Secretary of Corrections* for the State of New Mexico; former 8(a) contractor with SBA; Trainor in the *Welfare to Work Program*; Member of NM Governor Richardson's Task Force on Corrections; Member of Governor Richardson's Task Force on Poverty; Board Member of the National Criminal Justice Institute; and has over 25 years of experience as a professional trainer.

Ann Edenfield Sweet, is the Executive Director/Founder of Wings For LIFE International and Wings For L.I.F.E. Ann is the author of **Family Arrested – How To Survive the Incarceration of a Loved One** and the curriculum **Strengthening Families from the Inside Out**. Ann has done work in 20 states, India, and Kenya. Ann has been a member of the American Correction Association's Religion and Faith Based Committee, on the Executive Committee of Operation Starting Line, and founder and leader of the *Returning Citizens Collaboration* in New Mexico.

2270 D Wyoming Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87112

505.291.6412

AnnEdenfield@WingsForLIFEInternational.org

Entrepreneurial Education Delivery Solution

Participant Recruitment Plan for Jobs For LIFE: WFLI will be able to communicate its **Jobs For LIFE** plan to many stakeholders. WFLI has a contract with the NM Corrections Dept. to host 15 Family Days in all 11 of NM prisons. WFLI has access to not only all the inmates in the NM corrections system, but the individuals who have been detained at the Metropolitan Detention Facility, Albuquerque's large jail that processes over 25,000 individuals each year.

WFLI will also recruit participants through WFLI's extensive networking with federal, state, and local probation and parole officers, Work Force Solutions offices, and other collaborators including *Returning Citizens Collaboration* (324 individuals/organizations), Workforce Links, NM Highlands University, Webster University, CNM and UNM Service Learning programs, Women's Recovery Academy, First Nations, State of NM Children Youth and Families Department, Albuquerque Public Schools, PB&J, NM Coalition for Healthy Families, Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce, Eagles Unlimited, HELP-NM, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, Thresholds Mentoring Program, all the halfway houses in Albuquerque, MCF Family Outreach, TenderLove, over 300 Congregations in the greater Albuquerque area, businesses, and civic groups.

WFLI has a large email list that includes over 8,000 people in the Albuquerque area. WFLI also participates in a weekly radio program, and averages TV interviews at least 6 times a year. WFLI is well known and recognized in the Albuquerque area, and once returning citizens know about the **Jobs For LIFE** entrepreneurship training, it should not be hard to find participants.

Lastly, Wings For L.I.F.E. provides a weekly program for returning citizens and recruitment will be on-going. At the WFL meetings returning citizens (as well as all participants) are taught the soft skills that are needed to be successful in the workplace. Entry surveys are part of the program, and interest in entrepreneurship training will be added to the survey.

Classroom Instruction: All participants in the **Jobs For LIFE** entrepreneurship training program will be required to attend at least ten (10) Wings For L.I.F.E. meetings. At WFL they will learn many of the social skills and soft skills that will be required to be successful in the business world.

Once the participants are identified and sign up for the training, our goal is training clients to transform lives and restore hope. Based on years of experience, we have discovered that it is not will power that drives success, but attitude. Attitude determines Altitude. This is the training motto, and the training program is called **The Success Express**.

The Success Express Training classes will include:

- Building Self-Esteem 4 1/2 hrs.
- Goal Setting 2 hrs.
- Financial Literacy 2 hrs.
- Management/Ethics 2 hrs.
- Marketing 2 hrs.
- Business Plan Development 2 hrs.

Each participant will be given a handout with an assignment that will be reviewed by a mentor.

This training program is unique; we not only impart knowledge but teach strategies to help our clients apply the knowledge they receive. Follow up materials help the clients achieve results and reach their full potential.

Wings For LIFE International – Aspire Solution – Jobs For LIFE (JFL)

The classroom training will involve building self-esteem and confidence, managing and supervising, financial literacy, budgeting, marketing, customer service, goal setting, ethics, decision making, sales and how to dress for success. The initial phase of the training program is building self-esteem. Building self-esteem builds confidence, self-worth and self-respect. Building self-esteem changes attitudes, and a change in attitude changes behavior. This initial phase of the training will involve the spouse or significant other. They will serve as a support for future endeavors and encouragement to be successful.

The program involves coaching, counseling, and resume writing. The final product will be that each participant will develop a business plan and an action plan.

Mentoring: WFL provides “group mentoring” each week. One of our trainers will be assigned one-on-one mentoring. We will have dedicated phone numbers for participants to call if needed. A person in the field that the participant is interested in will be asked to do one-on-one advising.

WFL currently has eleven (11) Board Members; two who have worked or currently work in the justice system, two as attorneys, and four (4) who are business owners. One of the business owners is a returning citizen who spent 33 years in prison. He wrote his business plan in prison and for the past years has created a very successful business. He, as well as all of our Board Members, are committed to helping and providing expertise to participants.

Community Connections: WFL brings in speakers at least monthly who focus directly on jobs. WFL always tries to bring in the best speakers possible, but an intentional focus will be made to provide experts in their fields who relate to the interest of our **Jobs For LIFE** clients.

WFL will also try to find individual mentors who are committed to helping our clients create and implement their entrepreneurship business plan. Many of our 70 weekly WFL participants are returning citizens and we are confident several will step up as individual mentors.

WFLI is also an active member of the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce. The AHCC is offering the 2017 Procurement Series for Small Business Members. Presentations are the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The Procurement Series brings the Procurement Officers of Large New Mexico Organizations to meet with Small Businesses who want to become vendors, secure contracts, and participate in bids for goods and services. The clients in the Jobs For LIFE program will be encouraged to attend these meetings to meet the Procurement Officers at these businesses and learn the process of becoming a vendor for them. They will learn how reach large businesses, learn how to advertise for goods and services, website posting, selection process, and qualifications for becoming vendors.

Access to Capital

WFLI has a commitment from Leroy Pacheco, the President and CEO of The Loan Fund, to work directly with our clients. Leroy Pacheco has been the President/CEO of The Loan Fund since 2007. He has over 30 years of banking and community development experience. WESST has nurtured the entrepreneurial dreams of thousands of New Mexicans by providing training, technical assistance and access to capital.

The Loan Fund's Mission: Provide loans and assistance to improve the economic and social conditions of New Mexicans.

For 25+ years The New Mexico Community Development Loan Fund (dba the Loan Fund) has been a nonprofit community lender providing loans and lines of credit to small businesses, business startups, and nonprofits throughout New Mexico that typically are unable to obtain financing through traditional lending sources. The Loan Fund also provides clients with consulting and training services. The Loan Fund is one of 11 U.S. Treasury Department certified Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) in New Mexico.

WFLI also works with WESST, which is a statewide small business development and training organization committed to growing New Mexico's economy by cultivating entrepreneurship. Their passion, counsel, hard work, experience and commitment are the inspiration and behavior model they offer clients so that they can realize their entrepreneurial dreams and achieve economic success. WESST offers one-on-one consultations address specific questions about starting and running a small business. WESST is distinguished in New Mexico as the only organization offering long-term, comprehensive training, technical assistance and loans specifically targeted to low-income women and minorities.

The clients enrolled in WFLI's **Jobs For LIFE** program will be supported and receive training from:

1. Wings For L.I.F.E. weekly programs
2. Wings For LIFE International's Board of Directors
3. **The Success Express** curriculum and training program
4. The Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce - *2017 Procurement Series for Small Business Members*
5. **The Loan Fund**
6. WESST