Wings for L.I.F.E. (Life-skills Imparted to Families through Education) has worked with Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets in Roswell, New Mexico since 2005. Search Institute has over 50 years of research and surveyed over 4 million youth (including those in Roswell) to determine those assets (values or life-skills) that enable children to succeed and, conversely, in the absence of these assets, predict adverse consequences (e.g. involvement with juvenile justice system, truancy, drop out, suicide, drug abuse, teen pregnancy).

The Building Assets Program is an after-school program that uses these 40 Developmental Assets. Each year, Wings for L.I.F.E.’s professional staff consisting of educators and social workers join together to create a curriculum that incorporates assets and at the same time reflects the needs of the children and youth in Roswell, New Mexico.

Wings for L.I.F.E. does not work with cookie cutter programs or a one size fits all philosophy. There may be similarities that all children possess, but there are also differences as well. The needs of children and youth in Roswell may differ considerably from those of children living in New York City, Los Angeles, or Boulder City. Thanks to the many surveys of families as well as the children who attend our program, a curriculum that serves the needs of those residing in Roswell has been created. (Continue P. 2)
Assets are important because they promote academic success, reduce engagement in risky behaviors, and give young people the power to make positive choices. Research shows that most children who are resilient possess at least 18 Developmental Assets. The more assets young people have, the more successful and resourceful they are.

**Weekly Lessons**

Each week lessons focus on different assets that children need to incorporate as part of their everyday life. Some of the lessons include strengthening a child’s self-image and getting to know peers—finding common interests and appreciating differences. Empathy (sensitivity/understanding of another person’s feelings) is one of the most important assets and is instrumental in combating bullying. Bully prevention is also taught. Children learn that while they may be a target, they don’t have to be a victim. They also learn positive affirmations to reinforce their self-esteem as well as how to diffuse conflict in peaceful, non-threatening ways. They learn how to support one another. The program also emphasizes commitment to learning. Most importantly, they have fun. In January 2015, the Building Assets Program retained 97% of those enrolled in 2014.

Another benefit of this program is the age range of children. The program is set up for third through fifth grade children. However, younger siblings and younger children needing these assets and skills are also encouraged to participate. It isn’t unusual to have children K through 5 in this program. There is also diversity in culture and socioeconomic makeup. This produces a great environment for learning acceptance and appreciation for the differences of others. Even though Roswell has a diverse population in its schools, children and youth tend to pick friends who are of like backgrounds and interest. In this program, the range of diversity is so broad that a strong bond forms regardless of age, gender, learning ability, cultural, or socioeconomic differences.

Crafts are a very important part of this program. The instructors and our craft specialist work very hard to create crafts that reinforce the lessons taught. Many children remember the lesson based on the craft, but when asked what the craft represents, children are eager to discuss what they learned during the lesson and that they understood what it was about.

**Children create remote controls for self-regulation (having the behavior fit the situation).**
Why Try?
A Program Created to Answer that Question

Why Try successfully addresses the question, “Why try in life?” It is an evidence-based program that is offered to middle school-age youth and appeals to all learning styles. The program involves videos, music, and metaphorical methodology to explain some of life’s situations and also helps youth identify the best approach applicable to them. Teamwork is one of the main objectives of many of the lessons bringing youth together to work with others from different backgrounds all while keeping teamwork as the focus. Honesty, respect, and dignity are taught, internalized and reinforced through Why Try lessons. It is a program that has flexibility so that it can be adjusted to meet the particular needs of the youth to whom it is taught.

Cassondra Fox, BSW/LSAA, and Santos Franco, SRO, currently teach the program at Mesa Middle School. This program combines current research in youth learning development to create a relevant relationship-based, multi-sensory intervention that enables every student to become resilient in the face of life’s challenges. Plus, it is fun!

For more information, call Cassondra at 575-840-8937.

Wings for L.I.F.E.
Parenting Classes

WHEN: Every Wednesday Evening
TIME: 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
WHERE: 505 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Andy’s Hall
INSTRUCTOR: Sally Green, BSW/MS Special Education

BENEFITS OF PROGRAM:
- Supports and empowers parents
- Maintains Confidentiality
- Court Approved
- Certification of Completion
- Enter at any time
- Child care available
- Program is free of charge

SOME OF THE TOPICS COVERED:
- Roots of Childhood Behavior
- Culture and Parenting
- Stages of Child Development
- Parenting While in Recovery
- Discipline versus Punishment
- How to Handle a Supervised Visit
- Effectively applying newly acquired parenting skills

MOST IMPORTANT IS OUR REPUTATION FOR BEING A WELCOMING PLACE THAT TREATS ALL INDIVIDUALS WITH RESPECT
Sundays at Wings are FUN

BBQ/Swim Party

Halloween Carnival

Emma and Friends Chillin

WINGS for LIFE

Royals
Dr Bob Phillips, a frequent Wings for L.I.F.E. presenter, discusses Life in Recovery (left)

Porter Cutrell, Principal at University High, presents a program on Early College High School (right)

(Left) Molina Health Care and DOH gave a great presentation on eating healthy during the holidays. Fifty Albertson’s turkeys were given to the families and individuals present thanks to the generosity of so many Roswell supporters.

(Left) Domino’s Pizza at Back to School and Christmas Parties help make these three hour events fun for all.

Veronica Alonzo, (right) NM Workforce Connections Site Manager, presents Employment Services and Programs for all Job Seekers

Board member Tracey Luna poses with Wings for L.I.F.E. Parenting Program Instructor Sally Green, who gave an excellent presentation on parenting (right)
All Wings for L.I.F.E. Programs are free to the Public

◊ Community Outreach Program meets from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM twice a month on Sundays at St. Andrew’s parish hall. Program begins at 6 PM followed by a delicious meal prepared on site. Child Care available during program portion.

◊ Community Parenting classes held weekly at 505 N. Pennsylvania, Andy’s Hall (Sally, BSW/MS Special Ed).

◊ Life-skills and substance abuse education classes held weekly for women at the Chaves County Detention Center (Teresa, LMSW/LADAC).

◊ Life-skills and substance abuse education classes held weekly for men at the Chaves County Detention Center (Don, AA/LSAA Candidate).

◊ Life-skills and developmental assets classes held weekly at the Chaves County Juvenile Detention Center (David, AA/LSAA Candidate).

◊ Building Assets Program offered weekly at eleven elementary schools. (Instructors are Kaarina MS/Edu, Karen, LMSW, and Cassondra BSW/LSAA).

◊ Why Try Program offered at Mesa Middle School (Cassondra, BSW/LSAA)

To learn more about Wings for L.I.F.E. programs, please contact Shelly at or 575-317-2042 (C).