

Comments – Springer Boys School Wings Party

November 5, 2005



Letter from a parent – "Thank you so much for such a wonderful day on Nov. 5 at the Boys School. It was so wonderful to see my son. You all made it a fun and very fulfilling day for us. D.A. is my son. He had fun. He always praises the Lord. God bless you all. Thank you for my picture you sent to me. I will treasure it till I die. Be blessed today and forever. Happy Thanksgiving to you all." B.A.

There were about 120 youth and family members who attended the 2nd Wings Party at the Springer Boys School. There were many first-time visitors to Springer, and families came as far away as Farmington (5.5 hour drive one way) and Carlsbad (7-8 hour drive one way). Central United Methodist Church in Albuquerque was kind enough to let us drive their van, and we brought a mother to visit her son for the first time. She was nervous, fearful, and concerned on the drive up, and cried tears of joy most of the way home after seeing her son and realizing he was in a safe place. There were 15 volunteers from Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Estancia, the Navajo Nation, and Espanola. The ecumenical gathering of volunteers came from numerous churches and many different denominations. Youth Pastor Daniel Arellano from Espanola shared his powerful testimony of growing up in detention facilities, including Springer, and because of God is now married, the father of three children, and Youth Pastor at The Rock Church in Espanola. It was estimated that 12 correctional staff were in attendance. Duplicate comments are not included.

I came to the Wings Party today because:

1. To visit my brother. (I love my brother.)
2. I wanted to learn something new and to eat.
3. I want to learn more about the Lord.
4. It's the best way to serve and love families as Christ would.
5. To be with everyone and to visit with my boys.
6. I wanted to visit my sons, and I came to find out what the party was about. – Mother
7. To see my whole family. It was the one day I could.
8. I wanted to help the youth.
9. I love to hear the Word of the Lord.
10. To be with my son in Springer and to see how the staff is with the children.
11. To witness to young boys.
12. To see my brothers and hear what people like them went through.
13. Last time I came to one I really enjoyed it. – Client
14. I wanted to have fun and be with my family.
15. To glorify the Lord.
16. I wanted a picture of me.
17. To give my son moral support.
18. My grandson is here.
19. I wanted to spend time with my nephew and to support him.
20. I wanted to visit with my family.
21. I wanted to see my son.
22. I wanted to be involved with my son.
23. My son was very excited and really wanted us all to be here.
24. I wanted to worship God.
25. My son Shumar is here and I hadn't seen him in 6 months or more.
26. I wanted to share time with my family and son.
27. It gave positive impact.
28. The Chaplain.

**Wings Ministry - www.WingsMinistry.org
2226 B Wyoming NE #130**

Albuquerque, NM 87112 * 1-505-291-6412 * AnnEdenfield@WingsMinistry.org

29. Because I love my brother and I haven't seen him for 6 months.
30. I needed to get away from the Lodge plus have a good time.
31. To be with my son and I got invited.
32. So I could see my family.
33. To have fun with my grandson.
34. I wanted to see what it is like (for my brother) in Springer.
35. Ceria aprender algo de dios.
36. To see what it is about.
37. I love to hear the Word of God.
38. I wanted to hear what everybody had to say about God.
39. I wanted to do something different.
40. I wanted to learn more about God.
41. To have fun.
42. I needed to get away from the lodge.
43. Dominic R. Soto. Nephew, growing closer spiritually.
44. I wanted to know more about the program.
45. I wanted to see my son Christopher.
46. I was scheduled to work. - Staff

The highlights of the party for me were:

47. Watching the families get photos and the Bible study time.
48. Spending time with my brother.
49. I had a good time and the food was good.
50. La comida.
51. Community prayer.
52. That Christopher was here.
53. Being together.
54. Eating with my family.
55. Being with my family.
56. Eating the pizza.
57. Getting a family picture taken.
58. The family picture we took with our son and the crafts we did.
59. The singing and Daniel's speech.
60. To meet new friends and to show that people care. – Aunt
61. When we sang.
62. I adopted a son – he didn't have family to visit.
63. Stay out of these places and be out there with family.
64. The guest speakers and pizza.
65. Praising God.
66. Interacting with the boys and sharing with them.
67. Was very happy to see my only son for the first time again.
68. Meeting some new people.
69. I had a good time.
70. Pretty cool activity. I'm thankful for being able to see my brother.
71. The sharing.
72. The speeches. People that have had a hard life and made it because of God.
73. Family portrait.
74. Food. I liked the pizza and the cookies.
75. Great!
76. Just having fun.
77. The best thing was about preaching about our Lord and Savior and His love for all these boys. No matter what they did and went through and the encouragement and faith. – Mother

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- 78. Touching and interacting with everyone in attendance. – Grandmother
- 79. Daniel's testimony. – Mother
- 80. Being with my brothers.
- 81. Community prayers and communication.
- 82. Prayer and Jesus.
- 83. Everything. – Staff

The Prison Officials should continue to allow Wings Parties in prisons because:

- 84. It makes people think about making choices to attend things like this.
- 85. It helps us all to get along together.
- 86. I believe that this will encourage the boys that there are people that care and have love for them. – Mother
- 87. It's important to encourage families spending fun time together.
- 88. They encourage and give hope to our children.
- 89. This is the only times we really are free to walk around and speak to our families and have fun at the same time.
- 90. It's a very positive party.
- 91. It brings youth together and gives a chance to have fun.
- 92. It brings families together.
- 93. So people can visit their sons and brothers.
- 94. They are good because you get to see your family.
- 95. It gives us something to look forward to.
- 96. Nice to be around different people.
- 97. Many of the kids do not hear about God.
- 98. Brings out a lot of family participation.
- 99. I think it's great for the boys to be able to spend time with family and learn about God.
- 100. It's good for lost ones to be seen with their loved ones.
- 101. It's fun, get to spend time with your family, and play games.
- 102. To get the family more involved.
- 103. It's very positive.
- 104. Family life is emphasized.
- 105. It helps us get closer to God.
- 106. It is something positive for the boys and can show them God and families care. – Aunt
- 107. Certainly.
- 108. Yes.
- 109. It's a great time to visit and hear about God.
- 110. I know they like it.
- 111. This gives people time to think and also shows people that there is hope.
- 112. They are fun.
- 113. It's fun for everyone.
- 114. Pos yo ciero que los tenga teniendo mas.
- 115. It allows us to become close to one another.
- 116. It helps them change.
- 117. It's good to learn about the Bible.
- 118. Thank you for caring.
- 119. It helps all of us learn and have fun.
- 120. They get to eat pizza.
- 121. Because the boys need their families.
- 122. The positivity.
- 123. It gives us the chance to better our lives and learn from our mistakes.
- 124. It's a chance to listen to men like Daniel. (Speech)
- 125. So the kids can see their family.
- 126. It allows us to communicate.

127. The group activities.
 128. It brings joy and happiness to the boys.
 129. It gives the boys an opportunity to communicate with each other and with their parents.
 130. It's a time to share with people from church and with your family.
 131. Moral.
 132. Yes, for the client could get continued support.
 133. I think it's great for the boys to be able to spend time with family and learn about God. – Father
 134. It's good for the clients to see their families. - Staff

I appreciate the Guideposts Magazines, sweaters, and books, delicious donated food, and want to tell all the sponsors thanks and:

135. The sweaters are beautiful – Thank you so much!
 136. I like the colors of the sweaters.
 137. Thank you for trying to help us. I am thankful for life.
 138. Thanks for making all of this possible.
 139. Thanks you for the sweaters and the Christmas cards.
 140. I had an excellent time.
 141. Thank you very much!
 142. Thank you very much and many, many blessings!
 143. Thank you for this Wings Party.
 144. Thanks!
 145. You rule!
 146. Great job! Thank you all and I'm blessed to have Jesus Christ in my heart!
 147. Thank you for doing this party. It got me closer to God and my family.
 148. Thank the Lord. Thanks for everything.
 149. Thanks for all the fun and the good time.
 150. Thanks for having the parties.
 151. Thank you! Very much!
 152. To keep up what you do for these boys and God bless you. Thank you!
 153. Thank you very much. I had fun. God bless.
 154. Thank you for all the support and input.
 155. Job well done.
 156. Thank you. God be with you.
 157. Thank you for supporting the boys and giving them hope.
 158. God bless you and thank you for thinking of our children.
 159. Thank you for everything. I am thankful for being here.
 160. Thank you for allowing this party to happen. I am thankful for being alive.
 161. This is an outstanding opportunity for the boys to communicate. Thank you so much!! Denise M. Soto
 162. Thank you very much! I think you guys did something very special for these boys. – Father
 163. Thank you for giving us this time to share with others and to want to see our son succeed in life.
 164. Keep up the good work.
 165. Yes. Thanks to everyone.
 166. Thank you so much for everything. God bless. – Staff