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 and partnership in elementary and
 middle schools.
 Fifth Judicial District Court for
 allowing us to conduct the PACT
 Program at the Court House.

Wings for LIFE Programs



Wings for L.I.F.E.—Virtual Programming On-Line

Our last newsletter was printed shortly after Covid-19 caused massive shutdowns in businesses, travel, and, of course, schools. Wings for L.I.F.E. continued all our programs by mailing lessons to over 300 students that were enrolled in the Building Assets Elementary School and WhyTry Resilience Middle School Programs. We made follow-up calls to students to answer any questions about the material. These mailings and follow-up calls continued through June 5, 2020. In addition, we created fun activities for young people to do with their families while confined in their homes and even provided these to non-participating children at the various elementary schools when meal pickups were done during the day.

I don't believe anyone thought that the crisis would continue through the summer, let alone the fall and winter. Wings for L.I.F.E. was uncertain as to whether our programs would continue. Thanks to assistance from the Roswell Independent School District, the Building Assets and WhyTry programs could continue to teach via Zoom the valuable Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) Skills children need to be successful socially and academically.

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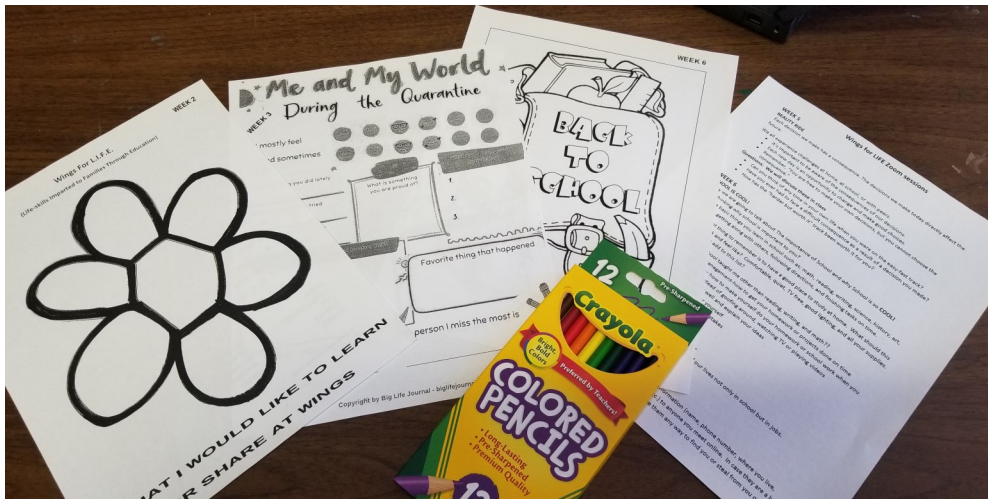
Building Assets

Social & Emotional Learning Skills Program

Building Assets prepares young people for transitioning into middle school. Children in the middle age range have one foot in childhood and one foot in adolescence. Building Assets provides them with confidence and optimism as they continue their education. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, Building Assets could not continue inside the schools and needed to be done virtually. This was a new concept for Wings for L.I.F.E. staff. Training for instructors began in the summer to prepare them for virtual programming. The real challenge was yet to come: recruitment and registration for the program.

Normally, recruitment is done on-site at the elementary schools. We also give presentations to the staff at schools for those not familiar with the program. This year it could not be done. Instead, we made phone calls and also sent letters to families because not all families have access to the Internet. Counselors and Administrative staff also assisted in referring children to our program.

For children that are able to attend the Zoom classes, they receive a package each month of the material they will need so they can work online with the instructor. For example, the initial package we send out contains color pencils for crafts, work games, and activities that will reinforce the lessons taught. In order to accommodate children with no internet capabilities, we also send packages each month with instructions to children and their parents/caregivers. Below is a picture of the first mailout to our children.

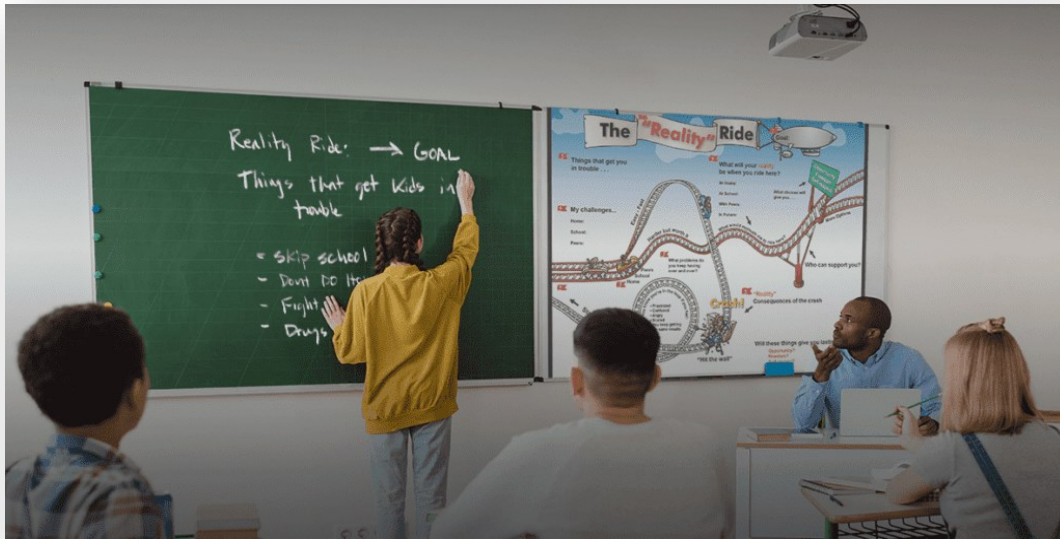


Curriculum for Fall 2020 through Spring 2021

Me During Quarantine; Rules and Boundaries; Making Choices; School is Cool; Internet Safety; Labels; Empathy (treating others the way you would like to be treated); Defense Mechanisms; Emotional Fuel; Handling Anger; Gratitude/Being Thankful; Climbing Out (Positive/Negative Influences); Kindness; Goals; Working through Problems; Cultural Awareness; Healthy Relationships; Positive View of Self; Responsibility; Impulse Control; Grief and Sadness; Service to Others; Motivation.

These important skills are taught in a way that is fun and exciting for our participants. Our children are awesome!

WhyTry Reliency Program For Middle School Youth



A Program That Answers the Question

“Why Try in Life?”

This evidence-based program teaches social and emotional principles to youth in a way they can understand and remember. The WhyTry curriculum utilizes visual analogies that teach important life-skills (for example: decisions have consequences, how to deal with peer pressure, the importance of obeying laws and rules, and how to plug into support systems). The visual analogies are reinforced through customized hip-hop music, videos, and activities such as journaling that help students reflect on larger concepts and engage all major learning styles (visual, auditory, and body-kinesthetic). There is also a substance abuse prevention section that runs 7 weeks and is taught by a Licensed Substance Abuse Associate (LSAA) member of our staff.

Just like the Building Assets Program, the WhyTry Program required lessons to be mailed each week and follow-up phone calls from March through June during Covid-19 confinement. Each lesson had an introduction by the instructor as well as visual aids and a page for reflection and journaling. WhyTry is now offered on Zoom in all four middle schools with classes held every Wednesday in the morning and afternoon. Not only do the students interact with the instructor but also with one another.

The curriculum this year also began with discussing Covid-19 and its impact on our young people. WhyTry lessons included topics such as Reality Ride (making choices); Defense Mechanisms (dealing with life's pressures); Climbing Out (negative/positive influences); Jumping Hurdles (handling problems); Desire, Time, and Effort (things that are worthwhile); Get Plugged In (involvement with community); and the Wall (working through problems). There is a seven week substance abuse prevention component including What is Addiction, as well as tobacco, methamphetamine; opiates, marijuana, alcohol, and vaping and the negative impact on the developing adolescent brain. The final weeks deal with WhyTry Resilience topics for that purpose—building youth resiliency.

***Variety of Classes that Build and
Strengthen Healthy Family Relationships and
Individual Life-Skills***



Parenting Classes

Being a parent is challenging, but Wings is here to help. Wings for L.I.F.E.'s Parenting Program is a Court-approved program that addresses the concerns of parents of children of all ages and abilities. Parents learn how to develop and maximize their talents, strengths, and skills in a supportive, empowering environment. One of the benefits of the program is that parents don't have to wait for a program cycle to end before entering classes. Parenting classes are set up so parents can enter the program at any time, and Certificates of Completion are awarded after they've finished all 15-weeks of the program.

Instructor Sally Green, BSW/M.Ed., State Certified Family Instructor, has taught parenting classes in Roswell for many years and teaches the PACT Program discussed below. Due to Covid-19, Zoom parenting classes are offered every Wednesday from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Weekly class attendance averages 25 to 28 parents.

For more information concerning enrollment and participation via Zoom, please contact Daina Foster, Administrative Assistant/Registration Contact, at 575-840-5731.

PACT Program

Many supporters may not be aware that Wings for L.I.F.E. is also the fiscal agent for the PACT Program (Parents and Children Together). Parents involved in domestic disputes (divorce or separation) that involve the custody and visitation of children are mandated by the District Court to attend this program. PACT is offered once a month, on Saturdays, at the District Court House.

The morning session focuses on co-parenting (taught by Sally Green). The afternoon class presents an attorney who provides legal information and answers questions parents may have concerning custody and visitation rights. The rest of the afternoon involves mediation by qualified mediators for parents willing to create an agreement for custody and visitation that is in the best interests of the child/children, as opposed to having an impartial judge make the determination.

Programs for Detainees

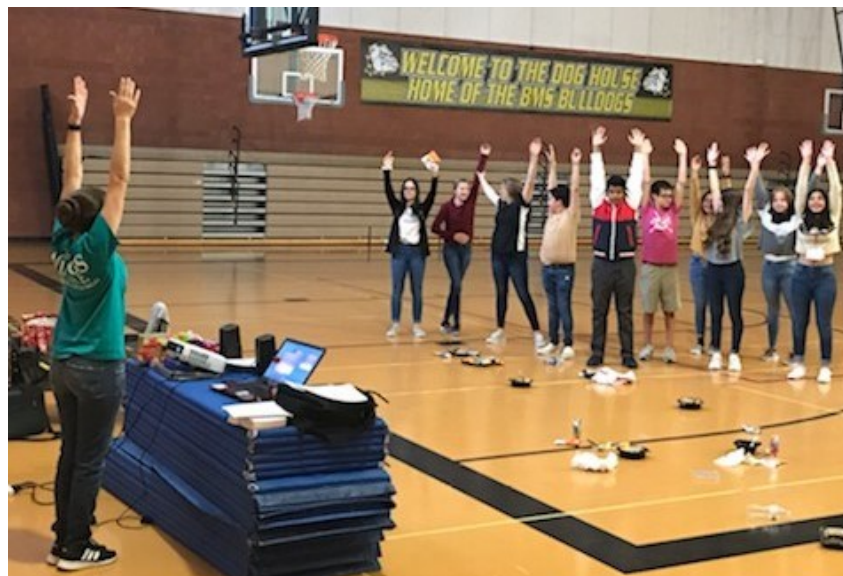
Wings for L.I.F.E. provides lessons for the men and women in detention. Lessons are taught weekly at the Chaves County Detention Center. The classes that Wings for L.I.F.E. offers in the detention center are taught by Licensed Instructors and cover substance abuse education, relapse prevention, recovery management, cognitive behavior, as well as a parenting component. Due to COVID-19 the facility is closed to all outside programs. Hopefully, our programs will be restarted again when this virus is well-contained

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Pictures from 2019



Building Assets Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) Skills
Program Contact: Marty, Program Coordinator, at
marty.garcia1105@gmail.com for Registration Forms



WhyTry and WhyTry Resilience Program
Contact Chelsea, Program Coordinator, at
ccaffey25@gmail.com for Registration Forms or Visit
roswell-wingsforlife.org/whytry and click on Registration

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website: <http://roswell-wingsforlife.org>



**Inside Story:
Wings for L.I.F.E. Finds New Ways to Continue Its Programs During COVID-19**

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. -- Robert Louis Stevenson

All Wings for L.I.F.E. Programs are Free to the Public

- ◇ **Building Assets Social and Emotional Learning Skills is offered in all twelve elementary schools. Marty Garcia is the Program Coordinator.**
- ◇ **Why Try Resilience Program is offered on-site at all four middle schools. Chelsea Vasquez is the Program Coordinator.**
- ◇ **Community Parenting Program offered each Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Court approved with open admission. Sally Green is the Instructor and Daina Foster is the Registration Contact**
- ◇ **PACT (Parents and Children Together) offered once a month at the District Court.**
- ◇ **Programs for men and women at Chaves County Detention Center.**

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