

## Ann Edenfield Sweet

Director

Author: ***Family Arrested: How to Survive the Incarceration of a Loved One***

Author: ***Strengthening Families from the Inside Out – Leader’s Guidebook #1***

Ann is an internationally recognized motivational keynote speaker, popular TV and radio show guest, and frequent leader of workshops and trainings at national and international conferences. Ann has had an interesting and varied life and uses her life experiences. Ann has been an international flight attendant for three major airlines, real estate broker, motel chain owner, director of development and grant writer for an art center, and church youth director. As special projects director for the LOGOS Ministry, an international ecumenical church youth program, she led ten trips to Russia. Ann has also served as VP of Sales for a publishing company and authored a book based on her personal life experiences titled ***Family Arrested: How to Survive the Incarceration of a Loved One.***



In 1995 Ann founded a ministry for family members of inmates. Ann has led prison and community Family Days in 20 states, India, Kenya, and Liberia. Ann was honored by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and received the ***ODRC Director’s Impact Award*** for her outstanding work in Ohio. She expanded the program to Liberia, West Africa where Ann leads teams of Americans and Liberians across Liberia where she trains leaders how to hold prison and community Family Days, as well as start educational programs.

Ann also founded an educational empowerment/support group for the entire family that built Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets© and offered support and education for children, parents/caregivers, and returning citizens. Under her leadership, the program won the prestigious American Probation and Parole Association’s ***National Award of Excellence in Crime Prevention, NM Innovative Behavioral Health Program Star***, one of the top 10 Behavioral Health programs in NM, and is recognized as a National and State Best Practice Model. Ann’s book, ***Strengthening Families from the Inside Out –Leader’s Guidebook #1***, helps congregations, corrections departments, and organizations around the world start programs for families of prisoners and returning citizens.

In 2023 Ann resigned from that ministry and has recently founded ***Family Connections Ministry***, and is involved with her local church, on several Boards, helping other non-profits, leading workshops as requested, and continuing her prison ministry in various states.

Ann has received the following awards: ***YWCA Women on the Move, Community Champions Award*** recipient of the ***PAY-IT-FORWARD Award*** by KOB-TV, recipient of the ***Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Award***, the Martin Luther King, Jr. ***Keep the Dream Alive Award***, Albuquerque Business First ***Woman of Influence Award***, and a New Mexico Magazine ***True Hero*** recipient.

Ann is the proud mother of four sons, seven grandchildren, and is married to the Rev. Doug Sweet.