



Rhonda Bear
***Program Director, Women in
Transition***
Stand in the Gap Ministries

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Rhonda Bear spent years running from police. Wanted on drug charges in several states, Rhonda could not put down her addiction, even when threatened with the loss of her children. But behind bars, she renewed her commitment to Christ, completed drug counseling, and met a volunteer who invited her to participate in a Stand in the Gap spiritual family. Rhonda regained custody of her children and is now an attentive and involved mother and grandmother.

Today, Rhonda is back in prison. But this time, she is a Department of Corrections-approved volunteer, teaching Stand in the Gap's Women in Transition curriculum to female inmates across the state of Oklahoma. Upon her students' release, Rhonda matches them with transitional living facilities and pairs women with Stand in the Gap small groups of mentors. Rhonda leads a team of Women in Transition course facilitators and volunteers who work hard to empower women to live healthy, whole lives beyond bars. In addition to her work at Stand in the Gap, Rhonda manages ten transitional living homes and provides employment opportunities for these women through two coffee shops.

Her life experiences allow her to relate to incarcerated women in a way that few other volunteers can. She is passionate about her work at Stand in the Gap because she knows first-hand that the program works.

Rhonda graduated from Northeastern State University with a bachelor's degree in social work. She has been honored and recognized as "Volunteer of the Year" by Eddie Warrior Correctional Center, as one of the YWCA's "Women of the Year" and named one of six "Leading Ladies of Claremore" by the Claremore Chamber of Commerce. Rhonda serves on Governor Stitt's RESTORE task force and received her full pardon from the Governor in 2019. April 5, 2019 was officially declared "Rhonda Bear Day" in the state of Oklahoma. Rhonda was appointed by Governor Stitt to serve on the Board of Corrections for the Oklahoma DOC. In that role, she is responsible for establishing and reviewing policies and confirming the appointment of wardens. For women in prison, Rhonda's story opens the door to immeasurable hope.