

I-877-621-7177 • www.angelflightcentral.org

Giving hope wings

INSIDE:

Heroes of the Heart Award Winners

AFC Passenger celebrates Angel Flight experience

Ambassador Program Brings Message of Hope

OUR MISSION:

Serving people in need by arranging charitable flights for access to health care and for other humanitarian purposes.

Angel Flight Central assists children and adults with free long-distance transportation and supports pilot and outreach volunteers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF:



Angel Flight passenger and Hurricane Katrina survivor must travel long distance for lifesaving care





TOP: AFC Passenger twelve-year-old Gypsy Rose and her mother, DiDi were displaced to Aurora, MO by Hurricane Katrina. Gypsy Rose bravely battles Muscular Dystrophy and Leukemia and must routinely travel to Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City for treatments.

Photo provided by AFC Volunteer Pilot Russ Zerkel, Joplin, MO

ABOVE: AFC Volunteer Pilot Russ Zerkel, co-pilot Don Saunders, Gypsy Rose and DiDi just before boarding a flight out of Monett, MO for Kansas City, MO. Without AFC, Gypsy Rose would not be able to access needed medical care. Gypsy Rose was a guest speaker at AFC Heroes of the Heart Celebration in May (story inside).

Photos provided by AFC Volunteer Pilot Russ Zerkel, Joplin, MO

YOUR LEADERSHIP:

Advisory Council

Founder and Chairman Emeritus James H. Stevens, Jr.

> **Members** Stephen T. Carter Thomas H. Holcom

2006-2007 Board of Trustees

Chairman of the Board/President Andrew M. DeMarea, Overland Park, KS

Past President Larry W. Wheeler, *Kansas City, MO*

President-Elect Melanie Tucker, Kansas City, KS

Secretary Michele Stauffer, Overland Park, KS

Treasurer John J. Stolte IV, *Overland Park, KS*

Vice President of Resource Development

John W. Kennedy, Kansas City, MO

Board Members

Sheryl Bosilevac, Kansas City, MO Donald Estell, St. Louis, MO Dick Gooch, Kansas City, MO Phil Love, Kansas City, MO Lee Mook, Floyds Knobs, IN Steven D. Pearson, Chicago, IL David Rainey, Kansas City, MO Eric Roehl, Crystal Lake, IL Lisa D. Tomlinson, Overland Park, KS Scott R. Wesley, Kansas City, MO Tom Zumm. Wheaton, IL

Wing Leaders

Great Lakes Wing John Major, *Crystal Lake, IL*

Indiana Wing Jack Gabbert, *Carmel, IN*

Spirit of St. Louis Wing Sal Slusher, Wentzville, MO

Staff Team

CEO/Executive Director Christel Gollnick

Operations Director Brenda Champagne

Aviation Specialist/Mission Coordinator Judy Benjamin

> Mission Coordinator Shelia Freeman

Support Services Coordinator Joan Nickum

> Development Director Jason Roth

Outreach Director Brendan Sneegas

Communications Coordinator Linda Sanchez

The Compass

by Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director Christel Gollnick



I have been both accused of and complimented for being optimistic and hopeful. "Accused" when the state of mind seems unrealistic, and "complimented" when in spite of challenges the positive attitude helped me - or others persevere, overcome roadblocks and succeed. According to Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia, optimism is "a conclusion reached through a deliberate thought pattern that leads to a positive attitude" - an "intellectual state" - whereas hope is an "emotional state." Both optimism and hope are important ingredients in the equation of healing, but hope in particular is an essential element of life itself.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines hope as "a desire with expectation of obtainment; to expect with confidence." I like this definition best because it speaks of an underlying spirit that runs rich throughout every aspect of Angel Flight. Our leadership and operations teams forge ahead every day expecting with confidence that we will be able to support and manage a growing organization ultimately finding the resources - volunteer pilots, outreach volunteers, finances and in-kind services and gifts - to help people through charitable aviation. Our volunteers expect with confidence that their unique talents will be helpful to a neighbor in need. And, our passengers face their personal challenges with the expectation of obtaining healthy bodies and families. They have hope in the center of their hearts.

Hope is stronger than a wish. It is more than a fanciful dream. Hope catapults ideas, plans and desires into action. Hope helps us live our lives to their fullest potential.

Thank you for helping to "GIVE HOPE WINGS" through the mission of Angel Flight Central.

Angel Flight Central, Inc., formerly Wings Over Mid-America, Inc., is a non-profit volunteer pilot organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under I.R.C. sec. 501(c)(3). All contributions are tax-deductible. *WINGSPAN* is an Angel Flight Central quarterly publication edited and published by Christel Gollnick and Linda Sanchez. Stories and content are supplied by staff and volunteers. A limited number of extra copies are available free of charge or visit our website at angelflightcentral.org to download a .pdf version. Please contact us at: Angel Flight Central, Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport, 10 Richards Road, Kansas City, MO 64116 if your address has changed, you are receiving duplicates, or if you would like to be removed from this mailing list.

> Angel Flight Central Office Phone: 816-421-2300 Fax: 816-421-2409 E-mail: wings@angelflightcentral.org www.angelflightcentral.org

Request Assistance and Information Nationwide: 1-877-621-7177

Annual Heroes of the Heart Celebration Honors Angel Flight Volunteers and Supporters



On Saturday, April 21, Angel Flight Central held their annual celebration, Heroes of the Heart, in Kansas City to honor this past year's volunteers and supporters. The event included dinner and an awards program. Special guest speakers AFC passengers thirteen-year-old Gypsy Rose, her mother DiDi as well as Barbara expressed their gratitude to the audience of approximately 100 volunteers and donors for the valuable service provided to them by AFC.



 Executive Director Christel Gollnick

 presents the Outreach in Excellence

 Award to Chris and Amanda Sabia at

 the 2007 Heroes of the Heart.
 Photos

 provided by AFC Outreach Director Brendan Sneegas

Past victims of Hurricane Katrina, DiDi and Gypsy Rose lost everything and were relocated to Aurora, Missouri. Since then, AFC has arranged flights for them to Kansas City so Gypsy Rose can receive specialized care at Children's Mercy Hospital. AFC also arranges flights for Barbara, Kansas City, Missouri who participates in a clinical trial at MD Anderson, Houston, Texas for pancreatic cancer. All AFC supporters were recognized and this year's special awards included:

WING Leadership Award

Jack Gabbert, Carmel, Indiana (for dedication as a volunteer leader of a local group and being an effective liaison between WING and AFC)

Excellence in Outreach Award

Dan Mayworm, Libertyville, Illinois, (for outstanding public relations work) **Chris and Amanda Sabia**, Kansas City, Missouri (for coordinating annual Great American BBQ and Balloon Rally with proceeds to AFC)

Special Recognition Award

Lewis Young, Larned, Kansas (for flying over **400** AFC missions, making him the first **Platinum Member** of the Golden Eagle Society)

Administrative Volunteer of the Year

Yvette James, Parkville, Missouri (for providing invaluable administrative support, talent and positive spirit to the team)

Missions Team Member of the Year

Dana Buchanan, Kansas City, Missouri (for incredibly detailed, intuitive and compassionate work as a screener)



Pilot of the Year Michele Stauffer with AFC Passenger Gypsy Rose at the event.

Pilot of the Year

Michele Stauffer, Overland Park, Kansas (for generous service including flying over 135 missions and providing commercial tickets when no other options were available or appropriate) Air Charity Network also awarded her National Pilot of the Year.

Golden Eagle Society Award

(For flying over 100 AFC missions): Herman Hood, Marion, Illinois; Rex Ekwall, Omaha, Nebraska and Dale Grahl, Eden, Wisconsin. Michele Stuaffer, Overland Park, Kansas (added over 100 AFC missions to her current Golden Eagle status); Nila Ridings, Overland Park, Kansas (for naming AFC as a beneficiary to her estate through the Tailwind Society); Melanie Tucker, Kansas City, Kansas (for serving 1,000 AFC volunteer "Ground Crew" hours)

ON THE HORIZON

Please contact AFC Outreach Director Brendan Sneegas for more information on the meetings and events listed below at 816-421-2300, ext. 202 or brendan@angelflightcentral.org.

July 4, 2007--AFC Office CLOSED for holiday

July 13, 2007--Dessert First Luncheon, 12:00 pm, AFC Office, Charles Wheeler Downtown Airport, Kansas City, MO

July 16, 2007--Executive Committee Meeting, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, AFC Office, Kansas City, MO July 23-29, 2007--EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, Wittman Field, Oshkosh, WI

August 10, 2007--Dessert First Luncheon, 12:00 pm, AFC Office, Charles Wheeler Downtown Airport, Kansas City, MO

August 13, 2007--Board of Trustees Meeting (Annual Meeting and Board Elections), and NorthStar Wing Social, FlyingCloud Airport, Eden Prairie, MN October 20, 2007--Give Hope Wings Benefit, The Sanfilippo Estate, Barrington Hills, IL

November 30, 2007--From the Cellar to the Sky: Wine Flight 2007, 7:00 pm, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO

INSPIRATIONS

"Throughout our cancer treatments there have been many terrifying experiences and some incredible blessings. Yesterday, our flight with you was a blessing of unparalleled magnitude."

AFC Passengers Todd and Karen, Lincoln, NE



AFC Passenger celebrates Angel Flight experience during difficult time



AFC Passengers Todd and Karen, with AFC Volunteer Pilot Tom Trumble, all of Lincoln, NE, leaving for MD Anderson where Karen receives medical care for her rare cancer. She has had two open heart surgeries and an operation on her trachea to remove tumors. Todd and Karen have a three-year-old daughter and a ten-year-old son.

Photos provided by AFC Volunteer Pilot Tom Trumble

Karen and Todd don't know what the future will hold except that it will continue to include many doctor appointments. Their story began in 2000, when doctors discovered a tumor in Karen's right leg. They removed the cancer, and she received chemo and radiation therapy. However, it didn't stop there. Karen has subsequently been diagnosed and treated for breast cancer, has endured two open heart surgeries and an operation on her trachea, all to remove cancerous tumors. Last year, they found another mass, between her heart and lungs, but this time, Karen was told it was inoperable.

Karen and Todd now spend precious time with their family making as many memories as possible. They are also making video tapes of Karen for their children to play at graduations, weddings, and special occasions. Because of the travel necessary for her medical care, some time has also been spent with AFC Volunteer Pilots. According to Karen and Todd, that has been a wonderful blessing. "We have been blessed by Angel Flight. Last year we were able to fly (a donated flight) on a Lear Jet... luxury at its finest. Yet our experience with AFC was so much more rewarding,"

said Todd. "The pilots, their passion for helping people in times of need, made our spirits soar. What amazing acts of kindness these generous souls provide during a frightening chapter in our family."

Throughout this ordeal, Karen and Todd have remained hopeful. On their last trip to MD Anderson, they were told that Karen's tumor has not grown for 6 months, while she has not been on any treatment. According to Todd, their "hope is stretched but not lost" as they continue, grateful for new friendships including those with AFC Volunteers.



AFC Passenger Karen is a licensed pilot and flew the plane on part of the trip. Of the experience, her husband says, "She was all smiles; all night long."

Angel Flight Ambassadors Bring Message of Hope to Outlying Areas

What is an Angel Flight

Ambassador?

If you or someone you know are passionate about the service AFC provides to the hundreds of families

and individuals who need access to health care, then consider becoming an Angel Flight Central Ambassador. This flexible and important volunteer role is perfect for the pilot or non pilot alike and is a critical element of AFC's ability to communicate with small communities.

The main roles of the Angel Flight

Ambassador are to focus quarterly on one of four outreach areas: Pilot Recruitment and Activities (visiting your local airports), Passenger and Community Awareness (visiting your area hospital and sharing Angel Flight with local organizations), Public Relations (talking with your local newspaper, radio and television station) and Friend-raising (introducing potential supporters and volunteers to Angel Flight).

Ambassadors often live in rural areas or within communities whose residents are unaware of Angel Flight, but may need our free transportation service the most. The area Wing leadership provides support, training, and contacts for Ambassadors and can assist at meetings and presentations. The Wing Leader often knows what outreach methods work best.

"I suggest ideas or projects to do on a regular basis such as visiting churches and synagogues, hanging posters at the local general aviation airport, and visiting healthcare clinics to distribute brochures," explains Great Lake Wing Passenger and Community Awareness Leader, Geri McKeown. "The activities are simple and not very time consuming; however, they can have a huge impact if someone in their

> community is helped through our mission."

> > Whether speaking

setting to a small

group or a largely attended formal

function, the AFC

staff can provide

The Angel Flight

Outreach Kit -

to present our

informative and

enjoyable way.

mission in an

the tools -

in an informal

A volunteer committed to the AFC mission of serving people in need through charitable aviation.

An important link to small communities within AFC's 10 state region.

A pilot or non pilot volunteer "spreading the word" about Angel Flight.

Vital to our success in helping more people in need throughout the Midwest!

The kit includes: →Several PowerPoint presentations designed for specific audiences.

→Promotional materials such as posters, magnets, newsletters, and brochures.

→A DVD that explains our mission and tells our story with photos, songs, and messages from key staff, and local and national media.

→A table top display for use at health fairs, air shows, and other community events.

→DVD copies of national news stories that ran on the NBC "Today Show" and Fox News Network.

→Updated statistics and helpful hints for speaking on behalf of AFC.

Everyday AFC receives a call from someone who learned about our service by "word of mouth." That's why Ambassadors are critical to bringing our message of hope throughout the region. Contact Brendan Sneegas for information or to receive an "Angel Flight Outreach Kit" at 816-421-2300, ext. 202.



AFC Volunteer Pilot Ron Wade, St. Joseph, MO, with AFC Passenger Deacon, Platte City, MO. Deacon has a rare form of Idiopathic Clubfoot. Thanks to a medical expert in Iowa City, IA, he was able to avoid additional surgery on his foot. With the help of AFC, Deacon travels for ongoing treatment in Iowa and according to his mom Meredith, "will one day be able to run, jump and play."

Photo provided by AFC Volunteer Pilot Ron Wade.

"...thank goodness for generous people like Mr. Wade who are willing to help a stranger. Their kindness reaches deep into a mother's heart.."

AFC Passenger Meredith and Deacon's mother Platte City, MO

INSPIRATIONS

"...Chloe was born premature and had slim hopes for survival. Angel Flight helped save her life by transporting her to where she could receive medical care... we now can't imagine not having this beautiful little girl to love, hug and brag about...thank you Angel Flight!"

> Chloe's grandmother Theresa, St. Louis, MO





AFC Passenger nine-year-old Alex, West Bend, WI enjoying his first trip in a light aircraft with his father, Scott. Alex has Ewing Sarcoma (bone cancer) and is unable to receive traditional radiation treatment. He must travel to MD Anderson for specialized treatment.

> Photo provided by AFC Volunteer Pilot Joe Tebo, Wentzville, MO.

ON BOARD: PILOT NEWS AND NOTES

In order to streamline and improve mission coordination and communication, your AFC Missions Team requests the following procedural changes:

Completed Missions - You no longer need to call Angel Flight to report a completed mission. Please log on to AFIDS within 24-48 hours after your flight and file a mission completion report including your hobbs time.

Questions or comments - Please email questions, comments, requests, etc. to a Mission Coordinator at **request@angelflightcentral.org**. If the coordinator you are trying to reach is not in the office, someone else can help you.

What is an active Mission Pilot? The AFC Board of Directors defines an active Mission Pilot as "one who has reaffirmed his/her membership every 12 months and has flown at least one mission within 24 months." Only active members may fly a mission and participate in HSEATS.

Help special needs children go to camp this summer! Camp Heartland (to Moose Lake, MN) is July 5, 16 and 22. Camp O'Dayin (to Brainerd, MN) is July 23, 27, 30, August 3, 6 and 10. Go to angelflightcentral.org to register today. Camp missions are listed in green, under Missions Available. Thank you to those who have flown camp missions. These children receive a needed break from their illness during camp and could not go without you!

Upcoming AFC Volunteer Pilot Conference Calls:

July 11, 2007 @ 5:00 PM Pilot Orientation Call

July 18, 2007 @ 8:00 AM Open Forum Pilot Call

August 7, 2007 @ 4:00 PM Open Forum Pilot Call August 15, 2007 @ 8:00 AM Pilot Orientation Call

September 13, 2007 @ 5:00 PM Pilot Orientation Call

September 20, 2007 @ 8:00 AM Open Forum Pilot Call

Contact Judy at **877-621-7177** or judy@angelflightcentral.org for more information or to R.S.V.P.

Thank you for "giving hope wings" for AFC!

Congratulations to AFC Volunteer Pilots Sal Slusher and Don Estell, Spirit of St. Louis Wing, who recieved the 2007 American Institute of Avionics Lindbergh Award for outstanding work serving people in need!

AFC Spring Friend-raising



AFC Volunteer Dr. Robert Nonn, Great Lakes Wing, visits with a participant of the Fox Valley Health Fair, in Appleton, WI. Fox Valley Pulmonary Medicine sponsored the AFC booth. Photo provided by

AFC Volunteer Lidia Nonn, Appleton, WI.

Spring brought many opportunities for AFC to friend-raise at area airshows and conferences. AFC Volunteers staffed the exhibit at the Fox Vally Health Fair, Appleton, Wisconsin. The AFC booth was sponsored by Dr. Robert Nonn, who visited with attendees about medical conditions and flying. AFC received major exposure at the Bolingbrook's **Clow International's 2007 Cavalcade** of Planes, Bolingbrook, IL. This airshow had approximately 11,000 attendees. The Rockford Air Festival, Rockford, IL attracted a crowd of 150,000 and along with the exhibit, AFC offered attendees the chance to explore an airplane for donations. AFC volunteers also staffed the exhibit at the Offutt Air Show, Bellevue, NE and Wisconsin Aviation Conference, Stevens Point, WI. Thank you AFC Volunteers for helping us friend-raise this spring!



GL Wing Volunteer Coordinator Julie Fors staffs the AFC exhibit at the Rockford Air Festival. Photo provided by AFC Volunteer David Drake, Rockford, IL

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Cash Donors 2/28/2007 to 5/31/2007

\$20,000+ BlueCross BlueShield of Kansas City Pioneer Services/Thomas and Denise Holcom

\$5,000 to \$9,999 Stephen and Joan Carter

\$2,500 to \$4,999 First Citizens Bank Greg and Connie Kaaz Kirk Samuelson Wolf Aviation Fund Lewis Young

\$1,000 to \$2,499 Assurant Employee Benefits Timothy Hannan Commerce Bank of Leavenworth Heavy Constructors Association of Kansas City Joshua Johnson Olathe Medical Center Robert Parker Sandra Smith James H. and Lisa Stevens, Jr. TJ's Bar and Grill Jeff Tyson Wal-Mart Foundation

\$500 to \$999 Robert and Teresa Astroth Ken Borum **Citigroup Foundation** Richard and Kim Davidson Fritz and Sandra Edmunds Kenneth and Marjorie Fowler Joseph Gleespen Carol Heier Nancy Kalishman Liberty Christian Church The Macy's Fund of the Federated **Department Stores Foundation** Leo Niemiec Chris and Amanda Sabia South Dakota Department of **Social Services** Tension Envelope Foundation Thom and Lisa Tomlinson James Vick Helen Wewers

\$300 to \$499 Sally Berger Carter Brothers, LLC Nancy Righthouse Michele Stauffer

Adopt-an-Angel Flight

\$300 Cash Donation per Flight 2/28/2007 to 5/31/2007

10 Flights First Citizens Bank

2 Flights

Scott Dostal, Friends and Family in memory of Kelly Chleborad United Information Technologies

1 Flight

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Arms Rolf Berg David and Linda Burke Rejean and Pamela Ducas Kale and Marsha Erway Adele and Don Hall Edna Hoffman Wayne and Julia Knauss Nancy Righthouse Larry Swain

In-Kind Donors \$300+

2/28/2007 to 5/31/2007

Boasberg\Wheeler **Communications: Annual Report Design Executive Beechcraft: Office Space** Randy Hudson: Two aviation oxygen systems Phil and Patty Love: **Office Space** Marks, Nelson, Vohland & Campbell, LLC:Accounting Services Fox Valley Pulmonary Medicine: Display booth at Fox Valley Health Fair Show Me Presentation Resources: Audio Visual Equipment/Services (Discounted) Shughart Thomson & Kilroy: Legal Consultations/Services

IU Grad travels 40 states to raise support

Christy Mehrlich, 24 and recent graduate of Indiana University, embarked on a five month journey in May with plans to stop in more that 40 states. Mehrlich is a pilot and will fly across the country taking part in activities such as a fossil dig in South Dakota and retracing Martin Luther King's steps in Selma, Alabama - all the while increasing awareness and raising money for Angel Flight. Her trip will end in San Jose, California in September.

AFC Volunteers receive national recognition

Congratulations to AFC Volunteer Pilot Michele Stauffer, Overland Park, KS and to AFC Volunteer and Board Member Andrew M. DeMarea, Shugart Thomson & Kilroy, for their national recognition from Air Charity Network (ACN). They both received their national awards for excellence in representing ACN at the Tribute Banquet in May, on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.



Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport 10 Richards Road Kansas City, MO 64116

If you receive duplicates of this publication, please share with a friend! Please notify AFC of address corrections.

1-877-621-7177 www.angelflightcentral.org

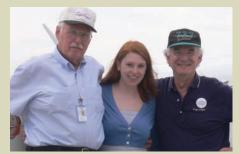
IMPACT: Mission Facts

Statistics based on Angel Flight Central data from 8/1/1995 to 5/31/2007 missions flown 9,198 **31,418** total volunteer hours **879** volunteer pilots roster charitable hours flown 44,355 **95%** of contributions supports program services Every **\$1** cash given allows **\$3** of flight services to be delivered

Be it a child requiring medical treatment in another area of the country, or an adult requiring immediate travel due to a family or national crisis, Angel Flight Central attempts to match each special need with a volunteer pilot who can help.

Kansas City, MO 64116

RIGHT: AFC Volunteer Pilot Bob Hamilton with AFC Passenger Lena, Dayton, OH who travels to Cancer Centers of America for treatment. Photo provided by AFC Volunteer Bob Hamilton, Wauconda, IL



AFC Volunteer Pilots Lee Mook and Dan McElroy give Christy Mehrlich a royal send-off before her cross country flight to benefit Angel Flight (see story pg. 7). Photo provided by AFC Volunteer Pilot Lee Mook, Floyds Knobs, IN

Name _____ Address City___ _____Zip _____Phone___ State _ E-mail I'm enclosing: This gift is made: **Adopt-an-Angel Flight \$25** In memory of **\$300 = 1 Flight** (name) **\$600 = 2 Flights** In honor of \square \$1,200 = 4 Flights (name) **\$3,000 = 10 Flights** Birthday Recovery □\$_ **\$6,000 = 20 Flights** New Arrival Holiday Graduation Marriage I am also interested in learning about: Anniversary Other Planned Giving Please notify: Giving In-kind Services Name _ and/or Gifts Address Please mail in a stamped envelope your check or money order payable to: City ____ Angel Flight Central, Inc., 10 Richards Road,

State ____ Zip ____



Our passengers need your help. Please indicate which areas you are interested in sharing with Angel Flight Central, Inc.



Nonprofit Org. U S Postage PAID Kansas City MO Permit NO 5887



AFC Passenger Audry, Beloit, KS, during a flight to the Mayo Clinic for a follow up to her liver surgery.

Photo provided by AFC Volunteer Paul Fraas, Des Moines, IA

- **Volunteer Pilot and Aircraft**
 - **Passenger and Community**
 - **Awareness**
 - **Pilot Recruitment and Activities Public Relations**
- **Financial Development**
- **Mission Screening and Coordination**
- **Administrative Support Special Events**
- Starting a Local WING

WISH

- Blank Data CDs and Cases
- Digital Camera
- Rolls of stamps
- Two aluminum tri-pod easels

Thank you!