



FLIGHTS OF HOPE NEWS

Ron's story, continued

He credits his quality and length of life to the high level of care he receives quickly and comfortably with the help of Angel Flight West.

"AFW is a godsend. It takes away some of the anxieties of care. It's just like meeting a friend: someone you already know."



#GIVINGTUESDAY™ ALL MONTH OF NOVEMBER DONATE. SHARE. RAISE FUNDS

SUPPORT Angel Flight WEST

Please join us as we kick off the global holiday season of giving by supporting Angel Flight West all month long, from November 1 leading up to #GivingTuesday on November 30. We'll raise awareness and funds to deliver health and hope to those with healthcare or other compelling needs that require travel far from home.

We're transforming lives, one flight at a time, and we need your help! Our goal this #GivingTuesday: raise \$45,000 to fly 200 missions! Your generous donation will allow us to reach and serve more people in need of our flights.

- Here's how to support our #GivingTuesday initiative:
- DONATE:** You can also make stock donations
 - SHARE OUR STORIES:** Follow us on social media or forward our newsletters to your friends
 - BECOME AN AFW GIVING TUESDAY AMBASSADOR:** Lend your voice and start your own fundraiser
 - BECOME A MATCHING GIFT DONOR:** Pledge a donation to be matched

For more information on becoming a #GivingTuesday Ambassador or to donate visit: <https://bit.ly/AFWGT2021>

Thank you for supporting Angel Flight West on #GivingTuesday!

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Meet Kai: One of Our Newest (and Youngest) Passengers

Kai isn't even a year old, but he's been fighting neuroblastoma since being diagnosed at just six weeks of age. His parents, Shaira and Nathan, left their home in Montana and drove over 500 miles to get Kai the treatment he needed at Seattle Children's hospital. He went through four rounds of chemotherapy and is now in remission.

Shaira happened to cross paths with AFW's Montana Wing Leader, Michael Burks, while working at the children's section of a fitness center he owns. After hearing how AFW could help their family cut down on travel time by 12 hours, Shaira and Nathan signed up for their very first mission.

Initially, the family was hesitant to fly with such a young child, but the pilots did everything they could to make the flights as calm as possible. One pilot even called a few days before the mission to check in, and shared information about flying with babies. "That was very helpful," says Shaira. "To accommodate for air pressure, they ascended and descended slowly. When we were coming down, Kai didn't cry at all—he was totally fine!"

The trio looks forward to flying with Angel Flight West for their regular check ups and scans during Kai's remission to save them precious time, energy, and funds. "It's been a blessing for us and I'm sure for others as well," Shaira shares.

INSIDE

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Meet Charmaine **Page 2-3**
- Ronald Beats the Odds **Page 3-4**



Angel Flight West delivers health and hope using donated flights to serve those with healthcare or other compelling human needs.

Angel Flight West links volunteer pilots and commercial airlines with people whose non-emergency health needs require air transportation to access care.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Josh Olson
Executive Director

Back in January, we entered the new year with not just resolutions, but with resolve. Resolve to help as many people as we could, and to face our challenges with the same courage that our passengers face theirs.

It's working! As of October 15th, we'd welcomed 829 new volunteers and completed 3,300 missions, just a few hundred shy of the total missions flown last year. And our Earth Angels fulfilled nearly 1,000 drives, more than double the number donated in 2020.

It takes a village to achieve our lofty goals. We're fortunate to have an outstanding village. Thank you for your resolve, making sure we had the resources to do what needed to be done. You've helped us go from surviving to thriving, and making sure we were there for all the families that needed us most.

But we're not done! As we cautiously turn the corner on the pandemic, we're accelerating our outreach and volunteer recruitment efforts, and making improvements to our infrastructure. With our eyes to the skies, we've set an ambitious goal: to be flying 8,000 missions a year by 2026.

Thank you for being part of this incredible year and being the wind beneath our wings to get us in the air once more.

Gratefully,

Honoring Breast Cancer Awareness Month during October

Charmaine's optimistic outlook on her journey fighting breast cancer



October was a special month at Angel Flight West and globally: Breast Cancer Awareness Month. One in eight women are diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. Although the frequency is much less, men are also susceptible. At AFW, about 35% of our flights are for passengers with cancer. Since the start of 2021, we have flown more than 400 missions for patients with breast cancer.

Charmaine F. is one of them. She was diagnosed with breast cancer that first metastasized to her brain—which she beat—but now it has spread to her bones. She lives in El Centro, CA, a rural town about 120 miles east of San Diego. Since her first flight in 2017, Charmaine has flown more than 200 missions with Angel Flight West.

The trip to and from doctors' appointments would otherwise be long and exhausting. With the help of our Earth Angels and pilots, a three-hour drive is now a 20-minute flight. Because most breast cancer patients need regular visits for chemotherapy or other treatments and check-ups during remission, AFW can save countless hours, dollars, and worries over the years for these individuals.

For passengers like Charmaine and others who fly frequent missions, the consistency of good-hearted volunteers is something that lifts their spirits, both physically and

Breast Cancer Awareness Month, continued

emotionally. "They're the best pilots," Charmaine says. "I always enjoy the flights for treatments or my doctors appointments. Everyone does a great job and is so compassionate."

Though her physical condition can be limiting at times and there are hard days, Charmaine remains optimistic and is always eager to fly with AFW, saying, "I can beat it—I have hope. Fear is not good for the body."

"When I'm flying up there, I feel like an eagle flying in heaven."



Charmaine and her companion en route to treatment

Precious Moments Made Possible

Ron beats the odds and walks his daughter down the aisle



Last year, Ron was told that he wouldn't live to see the new year. A year and a half later, he walked his daughter down the aisle at her wedding.

Ron was diagnosed with Stage 4 carcinoma after seeking medical attention for abdominal pain. Local doctors where he lives in Idaho told him the treatment options were slim to none. His future felt grim.

Not one to give up, Ron found a physician in Washington who specializes in his type of cancer. This was good news, but the facility was an eight-hour drive each way, and money was too tight to make the repeated trips for chemotherapy on commercial airlines.

That's when Angel Flight West was ready to help.

Since learning about us from his specialist in Seattle, Ron has flown frequent missions to treatment. "It's a world of difference," he says.

Ron has proved many of his doctors wrong. His health is stable now, and he was recently able to walk his daughter down the aisle at her wedding—a day he wasn't sure he'd be able to see.

Continued on back