

Eyes For an Angel

continued from page 3

Then a staff member at Nevada Early Intervention Services told her about AFW, and we started flying Monroe. Since then, 19 missions later, Monroe and her mom have made a lot of Braille cards and given a lot of gifts to their pilots. "She's always so excited for the flights," Heaven told us. The wife of one of their pilots once handmade them a couple of beautiful quilts. The family recently moved to Austin so Monroe can hopefully attend the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. We're glad to have been part of her journey!

Help sponsor camp flights in 2022!

AFW coordinates more than 500 round-trip specialty camp missions each year, and most of them happen during the summer season.

It costs \$200 to get one child to camp and home again. We're asking for your help to sponsor 200 round-trip camp flights this year.

It takes three components to get these kids to camp:

- the Mission Operations team coordinates and schedules the flights,
- our volunteer pilots donate their time and resources,
- **AND YOU make a donation!**

\$100 sponsors one flight to camp (one-way)

\$200 sponsors a round-trip to camp and back

\$400 sponsors four flights (two round-trips)

\$1,000 sponsors 10 flights (five round-trips)

Please make a donation to support camp season by AUGUST 1st:

<https://bit.ly/AFWCamp2022>



FLIGHTS OF HOPE NEWS



INSIDE

Campers Take Flight
Page 2-3

Eyes for an Angel
Page 3

Sponsor a Camp Flight!
Back page



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.



Thank You to Our Sponsors



Avion Law
Bette Gardner & Michael Heil
Rich Conti & Shawn Klein
Randy Sherman & Martha De Laurentiis
Leslie & Robert Zemeckis
Textron Aviation
McCaw Family Foundation
Clay Lacy Foundation

Michael & Kiomi Burks
Melinda Denton
Cedaron Medical & Bondolio
Olive Oil
Independent Brokers, Inc / Homes 4 You
NBAA
Dale E. Klapmeier
Arturo & Amy Franz

David & Brenda Herrmann
Donald Lewis
Dan Calugar
John & Rosalind Jacobi
Geoff & Jill Wood
Garrett & Illesa McAuliffe
Marks Family Foundation
Tod Johnson
Driven to Care / Discount Tire / Halle Foundation

3161 Donald Douglas Loop South
Santa Monica, CA 90405
310-390-2958
www.AngelFlightWest.org



FROM THE DIRECTOR

I still remember my first time at summer camp – the first night, I didn't get much sleep because I missed my family so much. But that all changed as I began to make new friends and got to know the counselors.



Josh Olson
Executive Director

I was lucky: I was healthy and my parents could afford to get me there. The kids we fly to camp are facing unimaginable challenges. Some are burn survivors, others are fighting cancer, living with kidney disease, or have other illnesses or challenges so hard for a child to endure. Spending a weekend or a week with others who share their experience can provide healing and comfort like few other things can. Our camp flights are favorites for many of our volunteers, for obvious reasons: the smile of a child is like no other!

Throughout the year, passengers come to us because they can't afford expensive commercial flights, or don't have cars that can make long road trips, or whose parents or caregivers can't take multiple days off work. Sometimes they're too sick to drive. Or they're immunocompromised and can't expose themselves to even common cold viruses in big, busy airports. So when we get a call from them requesting a flight, our immediate response is always: YES!

AFW is here to help, and your support helps make our work possible. It means so much to us. So when you read these stories about campers and patients who get the care and support they need because we can fly them, know that it's in part because of you. Together, we are making a difference!

Gratefully,

All Ready for Summer: Campers Take Flight

With your support, Angel Flight West will help more young people get to camp



Summertime is the best time because it's camp time, and at AFW, that means some of the happiest flights we do all year. This year our volunteers are taking to the skies with their planes filled with packed bags and excited faces, delivering campers ready for some outdoor fun in beautiful settings with people who share a common bond.

For six-year-old Makenlieh of Eugene, Ore., that meant going to Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation's Getaway Family Camp in Coursegold, Calif., near Yosemite. Almost three years ago, Makenlieh was involved in a fire accident that burned 80 percent of her body – she was given a two percent chance to live, but heroically, Makenlieh rallied back. Now she has surgery every four to six weeks, but loves going to camp, and loves flying with AFW.

Last year she and her mom flew with volunteer pilot Johannes Weis, who recounted, "she asked me about every single dial, switch, and indicator light in my plane's panel, which I explained in detail, and she listened intently. She was very

Camp Flights Resume, continued

eager to learn everything there was to know about flying!"

For Ariana of Idaho Falls, going to camp is a family affair – both she and her siblings Sadie and Crew have flown with AFW to go to Camp Rainbow Gold in Fairfield, Idaho, over long weekends. Diagnosed with a brain tumor when she was seven, Ariana receives one-on-one help at camp that allows her to participate in activities like archery that she wouldn't otherwise be able to do. And her brother and sister get to spend some time with other siblings of cancer patients where the focus is on them.

The catch was that camp was two-and-a-half-hours one way from the family's home. But as a longtime AFW partner, Camp Rainbow Gold put in the mission requests and the flights were arranged. Mom Callie says, "Angel Flight West was amazing." As a single mother juggling other kids and work, the flights made it so much easier for the family to participate. And this summer, they'll all be going back.

On Makenlieh's flight home from camp, their pilot was again Johannes Weis. "When I picked them up," he says, "she wanted to come up front again. But by the time we were airborne, she had fallen asleep from



Ariana, on the right, with a fellow camper before a flight

what I'm sure was a very exciting weekend."

And we're excited to help make those experiences happen again this year. Here's to another great camp season in 2022!

Eyes For an Angel in St. George



Monroe and mom Heaven with AFW pilot Dennis Malloy before a flight last year

When Monroe first flew with AFW in 2015, her mom Heaven brought a gigantic car seat. When she saw the Beechcraft Sierra they'd be flying in, she recounts, "I said, um, where is this going to go?"

Monroe and her mom were headed to Zion Eye Institute in Utah so Monroe could receive treatment for bilateral anophthalmia, a rare condition her doctors hadn't detected in utero. She was born without eyes or optic nerves.

Her ophthalmologist in Las Vegas wasn't able to treat children with this condition, so referred her to the institute in St. George, where she could be fitted for prosthetics that would allow the eye sockets and facial bones to develop properly. This was wonderful news, but the two-hour drives back and forth to appointments stretching over the course of several years was daunting for a single, working mom.

(continued on back)