

CHA Meeting and Events Coordinator Peggy McCreary worked hard to help arrange the AFW flights. She says that not only did she learn some new aviation terminology, but also the experience has been "very personally rewarding." The recipient hospitals were extremely grateful for the

supplies. Peggy quotes one hospital representative as saying how "all the pilots are so thoughtful to combine their love of flying" with doing good. AFW has also flown a few PPE missions to Idaho and Kansas serving communities in three states.

UPDATE **Camp Missions Cancelled for 2020**

Though most camp sessions have been canceled this year because of the pandemic, in a typical season Angel Flight West has the unique and heart-warming opportunity to help hundreds of very special children kick-off summer. Instead of the carefree ideals of childhood, these children are navigating life with challenges such as severe burns, cancer treatment, blindness, hearing-impairments, juvenile diabetes, kidney disease, or HIV/AIDS.

In the past decade, AFW's volunteer pilots have flown nearly 5,400 missions for 70 specialty camp operators. The work behind each mission is enormous. Access to transportation and traveling costs should not be a barrier – and that's where AFW and our compassionate pilots step in.

Thanks to our partners at GreaterGood, next year our campers will receive new backpacks and summer camp gear. See how you can support and give our special campers gear here: <https://bit.ly/AFWCampBags>



Help AFW Patients Fly Another Day

Your gifts now will ensure AFW continues to grow pilot recruitment and outreach to healthcare providers to make more people aware of our services.

For patients who must receive care now, AFW is one of the safest ways they can travel long distances without exposing themselves to the Coronavirus. As doctors begin to reschedule appointments, our services will be more in demand than ever and we need to be prepared to fly patients another day.

Please consider a one time gift or monthly donation to keep our life-saving flights going. Make your gift here: <https://afids.angelflightwest.org/give>

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FLIGHTS OF HOPE NEWS

AFW'S IMPACT DURING COVID-19

OVER 315 COVID RELIEF MISSIONS
flown by 133 AFW pilots

delivering PPE, family care products & other essential supplies



OUR AIRLINE PARTNERS



provided free flights for more than 130 medical personnel traveling to the front lines to help battle COVID-19

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

WITH LOVE, FROM STRANGERS - COLORADO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION - PROJECT C.U.R.E -
ARIZONA COALITION OF CHURCHES - BE THE MATCH - STOP THE BUG - LIFELINE MINISTRIES

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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.

AFW, Alaska Airlines & Southwest Airlines Help First Responders

AFW is grateful to have partnered with Alaska and Southwest Airlines in getting COVID-19 medical personnel to and from their assignments.

Alaska Airlines generously donated miles to AFW to arrange transportation so COVID-19 first responders could get to and from their assignments. As of this printing, Alaska Airlines has flown 121 medical personnel and 391,812 miles.

In addition, as a thank-you, Alaska Airlines is donating a free round trip, which they call an "R & R Ticket," to each first responder who flew with them to

the front lines. Passenger Justin Ireland who volunteered his paramedic services and travelled via Alaska Airlines to an underserved hot spot area in Chicago says, "I am so appreciative of AFW and Alaska Airlines for making my trip to Chicago happen! Paramedics don't do what we do for the money, nor recognition, but out of a sense of duty. This gift of transportation allows us to fulfill our mission of 'helping others at all times.' From a very grateful

ANGEL FLIGHT WEST
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Josh Olson

When we first began flying COVID relief missions in April, I couldn't have imagined the response we'd receive from our amazing volunteers, asking how they could help. It was, and continues to be, incredibly humbling. As we go to print, these heroes have flown over 300 missions to Navajo, Hopi, and other tribal reservations and to medical facilities and community groups in Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and Southern California.



And now that we've resumed volunteer-flown patient flights, our mission has never been more clear. With new precautions to keep our passengers, pilots, and Earth Angels as safe as possible, we are again taking to the skies to get people to the important healthcare they've put off in the last few months.

Our heartfelt thanks for the support we've received, not only from these volunteers, but also from generous donors willing to help us continue to fly in the midst of unprecedented challenges. Together, we will climb above to greater health and hope.

With Love, From Strangers

Your donations have helped save lives in suffering tribal communities.



L to R: Founder of nonprofit With Love, From Strangers Dr. Thuet, AFW pilot Mark Miller, UT Wing Leader Steve Bollinger, Carol Tso, and her sons from Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health loading much needed PPE going to southwest healthcare facilities and tribal communities.

"With Love, From Strangers" is not just a sign-off phrase at the bottom of a letter -- it's the name of a nonprofit organization begun by Dr. Christina Thuet. After spending many years as a pediatrician caring for children of southwest tribal communities, Dr. Thuet knew all too well the battle against COVID-19 in this geographically isolated and resource-limited region. As the infection rate on the Navajo Nation began rising rapidly in March, she began contacting everyone for donations and many "strangers" came forward including AFW. (Ultimately, the Navajo Nation held the position as the highest infection per capita rate in the country in May.)

Dr. Thuet's nonprofit has banded together with AFW and volunteers from all over Utah and other states, and in only six weeks delivered over **40 tons of much-needed PPE, medical supplies, and family care items on 130+ flights to 11 healthcare facilities and tribal communities** spread across the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, White Mountain Apache and San Juan Paiute reservations. AFW Wing Leadership volunteer Joanne Brattain introduced Dr. Thuet to AFW and pilots Mark Miller and Steve Bollinger. On the occasion of the partnership's 100th COVID-19 relief mission, Steve said, "Since we hadn't been able to fly our normal missions for patients during the pandemic, we're grateful to be able to help those that have been hit the hardest."

A physician at one recipient hospital wrote, "We wanted you to know how palpable the confidence was when we received the reusable PPE gowns you delivered. Three days after your gowns arrived our disposable supply would have been critically low. So thank you, again."

If you'd like to learn more about With Love, From Strangers go to: <https://www.withlovefromstrangers.org/about-us>

Alaska Airlines & Southwest Airlines *continued from page 1...*



L photo: Alaska Airlines crew with retired paramedic Justin Ireland center on his way to a hospital at the frontlines of the crisis in Chicago. (Photo was on a flight prior to mask requirements.) R photo: Southwest Airlines crew with Labor and Delivery nurse Josie center on her way from Atlanta to Oakland.



medical volunteer, I say THANK YOU!" Alaska will continue flying returning medical personnel through the end of July.

Southwest Airlines has donated 40 tickets, to serve first responders, flying 25 medical personnel, and has 27 additional tickets booked as of this newsletter.

AFW helped arrange a Southwest flight for a Physician Assistant home from New Orleans to Las Vegas, a nurse home from New York to Dallas, and a doctor from Orange County to an assignment in Philadelphia. Josie flew Southwest round trip from Atlanta to Oakland, and says, "My sincerest thanks to Southwest for donating flights to essential healthcare workers! As a Labor & Delivery nurse,

I was fortunate enough to have spent the majority of my time welcoming new life into a pandemic-filled world. I won't forget the patients who labored/birthed alone due to visitor restrictions or the families who lost infants due to complications. I find comfort in knowing I was able to support the hospital staff and patients as best as I could."

In total as of this newsletter, AFW has served 147 first responders through Alaska Airlines and Southwest. Thank you to both these incredible airlines for their generosity during this unprecedented crisis.

AFW Helps Rural Colorado Hospitals in Need

Thanks to you, many CO rural hospitals were able to receive desperately needed PPE and remain open.

Before COVID-19, Vice President for Rural Health and Hospitals at the Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) Benjamin Anderson had a personal relationship with Angel Flight after using AF Central to fly his son to the Mayo clinic. So, when the COVID crisis hit, and the Colorado Governor's Task Force connected to Project C.U.R.E. to procure PPE for rural hospitals, Benjamin knew that AFW would help deliver them. **Sixty-two AFW pilots flew 115 flights to 32 of the 43 rural hospitals in the hardest hit rural areas of Colorado.** Benjamin says: "Rural hospitals are at the end of the supply chain with needs that go beyond just during the COVID crisis. AFW helped prevent hospital closures and save lives by getting health care workers what they needed." Supplies are still needed and Benjamin thinks "this may be a one-to-two-year problem because of future outbreaks."



Pilot Lori Fussell delivering PPE to a rural CO hospital.

Our CO pilots have all loved these flights with some flying on multiple days and to multiple airports. CO Wing Leader Bill Snodgrass and Wing Leadership Team Member Phil Rosnik provided much needed local support to the AFW office.

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