



FLIGHTS OF HOPE

Quarterly newsletter for Angel Flight West's members and friends

Special Edition: AFW Pilot/Volunteer Recognition

*Josh Olson,
Director of Mission Operations*

We are very proud to share stories we see every day of ordinary people behaving extraordinarily on behalf of others. A chorus of praise from our patients and social workers is sung regularly for our volunteers. We hear it not only for our pilots, but also for our volunteer Earth Angel drivers, office volunteers, wing leadership teams, and volunteer coordinators. AFW does amazing work and would be nothing without the efforts of these volunteers. Over 1500 AFW volunteers positively impacted thousands of lives last year and thousands more lives performing the more than 50,000 missions that we have flown in our history. That is something with which to be warmed, to be motivated, and to be proud. We thank you all so very much for making it all possible.



Pilot Dennis Phelan, AZ Wing, flew three-year-old Katlyn S. from Phoenix, AZ, to Blythe, CA, where pilot John Capuano, So. CA Wing, flew last leg to Burbank, CA. Katlyn is receiving ongoing evaluations and treatment of retino blastoma at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. These multiple trips would otherwise be too draining on the family's finances.



L to R: Passenger Brenda G., pilot Denis Beaudin, CO Wing, and Brenda's daughter Bonnie M. on their way from Santa Fe, NM, to Denver, CO, where Brenda is consulting with a surgeon about reconstruction from recurrent breast cancer. Brenda is currently receiving unemployment, but once surgeries are completed she plans to return to work.



Flight Plan

Alan M. Dias, Executive Director

As Angel Flight West enters its 29th year celebrating its 50,000th mission flown, we recognize more than ever that we are a grass-roots, volunteer-driven organization. We wouldn't be in existence without the ongoing involvement of our 1,500 members, pilots, Board of Directors, Wing Leadership Teams, Community Service Councils, Ground Angels, and Earth Angels (those who transport passengers from the airport to their appointments and back).

As the year progresses, I hope to have the opportunity to meet with more of you and thank you in person for all you do. Those of us who have the opportunity to interact with our passengers know the positive impact we have on their lives—and the impact they have on ours in return. We meet individuals every day who are dealing with challenging life events, and we take strength from their strength.

There are many nonprofits that make a difference each in their own way. Angel Flight West is unique among them as the impact of our mission of arranging free air transportation is immediate. Whether we are flying an infant to treatment, a cancer patient to a trial study, a family to be with their ill child, a burn survivor to camp, a victim of abuse to safety, a veteran home, or a child to be adopted, our volunteers are making an immediate positive difference in people's lives.

We have been told many times that without us treatment would have been impossible; that without us families would be separated during the worst of times; that without us kids would not have had an the opportunity to go to camp. You, our generous volunteers, make a difference.

As we move into the New Year, I want to again thank all of you for all you do. It's a privilege knowing and working with you. You make the world a much better place. ➔

Blue skies and tailwinds.

Alan M. Dias, Executive Director



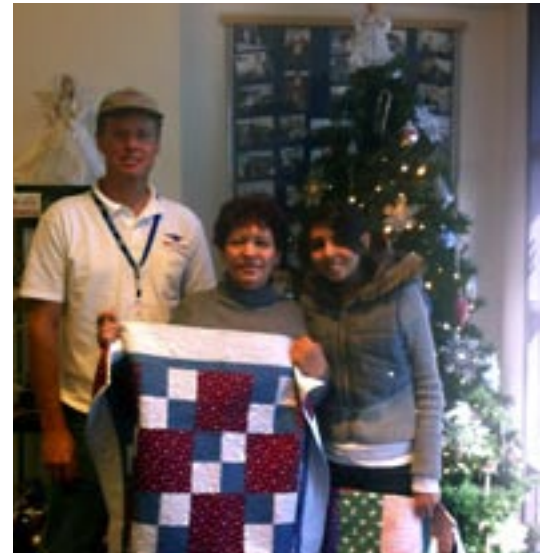
The AZ Wing hosted the "East Meets West Fly-In" held on November 19, 2011, at Havasu Air Center. Approximately 50 people from AZ, So. CA, No. CA and NV Wings attended. Executive Director Alan Dias received a proclamation from the vice mayor of Lake Havasu City, AZ, and No. CA Wing pilot Bob Tucknott gave a fabulous talk about his experiences flying blood on 9/11. A big thank-you to Dante Marinelli and his generous crew at the Havasu Air Center.



L to R: Pilot Peter Fitzgerald, MT Wing, passenger Noel S., pilot Dave Sheldon, ID Wing, Noel's girlfriend Karen J. on relay mission for surgery to remove Noel's tumor. Peter flew the first leg from Bozeman, MT, to Idaho Falls, ID, and Dave flew the second leg to Salt Lake City, UT. Noel is unable to work and on Medicaid due to his disability.



Passenger Kathleen W. flying 3rd leg that started in San Bernadino, CA, flown by Kent Allebrand, So. CA Wing, to St. George, UT, where Gary Sackett, UT Wing flew her to Pinedale, UT. Steve Bollinger, UT Wing and new UT Wing Leader (pictured) flew Kathleen with assistant Ron Tanner to Salt Lake City, UT. Steve says: "She was very appreciative and a...great lady!" Kathleen lives in a remote area and needs to be seen every 60 days as part of a cancer clinical trial.



So. CA Wing pilot Bill McVay, mother Amelia, and passenger Yadira O. in the AFW office headquarters before going home to Bakersfield, CA, from Santa Monica, CA. Yadira is traveling for a transplant follow-up as a result of leukemia. She is unable to work, and is cared for by her mother. They have no family support, are on welfare, food stamps, and cannot afford commercial flights. These lovely quilts, pictured, are gifts from Bill's wife and friends who make them for patients and their families. Bill was also kind enough to help the staff set up and decorate the Christmas tree—and he even brought a delicious gourmet pizza for lunch!



Passenger Joyce W. and WA Wing pilot Gabhan Berry flying from Renton, WA, to Lynden, WA. Joyce is being treated for stage four breast cancer and needs regular visits for chemotherapy. Her income is limited as she is working only two days a week.



Stephan Fopeano, AFW's All-Around Volunteer

The AFW family sends a heartfelt wish for continued recovery to our longtime IT volunteer and dear friend Stephan Fopeano. He has been undergoing treatment since his cancer diagnosis last August. In addition to volunteering countless hours flying missions, helping to design and install the technology in the new AFW office headquarters in 2004, and whatever else needed doing, Stephan has been the webmaster, cornerstone and foundation for most of AFW's technology since 1989. We are all very grateful for his unwavering commitment to the organization.

UT Wing Leader Phil Titus Steps Down After Six Years

UT Wing Leader and AFW pilot Phil Titus is handing the reins of Wing Leader over to UT Wing pilot Steve Bollinger (see Steve's photo page 3). Phil has been Utah's Wing Leader for about six years. AFW extends its deepest thanks to Phil—and *all* of our Wing Leaders—for his great work and welcomes aboard Utah's new Wing Leader Steven Bollinger!

Here are some parting words from Phil:

From the very first time I came across an Angel Flight West booth at an AOPA meeting, I knew that this was what I wanted to do with my flying abilities. It made so much sense to me to share my plane with folks who really needed the help. I naively thought that I would be doing them a favor! I soon learned from my very first flight that I would receive much more than I could ever give. Each flight brings priceless new lessons and insights into life and love. It has been a privilege to be numbered among the dedicated employees and volunteers that make up Angel Flight West. It will be my sincere honor to continue to work with the new Utah Wing Leader and our wonderful passengers.



L to R: UT Wing pilot Cory Hankins, outgoing UT Wing Leader pilot Philip Titus, pilot Mark Miller, former UT Wing Leader pilot Don Carey, current UT Wing Webmaster and UT Wing Chief MOP pilot Chuck Wight.

Air to Air Communication

- ➔ We wish AFW pilot and long time AFW Golf Committee member Beverly Wertheimer a speedy and full recovery from surgery.
- ➔ Our best wishes to Jaime O.'s family as he goes through a difficult time.
- ➔ **Amazon Shoppers!** Thanks to your help AFW raised nearly \$1,400 during the holiday shopping season! Each time you shop at Amazon, AFW can receive a contribution. In order for AFW to receive a portion of your purchase, you must go through www.angelflightwest.org and click on the **Amazon** link at the bottom left-hand corner of the home page.
- ➔ Learn about the AFW Foundation on our website and find out about how you can help support the AFW mission with Planned Giving.
- ➔ As always, we would like to thank Fred Hulem, AFW pilot, So. CA Wing and Ventura Group's Business Manager, its employees including Brian Farrar, Jennifer Shade and those at Mail Manager, Ventura, for donating their time, materials and expertise to the printing of this and our previous newsletters for those who wish to have a hard copy. We thank them deeply for their generosity in helping to spread the mission of AFW.
- ➔ If you would prefer to continue to receive the newsletter by snail mail and haven't done so, please send an e-mail to newsletter@angelflightwest.org or call us at (310) 390-2958.



L to R: mission assistant, two young campers and NV Wing pilot Bruce Robertson on their way from Elko, NV, to Las Vegas to *Camp To Belong*, a summer camp for foster kids.



Pilot Marty Wymond, So. CA Wing, with Lonnie S., longtime passenger and friend. Marty has been flying Lonnie for almost four years from San Diego, CA, to Santa Monica, CA, for treatment for congenital heart disease. Marty says, "We have been best friends since our first flight. I still see Lonnie (at least) 3-4 times a month. We do fun stuff like flying, air shows, concerts, etc. We check in with each other several times a week." This photo is at the Gillespie Air Show in El Cajon, CA, last summer.



L to R: Father Salah H., Mission Assistant and Pilot Herbert Van Deroffen, mother May H., pilot Steve Danz, So. CA Wing, and passenger Deeb H. on their way from Visalia, CA, to Palo Alto, CA. Deeb is flying to Stanford University Medical Center for a follow-up appointment for recessive dystrophic epidermolysis—a skin blistering disease. The family is on Medi-Cal and has no means of transportation.



Left: Pilot David Blackburn, So. CA Wing, with a full load of seven young passengers returning to Ontario, CA, from a fun-filled week at camp for burn survivors in Lake Tahoe, CA.



Above are some of our Office Volunteers who graciously volunteer their time doing whatever needs to be done in the AFW Santa Monica headquarters office. L to R back row: Lee Ong, Alan Cohen, Ryan Vick. Front row: Ari Lissauer and Helene Winkler. Missing are Dan Reisenfeld and Mary Ann Sickle. AFW's ground volunteers in *all* of our Wings are greatly appreciated!

AFW Pilot Recognition 2011

Although AFW would not be what it is without the one pilot flying that one mission, we would like to acknowledge those who have flown the most missions in their respective Wings during 2011 as follows:

Pilot of the Year Award = most flights flown; Wingman Award = 2nd most flights flown; and Frequent Flyer = 3rd most flights flown

Arizona

Pilot of the Year - Dennis Phelan
Wingman Award - Stephen Bobko-Hillenaar
Frequent Flyer - Brett Lunger

Northern California

Pilot of the Year - Robert Leitch
Wingman Award - David Hopkins
Frequent Flyer - James Hager

Southern California

Pilot of the Year - Scott Garrison
Wingman Award - Stephen Danz
Frequent Flyer - Jim Mallen (tie)
Frequent Flyer - Bill McVay (tie)

Colorado

Pilot of the Year - Sharon Gempler
Wingman Award - Susan Wolber
Frequent Flyer - Bruce Ravenel (tie)
Frequent Flyer - David Purvis (tie)

Hawaii

Pilot of the Year - Greg McManus
Wingman Award - Chad Holcomb
Frequent Flyer - Anthony Ferrara

Idaho

Pilot of the Year - Bill Owens
Wingman Award - James Huegli
Frequent Flyer - Kermit Bunde

Montana

Pilot of the Year - Reg Goodwin
Wingman Award - Jim Hadwin
Frequent Flyer - Gregory Smith

Nevada

Pilot of the Year - Dan Calugar
Wingman Award - Peter Cranston
Frequent Flyer - Roger Foster

New Mexico

Pilot of the Year - Perry Null
Wingman Award - Bill Leland
Frequent Flyer - Richard Hoover

Oregon

Pilot of the Year - Derrick Teal
Wingman Award - Art Schwalge
Frequent Flyer - Geoffrey McCarthy

Utah

Pilot of the Year - Gary Sackett
Wingman Award - Bryan Burr
Frequent Flyer - Hans Fuegi (tie)
Frequent Flyer - Mark Miller (tie)

Texas

Pilot of the Year - Wayne Maynard

Washington

Pilot of the Year - Robert Schaper
Wingman Award - Paul Danis
Frequent Flyer - Anonymous

Wyoming

Pilot of the Year - John Larsen
Wingman Award - Jack Schulte
Frequent Flyer - Bill Irvine



L to R: Pilot Craig Burger, So. CA Wing, passenger May L. and pilot Thomas Tessier, No. Ca Wing. The first leg was flown by Tom from Quincy, CA, to Fresno, and the second by Craig to El Monte, CA. Tom says, "Craig was good enough to have deli sandwiches and snacks ready for us when we arrived. Craig flew May down to the City of Hope. May is a 12 year survivor of breast cancer, which unfortunately isn't going into remission. She has a great husband Tom, two older sons and a daughter."



So. CA Wing pilot Robert Davey flew Roberta V. from Santa Monica, CA, to Oakland, CA, for chemotherapy treatment for bone cancer.

**Angel Flight West Thanks
Our Major Contributors**

Alaska Airlines

and
**The Elaine W. and Kevin P.
Kauffman Family Foundation**



L to R: Pilot Stephen Bobko-Hillenaar, pilot Charlie Henry, member Suzy Kern, and pilot Marty Stuart (all from AZ Wing) at the Arizona Fall Festival at Mountain Meadow Park. Besides flying missions, our pilots and members *also* donate their time to outreach at various events and venues to spread the word about AFW.

AFW's 17th Annual Golf Tournament

Save the Date!

Monday, October 8, 2012

Oak Creek Golf Club, Irvine

**Sponsors, players,
volunteers wanted!**

Information available soon on our website.

Alaska Airlines Recognized for Philanthropy

The Alaska News reported: "Air Transport World's (ATW) coveted Joseph S. Murphy Industry Service Award was recently received by Alaska Airlines, marking the company as the only North American carrier honored by ATW on 2012 and the first U.S. carrier to win its industry service award."

Please click to read the full article:

<http://thealaskanews.com/donating-charity-helps-win-prestigious-award/11774>



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The mission of Angel Flight West is to arrange free air transportation in response to health care and other compelling human needs.

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L photo: Pilot Frank Singer, So. CA Wing, pictured right in photo, flew this group of six children (and their luggage!) home to Tucson, AZ, from a fun-filled week of summer camp in Bakersfield, CA, for kids with life-threatening illness.

R photo: AFW's amazing staff celebrating last holiday season and our 50,000th mission. L to R in photo: Member Services/Outreach Associate Cory Hanson, Accounting Associate Jenny Sanders, Administrative Manager Emmet O'Conlon, Associate Executive Director Cheri Cimmarrusti, Director of Mission Operations Josh Olson, Mission Coordinator Jennifer Champion, Executive Director Alan Dias, and Mission Coordinator Erin Gardner.



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