

SPOTLIGHT ON AN ANGEL *by AFW Passenger Michelle M.*

Our lives have been abundantly blessed through adoption. When we made the decision to adopt two HIV+ children, we had no idea we'd be moving our new family of six shortly after to a city that is known for many things, but unfortunately, not medical care. So we made the five-to-nine hour drive (traffic can be brutal on the 15!) from Las Vegas to UCLA every eight weeks with our kids.

It was rough to say the least. Sitting in traffic made it worse. Traveling with all of them was even tougher physically and financially.

Our doctor thought

our kids would be great candidates for a clinical trial. We were going to have to travel even more often initially. That's when our social worker told us about Angel Flight West.

At first, I was skeptical and said, "No, thank you." I felt a bit overwhelmed with the thought that my kids needed this kind of service. After all, they weren't sick or dying now that they were taking medication.

In her wisdom, she asked me if it was a financial struggle for us to drive so often. Yes, it was. She urged me to try it once for the



Parents Michelle and Mark M. adopted these adorable passengers Justice and Soloman from the Dominican Republic, making theirs a family of six living on one income. The children travel from Las Vegas, NV to Santa Monica where they receive regular treatment at UCLA for HIV+. So.CA Command Pilot Steve Danz flew this mission.

Continued on page 5...

FROM A VOLUNTEER *by AFW Volunteer Genevieve Lavin*



Genevieve Lavin volunteers as So.CA Hospital Outreach Coordinator, Mission Assistant and is a student pilot.

I started flying before I was even born. My first proper flight I was six weeks old in a car seat, bungeed into the baggage compartment of a Piper Tomahawk, my mother in the left seat and her CFI in the right. I was born with a love and a passion for all things aviation.

I started flying planes in my teens, doing weekend practice at a military boarding school I went to, and messing around in the air space above a Royal Air Force base in a Tutor T-Mark 1 one weekend a month for a year. I never had the time or resources to get my license

until I moved to the US in 2011. I started flying again while I worked as a nanny to this delightful little boy who had a serious health complication. I would occasionally bring him down to the airfield so he could look at the 'nannies' on the flight line—my flying club was fantastic and let him sit and climb around in whatever plane was available at the time. When his family moved away, I sought employment elsewhere and continued flying.

When I found out about AFW from a CFI, I didn't think twice. I signed up as a Mission Assistant and started volunteering my time in the right seat.

Continued on page 6...



ASK JOSH

by Josh Olson, Executive Director

What's next for AFW?

Angel Flight West has always been about more than burning a hole in the sky. We've played a huge role in saving thousands of lives and transforming

tens of thousands more. We are here to serve. And thanks to our friends at UCLA and Ronald McDonald House's surveys, we now know that we are serving less than five percent of their patients and families who meet our criteria for people in need of flights. These are among our most active requesting groups, and the surveys' results signal a much greater need for our services. This data doesn't even account for the people who can't access other facilities because of transportation barriers. We have the desire and capacity to serve more. So, what would it take to double the number we do serve? If we expect to alter our course, altitude or destination we need to adjust our instruments accordingly and fly the plane where we desire to go.

A few weeks ago, the staff, board, and volunteer leadership spent a productive weekend of strategic planning—or, to continue our flight analogy—filed a revised flight plan. We created a big, hairy, and audacious goal to double our flights flown and people served in five years. To achieve that goal, we are going to need to enhance our current operations and business model while investing in both more efficient infrastructure and a better system of outreach. We've created an initial roadmap and a system of managing these growth initiatives to allow us to fail and succeed quickly,

which will allow us to more quickly determine the best strategic and tactical approach for success. And we've been given an incredibly generous matching investment from former Alaska Airlines CEO and AFW board member Bill Ayer (see page 7) that can equip us to grow, while not compromising our existing operations or sustainability.

Of course, a flight plan is only as useful as the skills of the pilot following or changing it. AFW is only as good as our incredible volunteers who make our life-changing services possible. If we want to achieve this goal, we will need to work together.

Specifically, what we need from our volunteers are as follows:

- Your continued passion and dedication to our cause, and being our best ambassadors.
 - Willingness to provide helpful feedback, patience with changes, and allowing us to fail and succeed quickly on new initiatives.
 - Considering investment donations for Bill's matching gift above and beyond annual giving.
 - Considering planned or legacy gifts to ensure our sustainability for growth.
 - Volunteering for areas outside of mission flying for outreach, friendraising, and strategic partnerships.
- It's an exciting time for our mission, cause, and organization. We look forward to recording this trip in our logbook when we've reached our destination. More than that, we'll keep the thousands of new people we are about to serve on our horizon making all of our hard work, investments, and time incredibly worthwhile. Can't wait to fly with you as we "Ascend to 8000"!

R: AFW Executive Director Josh Olson outlining AFW's past and present, and the future growth potential of the organization at the AFW Annual Retreat in Seattle, WA held this past September.

Far R: AFW Board Chair Steve Danz welcoming the participants to the retreat. R below: participants at the retreat held at the Museum of Flight in Seattle.



FROM A PILOT

by Tim Braly , OR Wing Command Pilot

My First 100 Missions

In early 2012, a pilot friend of mine posted online about an AFW mission he just finished. Intrigued, I spent a few minutes checking out the AFW website only to be disappointed that I hadn't yet met the minimum qualification of 250 hours to become a Pilot-in-Command mission pilot; however, I wasn't that far away. By July, I had the hours, signed up, and got my first AFW mission from Portland to Bend, OR in August. It's hard to describe all the feelings I got from that first mission, but I was hooked on the ultimate responsibility and accomplishment in flying someone I've never met before safely back home post-surgery.

Since then, I've flown over 100 missions. The needs and passengers of these missions varied, such as: medical, compassionate, relocation, blood transfer, service, and special needs camps, with passengers ranging in age from a few months old to their 90s. In addition to getting to meet such wonderful appreciative people, I was able to really perfect my piloting skills flying in eight different states to 51 unique airports covering

Continued on page 4...



OR Wing Command Pilot Tim Braly taking a selfie with passenger Carmen D. flying from Imperial, CA to Santa Monica, CA where Carmen is being treated for metastatic kidney cancer at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Carmen no longer has available transportation or any other resources for travel to repeated treatments. This is Tim's 100th AFW mission! Thank you, Tim!

Air to Air

- Our condolences to the families of Lonnie Seavey, Marilyn Burke, Don Jolly & Laura Perry.
- Our best wishes to Mission Coordinator Sammi Heffron as she and her mom relocate back to the east coast. She will be missed!
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Christian L. and his family.
- You can donate miles to AFW via Alaska Airlines at: <http://tinyurl.com/993tk7s>
- Help Angel Flight West spread the word about our mission and the opportunity to be awarded up to \$10,000 through the Lightspeed Aviation Foundation. Click on or go to the following link and vote for us: <http://tinyurl.com/q3cqy6v>
- **AFW Store!** In conjunction with Land's End, AFW is offering a variety of men's and women's clothing and other merchandise for purchase. To use this service click on: <http://tinyurl.com/lq27xg2>

To view all AFW Command Pilots who have flown missions this year to date click on or go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/mwsv2s7>



L to R: Friend, passenger Karen T. and So. CA Command Pilot Rich Pickett flying from San Jose, CA to Arcata, CA for a follow-up with neurosurgeon after receiving a surgical repair of her spine at Stanford Hospital. Karen is unable to work and needs the help of AFW.



L to R: ID Wing Command Pilot Rick Holloway with parents Stephenie and Kade, and passenger two-year-old Tristen T. flying from Homedale, ID to Susanville, CA for the mission's 1st leg. No. CA Wing Command Pilot Marcie Smith flew the last leg to Palo Alto, CA. The family flies for on-going appointments at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for Tristen's transplanted heart. They have minimal resources for transportation and AFW has helped relieve this financial stress.

“ I am very pleased and humbled to have joined and be included in an organization with people of such high caliber. I look forward to my first mission.

Thanks again to John for his insightful and thoughtful orientation.

Regards,

Andrew Pollack
No.CA Command Pilot ”

Angel Flight West Wishes to Thank Our Top Contributors

(April 1, 2015 - September 18, 2015)

Alaska Airlines

Vinci & Ellsworth Living Trust
Marilyn Thompson
Warner Bros Entertainment
Dale Katechis

Friends and family are honored and remembered through donations made to AFW in their names.

June 1, 2015 – September 18, 2015

In Honor Of

Kent Allebrand
Stephen & Margie
Danz
Shaun & Meg Dawson
Roger & Keiko
Dunham
Rick & Linda Dunham
Craig Greenberg
Jeremy Katz
William Leland
Raoul Van Landuyt

In Memory Of

Marilyn Burke
Joy Hansen
Donald Jolly
Paul Kienow
Jane Meyerson
Bradley Pelletier
Bob Philpott
Barbara Shaffer
Mary Stoy
Peter & Kathleen
Tomarken
Pat Wetter
Marie Wichman

FROM A PILOT *...continued from page 3*

35,540 nautical miles in 240.5 flight hours.

This year, I had the privilege of becoming a Mission Orientation Pilot and later the Chief Mission Orientation Pilot for the OR Wing. One of the things we stress during orientation is that it's ok to cancel a mission for any reason and not to succumb to a potentially unsafe flight from the pressure of "I've promised to fly this person and I know the last thing they want to deal with is a cancelled flight." In my journey to my first 100 flown missions, 35 missions were cancelled by passengers and one was cancelled due to weather. Cancellations are a fact of what we do.

I often get asked why I choose to fly for AFW

and donate my time and cost of flying to those in need. Selfishly, I'll say it's because I like to fly, so why not? But, that's just us pilots being modest about the underlying sacrifices we accept in making a difference. It truthfully comes down to two things. First, I can't think of a better way to donate to a cause that I can see 100% of my efforts going to make a difference in someone's life. And second and most important, I lost my sister to breast cancer and lived first-hand the devastation and toll it takes on one's life and the family around them. Flying for AFW has let me share in several cancer patients' recovery efforts by reducing the stress and burden of their health care—and to that, I'm truly grateful.

SPOTLIGHT ON AN ANGEL...continued from first page

beginning of the trial. She set up the first flight. I did nothing. A few days before the flight, the AFW staff called. Then the pilot called. And then the Earth Angel called. They were all ready for us. I couldn't believe I didn't have to take care of anything! After getting two kids home from a foreign country, dealing with insurance, and a new health issue, I was so used to having to battle for every little thing. But, AFW took care of us FOR me!

Taking my kids to UCLA has been emotional. I sit in the waiting room and see all the really sick kids and think to myself, "We don't belong here!" And yet, our reality is that we do. My kids are not sick like the kids that I see, but they could die with the virus they have in their body. I can't let that happen. So, we will continue to get the best care we can from the best doctors no matter how far we have to go. Because of AFW, it's one less thing I have to worry about.

Angel Flight West has also given me an opportunity to speak about HIV and stigma. Most people with HIV live with shame because they are afraid to tell their friends and family they have the virus. The fear is fueled because most still don't know how the virus is spread and are afraid of it.

I don't want my children to live in shame. In order for this to happen, I have to educate everyone we come in contact with. HIV is spread in very specific ways ONLY. None of which have ever happened in a casual household setting. Which means in schools too. Never. No one has to be afraid of my children.

No stigma. No shame. There is life with HIV. The people living with the virus who have the best outcome, are those who have a community of people around them who know the truth about HIV. Thank you, AFW for being a part of our healing community!



AFW wishes to thank all of our generous board of directors, but especially the following outgoing board members for their dedicated service, loyalty, leadership and guidance over the years in helping to move our organization forward. Our deepest thanks to: Roger Dunham, Ruben Gamerberg, Kevin Kauffman, and Laura Long. We are pleased to welcome aboard our new board members: Matt Brown, Garrett McAuliffe, and Dr. Randy Sherman. The skills, experience and passion of our new team members will be of great benefit to the continuing success of AFW's mission and vision.

Amazon Shoppers! The Holidays Are Coming!

As you get ready for your holiday shopping keep AFW in mind as we will receive a portion of your purchase if you click on: www.angelflightwest.org, which will take you to the Amazon page for AFW.



L to R: Wife Brenda, passenger John T. and OR Wing Command Pilot Garwin Burroughs. John is flying from Medford, OR to Portland, OR for a surgical consultation appointment as treatment for his esophageal cancer. The couple has limited resources and transportation has been a barrier to John's healthcare.



Passenger Linda G and So. CA Wing Command Pilot Scott Grant flying Linda home to Las Vegas, NV from Santa Monica, CA where she was with her husband who is receiving a liver transplant at UCLA Medical Center. The couple's medical expenses and cost of travel are high.



L to R: Wife Neela, passenger Noorudin B., and So. CA Wing Command Pilot Stanley Dodge. The couple is living on a very limited income with no resources for travel to treatment from San Jose, CA to Oxnard, CA. Noorudin is receiving ongoing treatments for prostate cancer.

2015 UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCT** 15-17 Aviation Expo, Palm Springs, CA
- NOV** 17-19 National Business Aviation Association, Las Vegas, NV
Support AFW through a charity golf tournament hosted during the NBAA conference. If you are interested in playing, contact us for more details!
- DEC** 1 Giving Tuesday <http://tinyurl.com/o3867yo>

Contact Wings for local information or click on:
<http://tinyurl.com/pxv6cxc>

Letter from a Passenger

Dear Friends,

I can't begin to express what your assistance and kindness means to me and my family. The airplane flights and ground shuttles are extremely helpful and appreciated. But more than the monetary value, I so greatly appreciate the thought behind your help. Illness is a burden, but your actions have really lightened the load. For that especially, I thank you. This time has been difficult for us, but knowing we have the support of people like you certainly helps. Please know I won't forget your kind gesture.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely, Anthony W.

FROM A VOLUNTEER ...continued from page 1

Months went by and I still had very little involvement. So, I made the decision to drive to Chino for the AOPA fly-in September 2014 and lend a hand where I could.

It was there that the So.CA Wing Leader realized what I was now doing for a living. I am a Health Care Recruiter. I spend my days talking to health care professionals and hiring them for various facilities all over So.CA. I recruit everyone from certified nursing assistants that tend to the elderly, to NICU and PACU nurses. I found my place with AFW, spreading the

word in the healthcare community about what AFW does and how they can help.

Since November 2014, I have increased my efforts to spread the AFW message. I spread the word to anyone and everyone who might benefit from AFW, whether it's a new pilot at my FBO, convincing a radio show host to give a good morning shout out to AFW, or a social worker looking for a way to get their patient home. Planes and helping people! What could be better?

IN THE HANGAR

Mauria McPoland, Director of Advancement



AFW welcomes Mauria McPoland, to the new position of Director of Advancement.

Mauria joined AFW in August 2015 and hit the ground running. She is responsible for helping to build the infrastructure for the growth of the organization by not only expanding these efforts through

fundraising, but also marketing, relationship building, communication and outreach.

Having 20+ years experience in these areas for both corporate healthcare and the nonprofit sectors, Mauria says that the mission of AFW “really spoke to

me. You must have a passion for the mission, and I do a hundred percent for AFW.”

Mauria held leadership positions for Prudential/Aetna Healthcare, the American Red Cross, Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters and was president/ED for the Junior League of Los Angeles. She holds a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public & International Affairs and is accredited in communication/public relations. Mauria is a graduate of Leadership Los Angeles and currently a partner and coach with Social Venture Partners LA. She has also served on the Association of Fundraising Professionals GLA board of directors for the past five years. Welcome aboard, Mauria!

Angel Flight West Wishes to thank *all* of those who donate their time and means to support and further our mission. We highlight a few of these below:

Thank you to **Bill Ayer**, former Alaska Airlines CEO and AFW board member, who recently provided a \$300,000 gift to our organization to support and sustain growth as we pursue our goal of doubling missions in the next five years. This gift is to be matched by another \$300,000 from old, new and prospective donors within the next six to nine months. We are very grateful for the opportunity to jump start our capacity building campaign with Bill's generosity.

Two lovely Angels provided the funding for a much-needed upgrade of the AFW office computers. We so appreciate board member and AFW Command Pilot **Georgia Griffiths** and AFW member **Colleen Kendall** for their kind gift to enable us to do our jobs better! Thanks Georgia and Colleen!!

In addition, a huge thanks to AFW pilot and board member **Jason Talley** for donating and hosting a new Voice Over IP phone system that will allow our staff to effectively manage our thousands of calls we place and receive each month. Not only will this new technology enable us to better serve our passengers and pilots, but it will also save AFW thousands of dollars in telephone bills. Thanks Jason!!

During the September AFW Strategic Planning Retreat in Seattle, 20 of the attendees had the delightful experience of visiting **glassybaby**, a private company based in Seattle, whose primary product is a handmade glass votive. The company donates a percentage of profits to charities that help cancer patients with chemotherapy costs and those dedicated to healing. AFW is one of these fortunate charities. The AFW folks had the opportunity to co-create their personal glass bowls and floaters. Thank you to owner Lee Rhodes and the glassybaby staff for an afternoon of fun and teambuilding. See their website at <http://glassybaby.com/power-of-giving>



Angel Flight West
3161 Donald Douglas Loop South
Santa Monica, CA 90405

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Quick Links

Donate

Our Website
Our Blog
FAQs
Wings
Join AFW

Follow Us • Share Us
Forward to a Friend



Contact Us

Direct
(310) 390-2958
Voice Mail
(310) 398-6123
Toll Free
(888) 4-AN-ANGEL
Website
www.angelflightwest.org



Seven-year-old passenger Gage B. is all thumbs up for his 2-leg flight from Baker City, OR ending in Palo Alto, CA with both legs flown by No. CA Command Pilot Christopher Gaertner. Gage has myocardiopathy—abnormal heart muscle—and will be having heart surgery at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.



Passenger Dennis D. and ID Wing Command Pilot Ryan DeLuca finishing a 2-leg flight to Missoula, MT that started in Salt Lake City, UT with UT Wing Command pilot Gary Sackett. Dennis has a terminal diagnosis of cancer and has wished to meet his twin grandchildren for the first time before he passes. Dennis's family has very limited means and financially had not been able to make this trip.

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