

AFW Flies Kids to Special Summer Camps

by Cheri Cimmarrusti, Associate Executive Director



AZ Wing Command Pilot Steve Knott is about to fly his Bombardier/300 Challenger from Tucson, AZ to Prescott, AZ with many happy campers going to Courage Camp for young burn survivors.

For most people, the beginning of summer brings thoughts of relaxing on a beach, grilling with friends or a fun family vacation. For an AFW mission coordinator, however, summer brings thoughts of hundreds of camp flights to organize! These thoughts just might make those coordinators wish they were relaxing on a beach or going on vacation!

There are many special needs camps that are run each summer by a variety of organizations. For kids who are burn survivors, have kidney disease, or are living with HIV/AIDS, these camps are a welcome respite from daily life where they may be singled out as different or fragile. At camp for burn survivors, kids can wear bathing suits or shorts without fear that someone will stare or make fun of them. Children living with HIV/AIDS can talk about it without the stigma that is sadly still attached. For many, this is the only week they can be with those living with the same challenges that they are.

Camp season starts at the beginning of the year when a camp calendar is created to determine camp dates and the number of campers who will be flying, and ends when the last few Command Pilots close their flight plans on a camp

Continued on page 5...

FIRST FLIGHT

by Enrico Gorman, So. CA Wing Command Pilot

First Angel Flight: Several Years in the Making

It was many years ago that I was introduced to AFW. My good friend Sean, who is now in the right seat at Southwest Airlines, was a member of AFW. I was asked to act as Mission Assistant on his flight from Montgomery Field to Santa Maria. The mission was to fly a couple of teenagers to burn camp. This was a great flight, and at the time I decided to make it my goal to fly for this great organization. Of course career, family and life had other plans.

Sean is still an active instructor and

Continued on page 3...



L to R: Mission Assistant Dan, passenger Carmen D. and So. CA Wing Command Pilot Enrico Gorman on Enrico's 1st AFW mission flying Carmen home from Santa Monica, CA—where Carmen is being treated for metastatic kidney cancer—to Imperial County, CA. Carmen has no available transportation or other resources for travel to her frequent and life-saving medical treatments.



ASK JOSH
by Josh Olson,
Executive Director

“How was the Endeavor Awards?” – Mike Savage, volunteer pilot

The Endeavor Awards this year were an incredible success! Those in attendance were charmed by our Academy Award-nominated host Greg Kinnear, inspired by the stories of our passengers and other volunteer pilots, and honored by aviation heroes like Clay Lacy, Scott Terry, and a myriad of astronauts. The event raised over \$300,000 to aid us in serving and reaching more in need of our incredible donated flights, and we raised much needed awareness for the amazing work being done by volunteer pilots every day across the country. We highlighted that work through the three Endeavor Awards presented to Rick Durden from Lighthawk, John Billings from Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic, and Steve Purello from Angel Flight Southeast. Rick Durden ended his acceptance

speech by saying “We are making the world a better place, one flight at a time.” I couldn’t agree more.

We’ve all told someone about Angel Flight West and heard them say, “Wow! I had no idea something like that even existed.” There are many other volunteer pilot groups just like us across the country. Many of you fly for multiple groups. Pilots ‘n Paws, Lighthawk, other Angel Flights, Missionary groups, Doctors without Borders, and others are all performing valuable community service through public benefit aviation. Each organization has similar problems with raising awareness just like Angel Flight West. Volunteer pilot organizations are spending their valuable and limited resources on carrying out their respective mission. Volunteer pilots are passionately and generously donating each flight. However, no one is spreading the word effectively enough to reach more people/causes in need of free flights. As a leader in charitable aviation, Angel Flight West saw the need and opportunity to promote public benefit flying on a grand stage that would make people take notice and ultimately help us reach more people in need, which is why we created the Endeavor Awards.



2015 Endeavor Awards night.

Join Us Next Year for the Premier Celebration for Volunteer Pilots

The number of charitable flights is estimated to be 25,000 a year. The Endeavor Awards are the centerpiece of a campaign to raise general awareness of public benefit aviation and shine a light on the importance of charitable flights so generously donated by pilots and airlines.

2015 Winners


John Billings
Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic


Rick Durden
Light Hawk


Steve Purello
Angel Flight Southeast

2015 Inspiration Award Winners


Scott Terry & Ben Affleck
For Inspiring Use of Aviation to Save and Improve Lives in Eastern Congo

Clay Lacy
For inspiring many who love movies to love aviation and learn to fly

Photos by Evan Peers

Stay in the loop for next year's event. Join our mailing list at EndeavorAwards.org/ea2016

CELEBRATING PUBLIC BENEFIT AVIATION

ENDEAVOR *e⁺* AWARDS®

FIRST FLIGHT...Continued from page 1

this past February we flew together for my BFR. We once again talked about AFW and I quickly decided to join. On June 1, 2015, my first flight mission was to pick up my passenger at Santa Monica, CA for the flight to Imperial County. I am lucky to be a co-owner in a 1979 "T" tail Piper Arrow based at Gillespie Field in San Diego. In the planning for the flight, the weather was VFR but the winds out in the desert were going to be a factor—winds in the west at 17 knots gusting to 25 knots. Good news is Imperial airport has a pair of runways and the wind was straight down runway 26. I had called my passenger the day before to inform her that we may encounter some light turbulence flying over the mountains. She indicated that this was not a problem for her since she lived in Calexico. I enlisted my friend and fellow owner Dan to assist me in the flight. Dan flew the first leg to Santa Monica where we met Carmen D., a wonderful up-beat woman. We also met Margot Bernal, a great Earth Angel who had driven Carmen to the airport. They were early and waiting for our arrival from

San Diego. After a passenger briefing and saying goodbye to Margot, we were pre-filed IFR and off to Imperial. Santa Monica tower and ATC were great in expediting our departure. Over the ocean, right turn back over Santa Monica, direct to Seal Beach VOR, V23, Oceanside, Julian, Kumba intersection and into Imperial. Some light chop on the descent but nothing the Arrow could not handle. One hour and twenty minutes later we were on the ground. Carmen informed me this would have been a five-hour drive for her son with LA traffic. Thank you, Carmen, for the opportunity and for being such a great passenger. This was a wonderful experience. This flight will always be the highlight of my flying career.

Do you know someone who might like to become a member of AFW? Click here <http://www.angelflightwest>.

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

<http://tinyurl.com/mwsv2s7>

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

March 10, 2015 – June 1, 2015

In Honor Of

Norm Board & Peggy
Andrews
Marc & Denean Boegner
Tom Campbell
Steve Danz
Nicole Niemczyk
Dennis Phelan
Lucas Vicent

In Memory Of

Sue Blevins
Bob Philpott
Michael Culver
Robin Ann Davis
David Gates
Ronald Hochede
Paul Kienow
Eddie Murphy
Richard Schomberg
Peter & Kathleen
Tomarken
Capt. Robert Younggren



L to R: UT Command Pilot Ching Hao Hsu and passenger Jonathan B. flying from Elko, NV to Salt Lake City, UT for treatment of Jonathan's leukemia. Frequent traveling for on-going treatment combined with Jonathan's limited resources has created a financial hardship for him.

“You make having cancer easier. I really never know when I will go home because after treatment with radiation it is hard to fly commercially. My cancer spread from my eye to my liver and pancreas, but we caught it fast so I have hope. You all truly are Angels!”

—Passenger Adriane K.



FROM A VOLUNTEER

by Colorado Wing Leader Mike Forney

There's More to AFW than Flying!

Last October my flying days caught up with me. After 52 years

it was time to sell the airplane, dispose of my hangar and "go to ground." I often told my fellow pilots in our AFW wing that pilot proficiency really demands at least 70 flying hours a year or regular sessions with a certificated flight instructor. After years flying 150-200 hours on trips as far away as the Bahamas and Mexico, my hours dwindled to 50 or less. [Mike has flown more than 50 missions for AFW]

So did that mean giving up my role as Colorado Wing Leader? The staff said no! AFW has many volunteers who are not pilots. Some like me gave up flying. Others never did fly but love aviation and the free transportation we provide for so many adults and children who need our help.

Volunteering for something you believe in is the American way. Americans give more, volunteer more, and help more than any other nationality. Former President Bill Clinton said: "Citizen service is the very American idea that we meet our challenges not as isolated individuals, but as members of a true community, with all of us working together."

What better way for those of us in or around aviation to serve than flying passengers to and from

remote places to medical centers where they can be treated, and hopefully cured or stabilized. But our Angel Flight West Command Pilots could not perform these services without the help of countless others literally "in the wings."

Credit those AFW volunteers who turn out at medical and social worker's conferences to tell the Angel Flight story. Their commitment is reflected in the enthusiasm and pride they show for the work we do and the opportunity we offer so many to take advantage of our service. Acknowledge those who assist their AFW Wing leader and others to plan events, coordinate Command Pilot Mission Orientation and schedule "in-service" briefings for medical staffers.

I'm glad I stayed in Angel Flight West. The personal satisfaction gained in flying a mission is gone. But the work I'm doing to make these missions possible for my fellow pilots and their passengers is very fulfilling. Think about what YOU can do for Angel Flight West and the people who need our help.

It may be handing out one of our brochures. It could be taking the time to tell people you know in the medical profession about Angel Flight West. It could be volunteering to help your Angel Flight West wing schedule an event, make a presentation, or offer an Angel Flight West passenger a ride to or from the airport. It may be as simple as "giving back" a bit of your time and energy to something truly worthwhile. Try it. You'll like it.

OUR THANKS TO Dale Katechis and the Can'd Aid Foundation

Dale Katechis is the founder of Oskar Blues Brewery, CAN'd Aid Foundation and DaPlane LLC. AFW has been the fortunate recipient of a \$50,000 donation from Mr. Katechis and we want to extend our many thanks for his generosity and support.

"Can'd Aid Foundation is the "do-good" side of Oskar Blues Brewery in CO, and is a nonprofit organization dedicated to giving back and making a difference. We love bikes, music, the outdoors, food & family; and we're rallying around what we love to raise money for—things that matter. By putting our own spin on what charitable work looks like, we're able to stay nimble, respond quickly and remain true to our roots.

"DaPlane LLC is a locally owned, Longmont, CO-based, aviation training and consulting firm. We specialize in helping clients enjoy the world above terra firma. As a volunteer member of AFW we look forward to using the ability to fly as a way to help people in need get to those locations that would otherwise be unattainable."

To learn more about the Can'd Aid Foundation and the brewery go to <http://foundation.oskarblues.com> and www.oskarblues.com



AFW FLIES SPECIAL SUMMER CAMPS...continued page 1

mission. For three months, the mission coordinators live and breathe camp. And while it is daunting and exhausting, it is also a fun time filled with challenges and many rewards.

Between January–May and September–December, AFW schedules 450–500 flights monthly. About 70% of these flights will be flown, as approximately 30% cancel for weather and/or passenger scheduling changes. But during June, July and August, the coordinators will schedule 600–725 missions. This is a significant addition in the workload for both our coordinators and our Command Pilots! While on a normal day, coordinators may be arranging missions

for 10–15 pilots from all 13 states for different days, during camp season, they may be arranging missions for upwards of 40 pilots for one day from ONE Wing! Quite the task! You can see the rewards by the looks on the faces of these happy campers! Flying to camp becomes another important and fun part of their camp experience. For many children this is their first time in any airplane and it shows in their delighted expressions. We encourage you to pick up a few camp missions this summer and experience the joy first hand!



Passenger Kaimani D. traveling from Mokuleia, HI to Lihue, HI with **HI Wing Command Pilot Neil McCown**. Kaimani is on his way to Camp Mokuleia—a camp for kids with cancer.



NV Wing Command Pilot Tom Porta with passengers **Cheyenne D.** and **Schendel S.** flying from Chico, CA to Fresno, CA where the girls attended Champ Camp, another summer camp for young burn survivors.



Mission Assistant Leslie Tong and **No. CA Wing Command Pilot Christopher Bennett** with passengers and sisters **Tigist** and **Selam M.** flying home from Santa Monica, CA to Sacramento, CA where they enjoyed themselves at a camp for families with a life-threatening illness.



Dad James and mom Jessica holding **passenger two-month-old Henry W.** on their way from Palo Alto, CA to Redding, CA with **OR Wing Command Pilot Timothy Braly**. Henry is being treated at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for cystic fibrosis. The family has two children with this disease, which has made medical expenses very hard to manage.



Mission Assistant and member in the right seat Jim Gerblick with **AZ Command Pilot Jim Pitman**, flying passenger **Leeann B.** and her husband Michael on their way home from Santa Ana, CA to Las Vegas, NV. Leeann is being treated for metastatic breast cancer and can't travel on public transportation as her immune system is compromised. She also can't afford the travel expenses of required and frequent treatment visits.



Passenger one-year-old Macy H. with **ID Command Pilot Doug Davey** who flew the 2nd leg of a 2-leg mission to Portland, OR. **MT Wing Command Pilot Reginald Goodwin** flew the 1st leg from Great Falls, MT to Spokane, WA. Macy requires multiple trips for treatment of glaucoma. Macy's family is surviving on one income and struggles to afford all the costs associated with Macy's medical treatment.

Air to Air

- Our condolences to the Shaffer family on the passing of passenger Barbara Shaffer.
- Best of luck to Jill Dannis as she moves on to a new adventure along her career path.
- Welcome to our new marketing intern PK Duncan.
- You can donate miles to AFW via Alaska Airlines at: <http://tinyurl.com/993tk7s>
- **Amazon Shoppers!** AFW will receive a portion of your purchase if you click on: www.angelflightwest.org, which will take you to the Amazon page for AFW.
- 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 the following link and vote for us: <http://tinyurl.com/mag7fue>
- **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>

AFW WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Scott Lehman, Tucson, AZ Wing, is the owner of Premier Auto Center, a car dealership with locations in Casa Grande and Tucson, AZ. An AFW volunteer pilot since 2009, he flies a Cirrus SR22. Scott is also a Pro Tem Justice of the Peace for Pinal County and has served as president of his local high school board.



Kelsey Martin, So. CA Wing, is an advisor to individuals, families, and select not-for-profit organizations at Goldman Sachs & Co. Kelsey served as a pilot in the United States Navy where he completed over 70 combat flying missions from the flight decks of the USS John C Stennis and USS Carl Vinson. He holds a BS in Economics from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.



Jason Talley, So. CA Wing, is the founder and Chairman of Nuvio, a cloud computing company located in So. CA, and founder of JetFuelX, providing big-data analytics for the aviation industry. He has founded and operated multiple technology companies in Internet infrastructure and computational computing. Jason received his B.S. in Mathematics from MSSU, his J.D. from the University of Missouri and is licensed to practice law in California, Missouri and Kansas. Jason is an Airline Transport rated pilot and currently flies a Citation Mustang and Citabria. He has been an AFW volunteer pilot since 2012.



L-R: So. CA Command Pilot Jim Dell, AFW Board President and So. CA Command Pilot Steve Danz, So. CA Command Pilot Walt Harrison and wife Janet at the AFW booth during the Warbirds West Air Museum Pancake Fly In at Gillespie Field. Another way to volunteer for AFW!



L to R: son Nate, passenger Lee C., and No. CA Command Pilot Emma Fernandez flying from Palo Alto, CA home to Chico, CA. Lee has been unable to work due to her struggle with liver cancer. She is on a limited income and travel is just one of many financial burdens.

Angel Flight West Wishes to Thank Our Top Contributors

(March 10, 2015 – June 1, 2015)



**Dale Katechis
James Slattery
Green Foundation
Ziffren Brittenham LLP**



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

FLIGHTS FLOWN **3,866**

11
FLIGHTS
A DAY

PASSENGERS
FLOWN **1,432**

PILOT IN KIND
DONATIONS
\$2,217,820

NEW MEMBERS: 642

1,340 FLIGHTS
DONATED BY
ALASKA AIRLINES

1900+
VOLUNTEERS



STORIES OF 2014



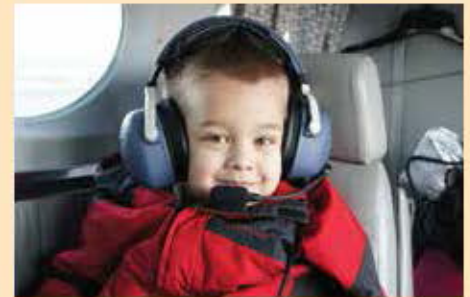
Noah R. and father Javler flown by Chris Bennett

Noah was born with Morquio Type A, which is a rare and serious birth defect. He was accepted into a medication trial at Oakland Children's Hospital, but his family had no transportation resources to get him there from Porterville, CA. Thanks to AFW pilots, Noah was able to fly every month to receive treatment via this clinical trial.



Taleah S. with family flown by Steven Bollinger

Taleah has Leukemia and requires treatment in Salt Lake City. Traveling from St. George, UT to Salt Lake City is more time away from work than her family can budget. AFW pilots ease that burden by providing a quick and easy means of transportation so that Taleah can get to her treatment.



Xavlen C flown by John Seabury

Xavlen lives in rural Colorado and requires burn treatment not available to him locally. His parents used their savings to get him care that he needs at Denver Children's Hospital Burn Center. AFW volunteers stepped in to help, so that transportation could be one less thing for this family to worry about.

DONOR LIST

We want to say **"Thank you to all who donated in 2014!"** Thank you for your sustaining support. You make possible the day-to-day work of Mission Operations that matches volunteer pilots with people asking for help to reach the care that improves and saves their lives. We can't arrange these life-changing trips without your generous support!" To see a list of our supporters, please [click here](#).

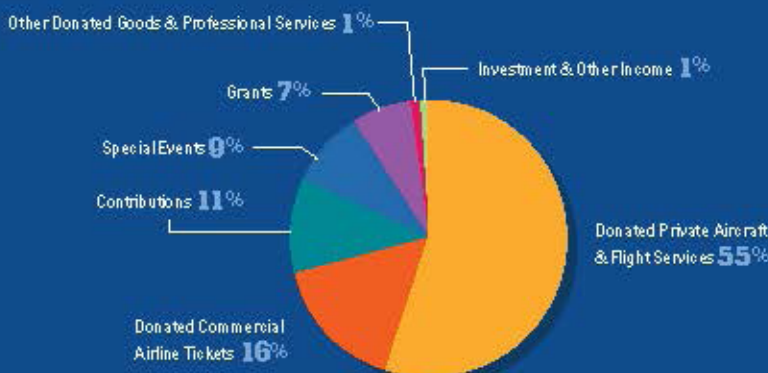


PILOT LIST

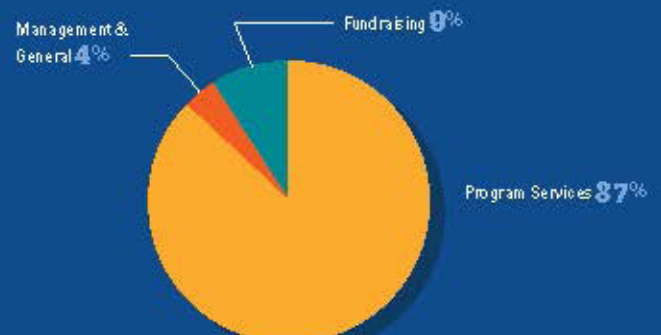
Thank you to our compassionate, generous, and amazing pilots who donate the gift of flight to those in need! To view a list of all those who flew flights for AFW in 2014, please [click here](#). **These are our Angels!**

FINANCIALS

We work very hard to be as efficient as we can to serve as many people in need as possible. The charts below depict how we raise and spend generously donated funds.



TOTAL 2014 REVENUE: \$4,553,595



TOTAL 2014 EXPENSES: \$4,486,594



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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NV Command Pilot Bill Ramos came to the rescue at a moment's notice and flew **passenger Denise C.** from Las Vegas, NV to Santa Monica, CA where her doctors were waiting to perform her liver transplant surgery. AFW was able to arrange ground transportation with Earth Angel Lois Orfuss who was at the ready to drive Denise in critical time to UCLA. No wonder Denise is smiling!

Upcoming Events 2015

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

08/01 NV Wing Fly-In
08/08 OR Wing Fly-in
09/11 AFW Annual Retreat
09/26 AOPA Fly-In,
CO Springs, CO

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