

A Mission Moment *Passenger Dax S.*

For the first four years of his six-year-old life, Dax became very accustomed to seeing the faces of doctors. Born prematurely on April 19, 2012 and initially diagnosed with Dandy Walker syndrome—a small unformed cerebellum which would affect his gross motor and speech skills—his parents made sure he received as many private therapy sessions as possible. But, it wasn't until November 2016, after a 24-hour nose bleed and severe bruising that got his doctors to admit him to Kalispell

Regional Hospital to look at more possible blood related conditions. It was discovered that Dax had dyskeratosis congenita (DKC), a rare genetic disorder that causes bone marrow failure. His mom Chantel writes: "The chances of being born with DKC are literally one in a million." After this second diagnosis, she says, "I really didn't know if I was capable of feeling anything but extraordinary sadness." After dealing with the challenges for four years of what they thought was Dax's health issue, Mom



Passenger Dax on his way to a post bone marrow transplant appointment. **MT Wing Pilot Richard Rogers** flew Dax and dad on the first of a 2-leg mission from Bozeman, MT to Richland, WA, and **WA Wing Pilot James Young** flew them to Seattle, WA.

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A RECORD YEAR FOR AFW!

Thank you on many levels!

2017 was a record year for AFW and we want to say THANK YOU! We are so incredibly appreciative of your support last year, and helping us achieve our goals of...

- Increasing our services to reach more families
- Expanding our outreach to more healthcare facilities
- Connecting with new partners able to provide the resources needed to get people in the skies and to their destination
- Building awareness of our cause within and beyond the healthcare and aviation communities to better understand transportation challenges faced by those seeking medical treatment far beyond their reach

We could not have done this without you! Your end of year support in 2017 has allowed AFW and our amazing volunteers to continue to help people in their time of need to see beyond the horizon.



ASK JOSH

by Josh Olson, Executive Director

How was the annual retreat?

–Jeff Moorhouse

At AFW's annual retreat on January 26-27, a group of 60

Wing Leaders, Board Members, staff, and interested volunteers gathered in Lake Las Vegas to celebrate our mission, set our goals and help strategically plan for our "Ascent to 8000" flights for people in need. Thanks to the amazing talent and wisdom in the room, we had a very productive weekend. Of course, in true AFW fashion, we had some good fun along the way too, including a tour of Nellis Air Force Base, meeting Thunderbird pilots, and recognizing a number of our outstanding volunteers at the Mob Museum (but not because of their Mob involvement!).

AFW passenger LeeAnn B. summed up the evening best when she opened the weekend with her personal story, saying "If not for Angel Flight, I wouldn't be alive today. What you guys have given me is a new opportunity at life, and there is no reason everyone else shouldn't know about it. I was told about Angel Flight by a volunteer at my hospital. We need every volunteer and every hospital talking about your services so more people like me can be helped." As Leanne so aptly pointed out, one of our biggest challenges as an organization is raising awareness of our services. We've been working diligently on new initiatives to help us better reach and serve those in need of donated flights. As you can see from our 2017 results below, we have made some progress in those areas. However, transportation remains the biggest

barrier to accessing healthcare after cost. If AFW is to grow and meet more of this huge patient need, it requires us to improve our outreach efforts, efficiency of services, and better/increased resource utilization. We spent significant time on each of these topics during the annual retreat and created the goals below.

We want to take this time to thank each and every one of our amazing volunteers at AFW. We also want to invite any of you interested in getting more involved in volunteer leadership to contact us. Although we purposely maintain a small staff who keep our little engine roaring, we need an army of highly committed and talented volunteers to pull off all of the goals below:

2017 Results:

- Missions Flown: 4,249 (+3%)
- Mission Requests: 6,912 (+9%, many of which are canceled by the patient)
- New Requesters: 384 (+5%)
- New Volunteers: 689 (+30%)
- Cancellations: +6%

2018 Goals:

- Missions Flown: 4,500 (+6%)
- Mission Requests: 7,534 (+9%)
- New Requesters: 420 (+9%)
- New Volunteers: 689 (0%)
- Cancellations: -13%

If you're interested and available to get more involved in these growth initiatives, please email me at josho@angelflightwest.org. Thank you!

Air to Air

➔ AFW sends its heartfelt condolences to the families of passengers **Rene Azahar** and **Lexi McKay**.

➔ AFW also sends its deepest condolences to **Kortney Davis** for the passing of her brother **Carlos Paige**.

➔ glassybaby "wings" is retiring as of Feb. 1st. Our partnership continues with glassybaby donating half of the giving proceeds from their SeaTac store to AFW. We have a limited number of "wings" handmade votives left to purchase. Get one and show your support before they run out! To purchase directly from AFW, please contact maryh@angelflightwest.org

➔ Phillips 66® has agreed to provide AFW pilots a \$1-per-gallon avgas rebate. Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/y7aswwf3>

➔ The aviation-focused company **Scheyden** offers a 50% discount to AFW members on their eyewear products. Use the promo code ANGEL on checkout at: <http://scheyden.com/>

➔ **ZuluLog**, a professional, cloud-based online pilot logbook system, is offering 10% discount to all AFW members and a donation back to AFW with every purchase! Use code ZULUAFW when ordering at: <https://www.zululog.com/>

A new partnership, with **GreaterGood.org**, began in Oct. 2017 for Breast Cancer Awareness month, which featured our passenger **LeeAnn B.**. Since then, **GreaterGood.org** has donated more than \$6,000 from online sales to AFW. Show your support through your gift and clothing purchases on their site: <https://tinyurl.com/y9v1xwdd>

Pilots of the Year 2017

Thank you to ALL our pilots!

* Numbers indicate flights flown in 2017.

AZ	Patrick McClure	21	Pilot of the Year	NV	Michael Evans	66	Pilot of the Year
	John Sanderson	18	Wingman		Cody Sommer	37	Wingman
	James Phillips	11	Frequent Flyer		Paul Colby	18	Frequent Flyer
NoCA	Christopher Bennett	74	Pilot of the Year	NM	Christopher Grotbeck	5	Pilot of the Year
	Thomas Balch	26	Wingman		Perry Null	4	Wingman
	Pedro (Peter) Zadrozny	23	Frequent Flyer		Stephen Rehnberg	3	Frequent Flyer
SoCA	James Dell	107	Pilot of the Year	OR	Tom Torney	35	Pilot of the Year
	Stephen Danz	61	Wingman		James Origliosso	31	Wingman
	Peter Bernardin	40	Frequent Flyer		Ethan Levi	22	Frequent Flyer
	David Meldrum	39	Frequent Flyer	UT	Paul Hicks	22	Pilot of the Year
CO	William Greager	14	Pilot of the Year		Lynn Purcell	15	Wingman
	Joseph Dowdy	14	Pilot of the Year		Mark Miller	14	Frequent Flyer
	Phillip Rosnik	11	Wingman	WA	Robert Schaper	104	Pilot of the Year
HI	David Sacco	11	Pilot of the Year		Anonymous	78	Wingman
					John Jewett	58	Frequent Flyer
ID	Rick Holloway	34	Pilot of the Year	WY	John Larsen	8	Pilot of the Year
	Charles Jones	6	Wingman		Matthew Young	3	Wingman
	John Katseanes	5	Frequent Flyer				
MT	Michael Burks	23	Pilot of the Year				
	Reginald Goodwin	15	Wingman				
	William Bayne	12	Frequent Flyer				

To view all AFW Command Pilots who have flown missions in the last 90 days click on or go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/mwsv2s7>

— Special thanks to our wonderful **Earth Angels!**

No. CA – **Carin Powers**
So CA – Los Angeles Basin – **Margot Bernal**
So CA – San Diego Area – **Steve Hochberger**
CO – **Marcia Hibberd**
OR – **Elaine Gossman** with special thanks to
OR Lion's Clubs, and **Jim & Sue Jagers**
UT – **Karen Ardin**
WA – **Mike LaFave**

*Top Earth Angels in Wings with active programs.

AFW 2017 Golf Classic Recap

A \$90,000 Success!

Our 2017 AFW Golf Classic was a great day on the greens! BIG thanks to our golfers, supporters, and generous sponsors like Freshends, Desert Jet, Mercy Air, and bGlobal Sourcing. The event raised approximately \$90,000, just short of our \$100,000 goal! This amount of support allows AFW to enable 360 new donated flights for families in their time of need. We were thrilled to see some familiar faces as well as welcome new players this year. Congratulations again to our 2017 tournament winners! **We hope you can join us for another meaningful day when we return to the beautiful Monarch Beach Resort this year on Sept. 28th, 2018.**



Board News!

AFW would like to extend a big thank you to **Matt Brown** for his appointment as secretary to the board.

Congratulations to board member **Mariya Anderson** and her husband Rick for their new bundle of joy!



Thank you to **So.CA Pilot Vladimir Kostritsa** for flying **passenger Connie** to her cancer treatment in Oxnard during the mudslides in Santa Barbara, CA as a result of the Thomas Fire. The closure of the 101 freeway, the only access in and out of Santa Barbara, prevented many people from getting to their appointments and jobs. Thank you to our many pilots who participated in this disaster relief mission featured on NBC Nightly News at <https://tinyurl.com/y77gzpht>.

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

June 1, 2017 – January 1, 2018

In Memory Of

Elizabeth J. Arscott
Noel Beattie
Marjorie Corrao
Dru Cudahay
Richard Dunham
Jeanette Fowler
Judy Gorman
Bernard Gregoire
Deeb Hammoudeh

Janne E. Ilgen
Alexis McKay
Marshall Michaelian
Don & Helen Nelson
Cheryle Rutherford
Mary Saiz
Peter and Kathleen Tomarken

In Honor Of

Richard Avalon
Steve Danz
Noah Franz
Michael & Maria Herman
Alan Lund

Walker Miller
Heather Olson
Tony Reyes
Jacob Switzenberg
Warren Woods

Angel Flight West Wishes to Thank Our Top Contributors

June 1, 2017 – January 1, 2018



Dan Calugar
The Ahmanson Foundation
Geoff & Jill Wood
Anonymous Foundation
The Dorrance Family Foundation

More stories behind the missions



Pictured with dad, **three-year-old Jehudiel** has spent most of his life battling kidney disease. After more than 100 days in the hospital as a result of a blood infection, he lost a leg and a few fingertips. He may walk on a prosthesis, but AFW pilots give him wings! While Jehudiel is being evaluated for a transplant, he is receiving monthly dialysis at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in Palo Alto—a four-hour drive from the family's home in Reno, NV. With AFW as their airline, getting there is no longer a challenge.



OR Command Pilots Christopher Blumenthal and Clay Roberts about to fly blood to **Bloodworks NW** in Seattle for use in research and medical treatment. AFW has been flying blood to them since 2005, replacing their previous reliance on private companies and commercial airlines. AFW transports countless units of blood, allowing them to save more lives each year. Another important mission of Angel Flight West!



Passenger five-year-old Kenasyn B. ready for take off to Shriners Hospitals for Children for treatment of caudal regression syndrome—a congenital disorder of abnormal development in the lower spine. She flew with her stay-at-home mom, while dad looked after her five older siblings. Her dad took a \$10,000 per year pay cut this year as an instructor at the University of Idaho, and now AFW is helping with the costs of Kenasyn's care. **ID Command Pilot Rick Holloway** flew first leg from Moscow, ID to Boise, ID, and **UT Command Pilot Louis Rossi** to Salt Lake City, UT.



Passenger Rachel B. with **So.CA Wing Pilot Knud Kirkegaard** on 1st leg from Modesto, CA to Coalinga, CA. **So.CA Wing Pilot Jim Mallen** flew 2nd leg to Santa Monica, CA. Rachel says, "THANK YOU doesn't seem to cut it! From the friendly skillful pilots, to the wonderful office staff, to the sweet and helpful ground angels, I so appreciate you all helping me get to and from my appointments at UCLA for my treatment of adenoid cystic carcinoma. My check-ups for my oral prosthetic is how I am now able to eat, drink and speak. I am unable to express in writing my gratitude!"

A Mission Moment

Passenger Dax S. ...continued from page 1

and dad were told that a bone marrow transplant would likely be needed to cure the instability in his blood. This was actually good news as it gave Dax a chance to live a healthier life. But, the road ahead would be challenging for the family.

Twice Dax traveled to Seattle to meet with the team at Seattle Children's Hospital and the transplant experts at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. Before the scheduled transplant, Dax needed to travel every two weeks, for a platelet transfusion to keep his blood stable while the family waited for a bone marrow donor. On June 26, 2017, a donor was finally found through "Be The Match," a National Marrow Donor Program. The transplant was successful, and Dax tolerated the chemotherapy post surgery well. On December 26, 2017, the family celebrated six months of Dax's healthy life.

In January, Dad and Dax needed to travel to Seattle for a routine follow-up appointment with the transplant medical team. Since Dax needed to be isolated from crowds, he was unable to fly commercially from Bozeman to Seattle, and the winter road conditions made driving not an option.

That's when mom and dad found AFW. On January 2, 2018, MT Wing Pilot Richard Rogers flew Dax and dad on the first of a 2-leg mission from Bozeman, MT to Richland, WA, and WA Wing Pilot James Young flew them to Seattle. Chantel says, "Little man enjoyed being in the air and was patient and calm on both flights."

When they were ready to return home, Montana faced serious winter weather challenges and small, private flights weren't a good option. So, Dax received medical clearance (with certain precautions taken to maintain his recovery) for a donated flight on Alaska Airlines arranged by AFW, and they were back home after one overnight stay.

Chantel says, "We are so thankful for such an incredible organization and volunteers who make travel easier for patients and caregivers." Dax will need at least two more visits to Seattle for follow-up appointments in April and June. Chantel wasn't sure they will call upon AFW's services again, but she is grateful to know they are there if needed. "It is nice to know there are other people willing to help in our time of need."

Hey LA Clippers Fans!

Enjoy a game with AFW!

AFW has partnered with the LA Clippers for a charity fundraiser during their March 6th game. We'll be using this opportunity to recognize all volunteers by offering TWO FREE tickets to all those who have flown, driven or given their time to AFW in 2017. Look for this volunteer appreciation event email announcement and invitations with a two-free ticket max offer per person. Additional discounted tickets will be available at \$25 while supplies last!



AFW thanks Alaska Airlines for its generous donation of hundreds of tickets to patients in need of medical treatments. You can also **donate to Alaska Airlines Charity Miles Program** to help AFW's passengers get to necessary health care appointments at AFW via Alaska Airlines:
<http://tinyurl.com/993tk7s>

Events Calendar

Join Us!

- 03/06** LA Clippers Fundraiser
- 03/10** 8th Annual Princess Benefit Ball, Kalispell, MT
- 04/19** CancerCon, Hyatt Regency Denver-CO Convention Center
- 04/20** ACA Air Care 2018, AOPA Headquarters, Frederick, MD
- 05/12** Endeavor Awards, CA Science Center, Los Angeles
- 06/15** AOPA Fly-In, Missoula International Airport
- 09/14** AOPA Fly-In, Santa Fe Municipal Airport
- 09/28** AFW 2018 Golf Classic, Monarch Beach Golf Links, Orange County, CA

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

Thank you for all your gifts of transportation!
– Passenger Lynn K.



In the Hangar

Henny Alamillo, Development Assistant

When Henny Alamillo came onboard as AFW's Development Assistant at the beginning of November 2017, she had been looking to take on new ventures. She had previously worked at CicLAvia with our Director of Development Mary Hunter, who introduced AFW by praising the organization. Henny says, "AFW sounded like such a great organization to work for." Henny worked at CicLAvia from 2011-2016 as their Community Research Manager before she left to assist Mary and the AFW team.

When Henny began, she didn't realize the level

of support that AFW offers to our passengers such as Earth Angels, pilot, and non-pilot volunteers, etc., and says that she is "impressed and overwhelmed by what the organization does."

Henny's role entails supporting the Director of Development, which includes managing online fundraising campaigns and donor reports, updating the partnership and individual donor database, and supporting fundraising events.

She says, "As I'm learning the ropes, I'm very excited to be part of the AFW team and to contribute to its mission. It's an amazing organization." Welcome as part of the AFW team, Henny!

UTAH WING'S SANTA FLIGHT IN ITS 17th YEAR

by Utah Wing Leader and Command Pilot Steve Bollinger



Utah Wing's Santa Flight missions started 17 years ago when Tim Miller, the first UT Wing Leader, decided to deliver eye glasses to Indian tribes in various locations in Utah. The project has evolved to what it is today—delivering supplies to Title 1 elementary schools. Last year, the UT Wing celebrated their 17th annual Santa Flight mission by delivering over 10,000 pounds of supplies to Centennial Elementary School in Roosevelt, Utah. Every year a different Title 1 elementary school is selected in Utah to be the recipient. This mission, eleven Boy Scouts along with other community organizations collected the donated supplies which were loaded into 32 airplanes and flown to Roosevelt. Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and two elves flew in by

helicopter while the pilots and Boy Scouts were driven to the school by bus. Pilots, scouts, students and teachers then celebrated the occasion at the school's assembly pictured right above. Principal of the school, Bruce Guymon, said that it was a great experience for the students to see people doing good in the world and the desire to help others in need.

AFW thanks all who were involved and especially the Santa Flight Planning Committee: Phil Titus, Steve Bollinger, Joanne Brattain, and Tim "Santa" Miller for once again organizing the Santa Flight project. You can watch a heartwarming video put together by Thor Media of this mission's Santa Flight at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9hzfo6u>



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Saturday, May 12, 2018 | LOS ANGELES

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Angel Flight West delivers health and hope using donated flights to serve those with healthcare or other compelling human needs.