

# AFW Helps Reduce Stress from Long Drive to Medical Treatment... continued from page 3



Beautiful sunset before passenger Ron, his wife Janelle, and Command Pilot Sven Freitag fly home to Idaho from Seattle Integrative Cancer Center in Renton, WA.

to see Dr. Chen, who told them about AFW.

In the first few weeks of treatment, Janelle says, “we were away from home a lot.” They would stay with friends in Tacoma, but when AFW began their flights, Ron says, “It’s been a blessing. I don’t know if I could continue to drive back and forth. Now I just try to sleep on the plane. They are a godsend.”

Ron and Janelle seem to be taking it one day at a time. He says that “with my kind of cancer, all we can do is to provide stasis at this point.” Angel Flight West will be there for them as often and as long as they need.

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WEST

WINTER 2021

# FLIGHTS OF HOPE NEWS



Command Pilot Brock Boscovich flying baby Liliana in stroller and her mother home to Lovelock, NV from treatment at UCSF in San Francisco for serious congenital health challenges. Her five other children and husband are there for the send off.

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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.

## A Special Child and a First-Mission Pilot Fly to Treatment

*Thanks to you, many families like Liliana's are able to get the critical care they need.*

The doctors told Jerri that her baby, Liliana, showed multiple problems in utero. They told her that many parents-to-be in this situation choose to end the pregnancy. Jerrie told her doctors that “whatever you have to do, do it. I want my baby to have a chance in life.”

Liliana was born with a host of challenges: spina bifida, scoliosis, and congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) - a hole in the muscle in the chest. She is one year old and already has had two eight-hour surgeries.

Jerrie and her husband have six children. The oldest three girls are 11, 10, and nine and help the two youngest who are seven and five while Jerrie focuses on the needs of Liliana.

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ANGEL FLIGHT WEST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Josh Olson

American author, speaker, and pastor John C. Maxwell once said, "The truth is that teamwork is at the heart of great achievement," and this quote certainly proved true for Angel Flight West in 2020. Last year brought challenges that no one could have anticipated, and I'm so proud to say that through it all, with the help of our volunteers and the generosity of our supporters, we continued to serve and fly through all the crises.



We had longtime volunteers stepping up selflessly to fill thousands of missions, and we had pilots joining, getting oriented, and flying for AFW for the first time, wanting to help during a time of critical need. These volunteers make us who we are, and continue to serve our passengers and our mission at great personal expense.

Our amazing donors answered the call as well, allowing us to respond to requests from patients, healthcare providers, relief agencies, and new nonprofit partners, keeping us in the air when times were tough for everyone.

All of you are part of the AFW team, and from the bottom of my heart, thank you so much. We couldn't do this work without you. Wishing you and your families the best of health in the new year.

Two Patients, One Couple, Fly to Treatment

Your support helps people like Jack and Carol get the specialty care they need when living in remote towns where access to health care is limited.



Jack and Carol B. on one of their missions from Monticello, Utah to Salt Lake City for cancer treatment they both were receiving at Huntsman Cancer Institute. Jack also flies to Provo where he is receiving care after a heart attack.

Carol and Jack are a husband-and-wife team who were both diagnosed with cancer in 2019. Jack was diagnosed with Stage 4 prostate cancer and Carol with Stage 1 breast cancer. They live in a remote southeast corner of Utah in the small town of Monticello where, Carol says, "It's hard when you get something serious because there are no specialists here or commercial transportation. Everyone has to be flown out," or drive for hours to medical treatment.

The couple found AFW from a friend whose daughter is also using the organization to fly for treatment of a brain tumor. Carol and Jack were both flying to Huntsman, a five-hour drive from where they live. Carol has received a reprieve from doctors' visits for a year, but Jack will continue his appointments at the institute. Jack will also be flying to Intermountain Healthcare in Provo (a four-and-a-half-hour drive) for rehabilitation from a heart attack he had when he was driving home from his cancer appointment!

Carol continues, "Jack's heart attack has been hard on him. He had multiple bypasses and later developed an infection, so it's taken a while for him to recover, but he's starting to feel better. The doctor said he's a fighter, and he sure is!" Carol is grateful to AFW because "the drive was so exhausting, but when we came home the other day from our flight, we even went for a walk."

A Special Child and a First-Mission Pilot Fly to Treatment...continued from page 1

Her husband is the sole breadwinner. When Jerrie found out that Liliana would need special care, she said, "I didn't want my husband or my children to carry the stress of Liliana. I always try to carry happiness and tell them everything is ok."

Living in Reno, Nev, Liliana's doctors were not equipped to handle all of her health challenges, and referred the family to the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Medical Center. There she found AFW from their social worker. Before AFW, Jerrie and her husband drove from Reno over the Donner Pass to UCSF, where Liliana was born. AFW relieves the worry of travel, especially over the pass when it is snowing, which saves the family travel time, cost, and the worry that car failure or weather conditions might leave them stranded.

Jerrie says their pilot Brock was "such a gentleman. He was amazing and the nicest man I've ever met in my life! Brock said if Liliana gets fussy we can go back down. He made sure we were ok, always checking on us during the flight. The Reno airport is one-and-a-half-hours away and he even flew into the Lovelock airport right near us! We're a small town, and people here were amazed that anyone would help like that. I told my kids that Liliana is a celebrity."

Pilot Brock Boscovich, who flew the family, says, "This was my first Angel Flight mission. Though I have been a member for a few years, my busy schedule has prohibited me from flying the missions. Having the opportunity to help families like this, who have endured so much hardship, really fills me with gratitude, and I hope to fly many more missions in the near future. If we can make the lives of these people just a little bit easier or a little bit brighter, I think it makes a huge difference."

AFW Transports Patient to Unconventional Treatment

Thanks to you, stress from long car trips is reduced – another barrier to receiving health care.

Ron L. had gone to his doctor for a routine check-up. When his doctor asked if there were any issues, Ron mentioned that he felt a little uncomfortable in his stomach. A CT scan and biopsy later revealed Stage 4 liver cancer and a prognosis of one year. This was February 2020. As Jehovah's Witnesses, Ron and his wife Janelle searched for an oncologist that believed in "bloodless surgery." Their belief that blood is one's sacred life force began their search for a doctor who could offer them treatment using alternatives to blood transfusions and minimize blood loss.

One of the first doctors they saw in their home state of Idaho gave Ron the grave prognosis of one year, and another refused to agree to take him as a patient. By March, they found Dr. Chen at Seattle Integrative Cancer Center who told them that he could help Ron without using transfusions. Ron's wife Janelle says, "Ron's cancer is rare and to find a doctor with experience with his kind of cancer was not easy. Dr. Chen had something to offer besides just saying 'get your affairs in order.'" His treatment is non-traditional. Ron began a 25-week treatment of vitamin infusions to help his immune system get healthier and help the chemotherapy cocktail work better.

Janelle says, "We knew traveling to Seattle would be rigorous." They had already driven a nine-hour drive a few times



Command Pilot Frederick Klarmeyer taking a selfie with Ronald L., Ron's wife Janelle, and their fluffy companion flying from Boise, ID to Seattle, WA for care of Ronald's liver cancer.