



*Where There are Wings, There is Hope*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Minneapolis Woman Wins Airplane in Charity Raffle**

**Wings of Hope Delivering Plane to Crystal Airport on July 18**

**ST. LOUIS, MO (July 10, 2017)** — The odds of Nyla Schroeder winning the Wings of Hope airplane raffle were slim. First, her ticket had to be selected from the 4,000 tickets sold.

Second, she was participating in a raffle in which upwards of 95% of ticket buyers are men.

But Nyla beat the odds, and on July XX, Wings of Hope, an aviation nonprofit based in St. Louis, will deliver her plane, a Piper Archer II, to Crystal Airport.

Nyla, 38, is not a pilot, but she has already starting working toward her pilot's license.

"I took my first lesson right after we won the plane," she says.

The "we" she is referring to is her boyfriend, who is a pilot. The couple had been considering buying a plane, but decided it wasn't in their immediate future when they got a postcard promoting the raffle in the mail. They looked up Wings of Hope on the web, and, thought, "Why not? Our money goes to a good cause," Nyla says.

The raffle, which raised about \$170,000, supports the charity's Medical Relief & Air Transport (MAT) Program, which flies seriously ill individuals to specialized medical care free of charge. All 4,000 tickets sold out in less than six hours, and the raffle has become so popular that Wings of Hope started running two a year in 2016.

"We have been completely overwhelmed by the interest these raffles have generated and are truly grateful for the generous support of people like Nyla," says Laura Helling, director of development for Wings of Hope. "With two a year, we are raising more than \$300,000 annually to support our medical air transport program."

The program has a Minnesota connection, too, having flown a number of patients to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester for treatment.

"I was just happy to contribute to Wings of Hope," Nyla says. "I think it would be great to contribute back to Wings of Hope or some other organization as a pilot, someday, years down the road."

**About Wings of Hope**

Wings of Hope is an aviation nonprofit delivering humanitarian programs around the globe to lift people in need toward health and self-sufficiency. In the U.S., the nonprofit provides

medical air transport services – free of charge – to individuals who need access to specialized medical care. The organization also works in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Central and South America, partnering with communities to improve their health, education, food security and economic opportunity. Wings of Hope has been twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and dedicates 90 cents of every dollar directly to programming. For more information, visit [wingsofhope.ngo](http://wingsofhope.ngo) or call 636-537-1302.

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***Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize***

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