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Wings of Hope Notified of 2011

Nobel Peace Prize Nomination

Wings of Hope — Delivering Peace and Hope for Mankind

by Linda Pylant

Wings of Hope has been nominated for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.

Since 1901, the Nobel Committee has selected nominators from around the world to determine the individuals and organizations that will be nominated. These nominators are the only persons who can offer candidates for consideration. Wings of Hope's unique philosophies and commitment to world peace came to the attention of a nominator who selected the charity for nomination.

Wings of Hope is a nonprofit organization devoted to serving the basic health care needs of poor people in the United States and around the world, while working with them to develop and maintain agricultural and business resources that will help alleviate the causes of their problems. The organization's main mission is health care. Its goal is to change the course of humanity towards peace and hope.

"Health care is the basis for everything we do, because if someone is dying it doesn't matter how much education or sustainable food you provide," said Wings of Hope President Douglas Clements. "The tears of a mother in the jungle are the same as the tears of a mother in the United States. We get them health care and we get them to the health care."

"Seeing children live instead of die — it's satisfying to be a part of that," Clements said. "Children are a tremendous asset to a culture. When you save a child's life you change the future of the world and that's tremendously satisfying."

An all volunteer organization, Wings of Hope is both nonpolitical and nonsectarian. "We don't accept government money and corporate money has to be approved before we take it," said Clements. "We're very transparent, we tell everybody where our money comes from and how we spend it. We also make sure a minimum of 90 cents of every dollar we receive goes to the people we serve."



A small clinic Wings of Hope constructed in Tanzania. The volcano is Lengai after having just erupted.

Photo courtesy of Wings of Hope.

Wings of Hope was founded in 1962 by four St. Louis business executives — ordinary men who had a vision. They had heard about a nurse in the Turkana desert of Kenya who used an aircraft to attend to sick mothers and children in nomad camps. Her plane was an old Piper that had fabric coverings. The harsh desert conditions had worn out the old fabric covering common to older airplanes. These four men provided her an all metal airplane, a Cessna, outfitted with bush flying equipment and long range fuel tanks.

They formed Wings of Hope and, after two years, dispatched a completely refurbished plane to her. During this process, word spread throughout the world. Requests came in from remote and isolated areas pleading for assistance.

Wings of Hope programs have expanded significantly since the charity was formed in 1962. Domestic and international programs assist more than one million people annually.

In a February 3, 2011 press release, Clements stated: "Wings of Hope was notified last week that we have been

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Wings of Hope

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nominated for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. We are humbled and honored to receive consideration for this highly prestigious international award.”

The selection committee will compile a short list of nominees sometime in April with the Laureate selected by late fall.

For more information about Wings of Hope, visit www.wings-of-hope.org. **A**

Wings of Hope Distinguished Service Awards

- United Nations' Humanitarian Award
- Papal Humanitarian Award
- Lindbergh Medal for Humanitarian Service
- National Aeronautic Association Outstanding Achievement in Support of Public Benefit Flying Awards
- World Trade Center Global Ambassador Award
- Presbyterian Global Peacemaker Award
- Adela Sharr Medal
- George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedom Foundation

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