



Wings of Hope

Where There are Wings—There is Hope

LIFT

Volume 3 -Fall 2015

A Message from our President

Summer has been busy as we have ramped up our MAT operations with our second Seneca III. We have seen about a 15% growth in our operations; while also reducing our fuel expenses since it replaced a less fuel efficient Chieftain.

Our MAT program has benefited immensely from the generosity of the Greater St. Louis Business Aviation Association. Their annual golf outing held in June and matching donations provide significant financial support to our MAT program – and the golf is always a good time. Thanks GSLBAA!

No sooner was I off the links than I was traveling to visit field bases in Eastern Africa. My first stop was Arusha in Northern Tanzania. I visited with Pat Patton and his team at Flying Medical Services. Pat, along with our pilot, Elsa Klarich, provides emergency medical evacuation as well as proactive medical clinics. They visit each outlying Maasai tribal village every couple of weeks. I joined Jack Rejman and flew one of their C-206 to four villages surrounding Lake Natron. We flew with a medical team that conducted well-baby exams and vaccinations. I helped by weighing nearly 100 babies.

Back in Arusha, we toured their vocational training center. The center provides 18-month training programs in one of four vocations (farming, carpentry, masonry or tailoring) for impoverished, disabled children.

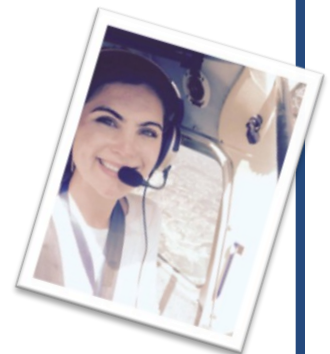
On to Zambia, where I met with Doctors John Jellis and Goran Jovic. They use light airplanes, C-182 and C-206, to fly to remote impoverished towns and villages to provide reconstructive orthopedic and plastic surgery. I was able to accompany Dr. Jovic on rounds and see firsthand the vital service they provide. Absent their service, these patients would suffer life-long impairment and disability.

Next on the itinerary was Kenya, where I traveled to Bomet, a small town about six hours West of Nairobi. We work with two teachers, Daniel and Jackline, who have set up a micro-finance service, Transfedha, to help women start small businesses. I met dozens of their clients. They are inspiring, equipping and coaching these women who are responding by creating amazing, successful small retail and farming businesses. The program is lifting families out of poverty and providing hope for a better future through the dignity of work. It was amazing to see such a dynamic impact on their lives.

I came away from this trip inspired by the wonderful people I met serving those in need. We are changing lives by improving their health and wellness and equipping people to escape the bonds of poverty.

Where There are Wings—There is Hope!

Don Hamblen
President



Field Notes



Check It Out!

Interested in learning what Wings of Hope is doing in Nicaragua? TJ Stewart, our pilot in Nicaragua, shares stories about his adventures @

tjstewartwingsofhope.blogspot.com

Medical Relief & Air Transport (MAT) Program

Meet Lilyanna



Lilyanna was born with clubfoot, a condition that affects about one baby in every 1,000 in the United States. Clubfoot is a birth defect that causes a child's foot to point inward instead of forward. Clubfoot is painless in a baby, but it can eventually cause discomfort and become a noticeable disability. Sometimes only one foot is affected, but often both feet have the condition. Left untreated, clubfoot does not straighten itself out. The foot will remain twisted out of shape, and the affected leg may be shorter and smaller than the other. Treatment that begins shortly after birth can help overcome these problems.

Lilyanna made her first flight with Wings of Hope in July, 2013 when she was only 4 months old. Since then, Wings of Hope has flown her 32 times from her home in Hill City, KS to St. Louis Shriners Hospital for treatment. She is a veteran flyer! The family reached out to Wings of Hope due to the distance (568 miles = 8+ hours), the frequency of trips and an undependable vehicle. Today, Lilyanna's feet are straight and she can walk normally. Just one more example of the important work done by the MAT Program!



Our annual dinner auction is the primary fundraiser for the MAT Program, which helps children like Claire – who we flew 9 times in 18 months until she was cancer free!

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for our 14th annual dinner auction benefiting the Medical Relief and Air Transport (MAT) Program: **February 13, 2016**. Once again, this wonderful night of dinner, dancing and an exciting live and silent auction will be held at the Chase Park Plaza. This is the **ONLY** fundraising event for the MAT Program – and we count on it to raise more than \$250,000 to support the lifesaving work we do. A significant portion of the funds we raise comes from corporate sponsors like Affordable Equity Partners, Ulrich Medical and Kendra Scott Jewelry – a newcomer to town that has agreed to donate 75 pieces of handcrafted jewelry that will be available for purchase the night of the event. If you are interested in supporting us as a corporate sponsor, please contact Laura Helling at laurahelling@earthlink.net or give her a call at (636) 537-1302. And look for more information about how to get your tickets to this night of hope!

Calendar of Events 2015

October 12 - CLOSED - Columbus Day
October 17 - GSLBAA Trivia Night
November 11 - CLOSED - Veterans Day
November 26,27 - CLOSED - Thanksgiving
December 18 - Holiday Luncheon
December 24,25 - CLOSED - Christmas
December 31,Jan.1 - CLOSED - New Year



KENDRA SCOTT

In October 2015, a Kendra Scott store will open at Plaza Frontenac in St. Louis, MO.

On November 13 from 11 am - 2 pm, Wings of Hope will be the beneficiary of a Kendra Gives Back shopping event when 20% of all sales will be donated to Wings of Hope.

Welcome to St. Louis, Kendra Scott, and thank you for your generosity to Wings of Hope and other charities in St. Louis.



www.facebook.com/wingsofhopeinc



https://twitter.com/wingsofhope_org

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Our New CFO!

Wings of Hope welcomes Kelly Vaughn as our new chief financial officer. She replaces John Schmidt, who retired from the position in August after more than a decade of service. Kelly, who originally hails from Pensacola, Fla., has nearly 20 years' experience doing similar work. Prior to joining Wings of Hope, she was director of finance for the city of St. Charles. Before that, she held the same role at the city of Chesterfield where she first became familiar with Wings of Hope.

"Wings of Hope hits a soft spot with me, as a mom, because you help so many children," Kelly says. "I am fortunate that I have found myself in a position where I can devote more time to my kids and also, through my new role at Wings, I can also give back."

John Schmidt established a very strong base for Kelly, spearheading the extensive process that qualifies us as a Four Star Charity on Charity Navigator and a GuideStar Gold Exchange Participant. These two designations recognize our fiscal efficiency and transparency and, importantly, reinforce the trust that our supporters have in our responsible stewardship of their donations. John also was voted CFO of the Year in the category of small nonprofits by the *St. Louis Business Journal* in 2011. Although he has stepped down as CFO, John remains on as a volunteer – helping Kelly transition into her new job and continuing his service to Wings of Hope.

"I just hope to continue doing the job that John Schmidt has done so well for so many years," says Kelly.



Introducing the Young Ambassadors

We are pleased to invite a younger generation to offer their talents and vision to Wings of Hope's already robust volunteer tradition! The **Young Ambassadors of Wings of Hope** supports our international projects through social, educational and fundraising events held quarterly throughout the year. Its mission is to engage, empower and inspire young professionals aged 21-45 to create cross-cultural connections and help address global poverty while building awareness of Wings of Hope.

The members will choose one international project to support through a yearly fundraising effort. The group is led by the Executive Council, nine young men and women from a wide variety of industries and backgrounds. They are off to a great start with several successful events to date! The Young Ambassador's Launch Party was held on October 7th, and they will host a Fair Trade Shopping Evening at Plowsharing Crafts (in the Delmar Loop) on December 4th.

For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/youngambassadorsofwings. We are currently recruiting general membership, so if you are interested in joining the Young Ambassadors, please contact Jess Watson at Jessica@wings-of-hope.biz.





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PRESIDENT
Don Hamblen

Rooftop Luau Benefits Wings of Hope

It was a beautiful evening at Three Sixty rooftop bar atop the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark on Sept. 18, where a luau – complete with a pig roast, hula dancers and fireworks – marked the end of summer. 10% of the night's proceeds benefited Wings of Hope. "Mahalo" (thank you), Three Sixty for your generous support!



Four Star Charity Rated, Gold Charity Rating and
twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize

Email us at info@wings-of-hope.org to receive this
newsletter electronically. Thank you!