

LIFT

WINTER 2016 | VOL. 2 | ISSUE 1

Where There are Wings, There is Hope

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The crisp fall air has given over to the cold winter wind, signaling the end of 2015 – and what a year it has been for Wings of Hope!

We transitioned our leadership with my start as president in January and Steve Akre taking over as board chairman in July. We also welcomed Kelly Vaughn as our new CFO in August and Angela Walleman as director of administration in November.

We continued to grow our Medical Relief and Air Transport (MAT) Program, with October being our busiest month ever! Hats off to our outstanding volunteer pilots, nurses and patient flight advocates for handling this growth with grace and professionalism. Thanks to generous donations from Willard and Eileen Nickisch and Jack and Christa Taylor, we secured a second Seneca III aircraft in May, well-equipped with de-icing, radar and GPS navigation systems. This acquisition has been invaluable in our ability to respond to the uptick in MAT requests.

We also grew our international operations. Our pilot, TJ Stewart, opened a new base in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, in February. And we continued to support humanitarian aviation missions in Tanzania, Zambia, Belize, Papua New Guinea and Paraguay—providing annual aircraft inspections, parts, training and operational support. In Myanmar, Ecuador, Cambodia, Kenya and India, we helped lift impoverished people to new hope through humanitarian efforts in health care, sustainable food, education, microfinance and micro-enterprise.

As we continue our mission to serve others, it is important to share our stories with our supporters. Toward that end, we took a number of steps to reinvigorate the Wings of Hope brand in 2015. We redesigned this newsletter and our marketing collateral materials. We created a fresh look for our website that showcases the good work we do. We also ramped up our activity on social media, using it to tell our story to donors, volunteers and the people we serve.

We launched the Young Ambassadors of Wings of Hope in 2015. Led by Jessica Watson, this group appeals to young professionals, aged 21-45, with a heart for supporting our international programs. In a wonderful testament to the multi-generational support we enjoy, its members include a couple of grandchildren (Megan and Karsten Fabick) of one of our founders.

This year has been full and blessed for the Wings of Hope family. But amid all of this change, your heart to serve those in need has remained constant for over 53 years—proving that Where There are Wings, There is Hope!



**WINGS
OF HOPE®**

Don Hamblen, President

Field NOTES

CAMBODIA LEARNING ENGLISH IS PATHWAY OUT OF POVERTY FOR VILLAGE CHILDREN

Aviation is a big part of the humanitarian work that we do, but not every effort involves an airplane. This is the case in Cambodia, where we support an education program for students from middle school all the way through college.

In Cambodia, knowing how to speak English is the key to social and economic mobility. Unfortunately, Cambodia ranks last of all Asian countries in English language proficiency. Our program focuses on teaching middle school students from poor, rural villages English and computer skills. The students, currently about 600, meet one hour every day after school. Then we train a select group of 8th graders to be volunteer teachers in high school. After four years of teaching English to the younger students, we reward these student volunteers with scholarships to attend university. All of the university students work full time while attending classes.

Our director of development, Laura Helling, recently traveled to Cambodia to meet with our partners at John Givonetti Giving and talk with students in the program. Laura was particularly impressed with the students' work ethic.

"These students commit themselves entirely to getting an education," says Laura. "They get to school early, stay late and work hard. They understand education is the most powerful tool they have to lift themselves out of poverty."



▲ Student volunteers with some of the 10 new laptops purchased with a generous donation from the Nathan Yip Foundation. The donation also paid for a new flat screen TV and video equipment to enable remote Skype learning in the classroom. Thank you, Nathan Yip Foundation!



MEDICAL RELIEF & AIR TRANSPORT (MAT) PROGRAM MEET WILLIAM—A WINGS OF HOPE FREQUENT FLIER!

Did you know that about 90% of the individuals we serve in our MAT Program are frequent fliers? One of our youngest frequent fliers is William. He was born with clubfoot and arthrogyposis, a joint condition in which some of the joints don't move as much as normal and may even be stuck in one position. Successful treatment requires frequent trips to a specialized hospital and, for most children, can lead to big improvements in how they move and what they can do. That is always the goal of the MAT Program: to help children reach their best possible outcome and enjoy an active, happy life.

Now almost two, William made his first flight with Wings of Hope when he was a just a baby. Since then, we have flown him 13 times roundtrip from his home in Eden Prairie, Minn., to St. Louis Shriners Hospital. That's 26 flights! What a cutie!

◀ William with his parents waiting for their flight home.

MEGAN FABICK

The Young Ambassadors of Wings of Hope is off to a fantastic start, in no small part due to the leadership of **Megan Fabick**, part of a committed nine-member Executive Council. Megan is the granddaughter of Wings of Hope Founder Joe Fabick and a longtime supporter of the organization in her own right. She volunteers at the gala, serves food at donor appreciation events, and enthusiastically attends every parade, often accompanied by brother Karsten. When we put out a call for help, Megan is always first in line.

"I'm motivated to be a part of Wings of Hope because I hope to carry on the spirit of helping others that my grandfather envisioned," says Megan. "The Young Ambassadors is an exciting step forward in bringing younger generations into the organization and spreading the touching stories of the people Wings of Hope is honored to assist."

Thank you for your service, Megan! We look forward to many more years of laughter-filled collaboration.

If you'd like to support the Young Ambassadors, please Like our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/youngambassadorsofwings/. To join, please contact Jess Watson at Jessica@wings-of-hope.biz.



Calendar OF EVENTS

December 18, 2015

Holiday Luncheon
Wings of Hope Headquarters

February 13, 2016

"A Night for Miracles"
Dinner and Auction Gala
The Chase Park Plaza Hotel
St. Louis, MO

March 12, 2016

St. Patrick's Day Parade
Downtown St. Louis

April 1, 2016

Annual Aircraft Raffle begins
Check our website for details



GLOBETROTTING MECHANIC

Many thanks to Wings of Hope volunteer **Paul Voorhees** of Big River Aviation! Paul donated a week of his time and expertise to completing the annual inspection of our airplane in Nicaragua. Thanks to Paul's hard work, we are all set for another year of lifesaving work!



*Welcome,
Angela!*

Angela Walleman has joined Wings of Hope as our new director of administration. Angela replaces Anne Volland who left Wings after almost five years of service to take a position at another St. Louis nonprofit. Angela comes to us with many years' experience in nonprofit management. Most recently, she was the executive director of the Foundry Art Centre in St. Charles. She has already hit the ground running - and we are excited about the leadership and passion she brings to the Wings of Hope family!

THANK YOU, BOEING!

Thank you to Boeing for providing us some wonderful items through their in-kind donation program. We are so grateful for the portable generator, tool storage cabinet, flat screen TV, utility trailer - and so many other useful items!

Wings of Hope Hangar Director Steve Long and volunteer Tom Miller unload a flat screen TV received as part of an in-kind donation to Wings of Hope from Boeing. ▶



WINGS OF HOPE®

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There are
Wings,
There is
Hope*



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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
14TH ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION GALA

A Night for Miracles HOPE IS WHERE THE HEART IS

SATURDAY
February 13, 2016

6 PM
Cocktail Hour
& Silent Auction

7 PM
Dinner &
Live Auction

8 PM
After Party
with Live Music!

THE CHASE PARK PLAZA | 212 N. KINGSHIGHWAY | ST. LOUIS, MO 63108
BENEFITTING WINGS OF HOPE'S ST. LOUIS-BASED MEDICAL RELIEF AND AIR TRANSPORT (MAT) PROGRAM

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Lt. Gen. TOM STAFFORD
Former Astronaut

Brig. Gen. CHUCK YEAGER
Test Pilot, Author

HONORARY COUNCIL

Not sure what to do for your Valentine this year? Join us for our annual "A Night for Miracles" at the fabulous Chase Park Plaza. Sponsor Kendra Scott is donating 75 pieces of her designer jewelry to our auction. You pay \$50 for a mystery piece of jewelry that is valued from \$50 to several hundred dollars—and you get a beautiful gift for your sweetheart (or yourself!) while supporting the charity that is so close to your heart! Call 636.537.1302 for details.



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