

LIFT

SUMMER 2016 | VOL. 2 | ISSUE 3

Where There are Wings, There is Hope

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Recently, Dave Brown and I delivered N206KY, a Cessna 206, to Belize. We are loaning the aircraft to the Belize Emergency Response Team (BERT) to fill in for their Cherokee Six aircraft that was damaged in a landing incident. Dave will be serving as BERT's interim volunteer pilot this summer.

TJ Stewart, our pilot currently serving in Nicaragua, will take over as our pilot in Belize in late August or early September. We will turn over our base in Nicaragua to three families serving with Adventist World Aviation (AWA). We are also preparing two Cessna C182 aircraft for AWA in Nicaragua. This will allow AWA to serve an even broader swath of indigent communities on the Miskito coast region of Nicaragua. We are excited to hear about their expanded service!

TJ's new post in Belize will mark his third tour of duty as a volunteer pilot with Wings of Hope. His first service was in Tanzania, where he conducted flying medical clinics with Flying Medical Service. TJ then returned to St. Louis to complete his commercial pilot's license and emergency medical technician certification. Ready to get back in the field, he arrived in Nicaragua in February 2015 to take over the duties of Clint and Marilyn Hanley, who served faithfully there for seven years.

When TJ starts his newest mission in Belize, he will be continuing a relationship that began 30 years ago with Wings of Hope establishing an emergency air evacuation capability. BERT now runs this service, providing all land and air ambulance service in Belize. BERT flies about 250 emergency flights each year, saving valuable time - and lives - for emergency patients. Our involvement is providing them volunteer pilots and assisting in the annual inspection of the airplane.

Every time I visit one of our international bases or see an MAT flight take off from our U.S. headquarters, it reinforces for me why we do what we do. We really are making a difference in the lives of those in need. As we make these changes in personnel and planes, we pray for successful transitions - and look forward to continued lifesaving service to the peoples of Nicaragua and Belize.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Don Hamblen".

Don Hamblen, President

Field NOTES

TANZANIA "EAGLE" LANDS IN ARUSHA!

After a crew of 11 mechanics worked more than seven months on a complete rebuild of a 1968 Piper Navajo, the newly refurbished "Aquila" (Latin for Eagle) flew to Arusha, Tanzania, to start its new life flying medical evacuation missions. Jacek Rejman, affectionately known as "Tanzania Jack" around the Wings of Hope hangar, is using the Aquila to launch Arusha Medivac. The new nonprofit will provide desperately needed emergency medical transportation to Arusha, a city in the east African country of Tanzania which has one of the world's worst doctor-to-patient ratios.

"There's one doctor for every 125,000 people," Jacek says. "We have few roads and the access to medical care is really appalling."

Jacek formerly worked as a pilot for Flying Medical Service (FMS), Wings of Hope's partner in Tanzania. Our pilot, Elsa Klarich, currently flies for FMS, supporting biweekly medical clinics for women and children in 27 remote settlements. Jacek and Arusha Medivac will work closely with FMS, providing patients emergency medevac transportation as needed.

Preparing the plane was a true team effort. Jacek spent five months in St. Louis working on the rebuild. Pat Patten of FMS arrived at Wings of Hope in mid-April and spent the final month of the rebuild working alongside Jacek and our mechanics. Pat was Jacek's co-pilot on the 12-day trip that began with a much-anticipated takeoff from Wings of Hope's headquarters on May 7. Next up was Bangor, Maine; St. John's, Newfoundland; and an 8 ½-hour flight over the Atlantic to the Azores, Portugal. The plane then stopped at the islands of Mallorca and Crete before heading to Egypt and stopping in Nairobi to rest and refuel before flying the final one-hour leg to Arusha. All in all, the journey covered 9,260 miles (8,043 nautical miles) and took 52 hours of flight time.



▲ Front Row: Tom Cargill, Barry Garen, Steve Long
Back Row: Larry Masters, Bob Stelloh, Paul Burtis, Jacek Rejman, Pat Patten, Dan Lorenz, Larry Wehrman, Bob Sanders



▲ Griffin with his parents

MEDICAL RELIEF & AIR TRANSPORT (MAT) PROGRAM MEET GRIFFIN

Griffin is one of our youngest MAT patients. Before he was even four months old, he had already made three round trip flights from his home in Ohio to St. Louis Children's Hospital for treatment of bilateral clubfeet. His parents, Amanda and Corey, found out that Griffin would be born with clubfeet during Amanda's 20-week ultrasound. Amanda immediately began researching the best treatment options for her son.

"My prayer was that we would find the best doctor to treat this," she says.

She found Dr. Matthew Dobbs, who practices at St. Louis Children's Hospital and is nationally recognized for his skill at treating all pediatric foot disorders - including the correction of clubfeet. Amanda and Corey drove with baby Griffin to St. Louis for their first consultation with Dr. Dobbs. The seven-hour drive (not including stops) was difficult with a newborn; the two days of travel also increased time away from Amanda and Corey's other children, ages 6 and 3. While staying at St. Louis Haven House, a hospitality house for families traveling to St. Louis for medical care, the couple learned about Wings of Hope. Flying with Wings of Hope has shortened the trips by a day or more and relieved Amanda and Corey from the financial stress associated with making repeat trips for Griffin's treatment. This is the reason why the Wings of Hope MAT Program exists: to provide families like Griffin's access to the health care they need to heal and to hope!

Got Stuff? We have a dedicated team of volunteers who are very talented at getting the best price on eBay for the many donated items we receive. But our eBay stock is running low! If you have any items (collectibles, electronics, artwork, tools ... etc.) that you would like to donate to Wings of Hope, please drop them by our Chesterfield headquarters or email Norm Hild (norm.hild@wingsofhope.ngo) for more information. All proceeds from these sales support Wings of Hope programming. No furniture, appliances or vehicles, please. *Thank you!*

IN THE
Spotlight



AIRPLANE RAFFLE SELLS OUT IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS!

Our 6th Annual Airplane Raffle was an unprecedented success with 3,000 tickets selling out in less than 24 hours – 23 hours and 50 minutes to be precise! We raised more than \$126,000 to support our Medical Relief & Air Transport Program and awarded this beautifully restored 1964 Piper Cherokee to the lucky holder of ticket number 308623206, Jeff Eich from Nebraska.



REPEAT SUCCESS FOR GIVE STL DAY!

Our second year participating in Give STL Day, 24-hour online giving event for St. Louis nonprofits on May 3, 2016, was marked with some technical glitches by the national processing firm supporting the local day of giving. But our donors, who continue to surprise and delight us with their unceasing generosity, STILL found a way to give more than \$73,000 – surpassing last year's donations by more than \$4,000 and placing Wings of Hope second in total funds raised by the 900+ participating nonprofits. Thank you!



YOUNG AMBASSADORS VOTE ON 2016 INTERNATIONAL PROJECT SUPPORT

The Young Ambassadors had their most important meeting to date when they gathered at the World Trade Center in Clayton on May 24 to choose the Wings of Hope's international field site they would support in 2016. Wings of Hope staff, including Don Hamblen and Laura Helling, presented about their firsthand experiences witnessing the impact of microcredit loans in Kenya and scholarships in Cambodia. When five field sites had been presented, members voted by placing a pin on a world map – marking the field site of their choice. The most votes were cast for Nicaragua, supporting a sustainable chicken program at a women's shelter and orphanage in Puerto Cabezas. The Young Ambassadors have already raised \$2,000 of the \$3,000 they will devote to launching this pilot program.

Wings of Hope Young Ambassadors staff liaison Jessica Watson said, "I was really proud of the level of participation among Young Ambassadors, some of whom even voted online if they were unable to attend. It was clear from their questions that they were engaged and thoughtful about the impact of their support, and took their choice very seriously."

Is a Charitable *Gift Annuity* Right for You?

A charitable gift annuity is a wonderful way to support Wings of Hope and guarantee yourself or other beneficiaries a fixed income for life. The amount of the fixed income varies based on the age and number of beneficiaries (up to two), and the amount of the donation. But the premise is quite simple: You make a donation to Wings of Hope, you designate one or two beneficiaries – and those beneficiaries receive a fixed income for life. Plus, a portion of each annuity payment is tax free!

Sound interesting? Contact Laura Helling, director of development, at laura.helling@wingsofhope.ngo, or call 636-537-1302 and ask for Laura.

Calendar OF EVENTS

July 2, 2016

134th Veiled Prophet Parade
Downtown St. Louis

October 8, 2016

Young Ambassadors International
Street Food Showdown
Wings of Hope Hangar

October 29, 2016

GSLBAA Trivia Night
(benefitting Wings of Hope)
CBC High School



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Event RECAP

LADIES LUNCHEON

▼ Ginger Imster, Cassie Hamblen, Laura Helling, Angela Walleman



Guests at the annual Wings of Hope Ladies Luncheon at the Chase Park Plaza rose in a standing ovation following passionate remarks from featured speaker, Ginger Imster. Ms. Imster shared her personal journey from a girl growing up in Columbia, Mo., to a mother of four and executive director of Arch Grants, a nonprofit that awards equity-free grants to entrepreneurs who locate their new ventures in St. Louis. She made the connection between Arch Grants and Wings of Hope, saying, "The stability and growth of our society depends on our collective ability to inspire hope in ourselves and in one another." Wings of Hope Director of Development Laura Helling shared these thoughts: "No matter where you are in the world – in a business incubator in St. Louis or in a small village classroom in rural Cambodia – we need dreamers, who can see the possibility of a better life ... investors, who can see the value in supporting those dreams ... and organizations with the passion and the people to make those dreams a reality."

Wings of Hope is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to Wings of Hope are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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