

LIFT

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Where There are Wings, There is Hope

Kids going back to school ... leaves changing color... fall is a time of transition. As I write the opening to this fall newsletter, we are in the midst of a number of transitions at Wings of Hope.

First, Wings of Hope President Don Hamblen presented his resignation in mid-September. In his short time here, we were the lucky beneficiaries of Don's energy, enthusiasm and experience. We will continue to build on the positive momentum that Don put in motion during our search for his successor.

As the Wings of Hope family adjusts to this internal personnel change, Wings of Hope the worldwide organization is undergoing some global changes.

We were fortunate to host two very special guests at the end of August: Darren and Joanne Lea, missionaries with Adventist World Aviation (AWA). The Leas were in town with their beautiful 8-month-old, Rosanna, to pick up a Cessna 182 that will support AWA's work in Nicaragua. Darren, a pilot and mechanic, spent his week here helping our team of mechanics work out the final squawks on the C-182 before heading off to Tennessee where he and Joanne are using the plane to travel to churches seeking support for their next mission in Guyana. (After their fundraising tour, the plane is destined for Nicaragua. Another 182 is waiting for the Leas in Guyana.) As you know, our pilot, TJ Stewart, recently left Nicaragua to start his next assignment in Belize. Before leaving Puerto Cabezas, TJ spent a month transitioning the new pilot from AWA to take over his duties flying medical evacuations there. In August, we also sent a new field director to Cambodia, another transition that will strengthen the education program we operate there with our partner John Givonetti Giving. (See story page 2.)



▲ Darren and Joanne Lea, with baby Rosanna

As a 54-year-old organization with a worldwide network of partners, transition is something we've learned to expect. What doesn't change is the reason we do the work in the first place.

"We've seen what it is like in these remote areas," said Joanne Lea. "You feel like you're on the edge. You see the need for aviation. It's very hard to turn down a flight when you see how isolated the people are in the jungle."

Joanne was talking about her and Darren's time in Chad and Guyana, but her recognition of the great need of people who are isolated and the compelling motivation to help is at the core of who we are at Wings of Hope. It is a powerful constant that has steered this organization through more than five decades of change. As long as people feel compassion toward one another, this constant will not change.

As Joanne so aptly put it: "We have greater meaning every day if we know that we are helping others."



Laura Helling

Laura Helling, Interim President

Field NOTES

CAMBODIA: NEW FIELD DIRECTOR IMPRESSED WITH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Meet Kimberly Townsend, our new field director managing our education program with partner John Givonetti Giving (JGG) in Cambodia. After only a few weeks on the job, Kimberly sent us this note sharing how impressed she is with the Cambodian people, the JGG program, and the students.

This has been an amazing journey thus far. I did not know it was possible, but somehow I am even more impressed than I was before by the JGG program here in Cambodia.



▲ Kimberly Townsend with a Cambodian student

Cambodia is a very beautiful place, and I have found the people here to be very warm and welcoming. Within my first week in my village, it was a necessity for me to learn to ride a motor (short for motor bike). On my fourth day of riding, I got into a small accident. In a matter of moments, the accident scene was overwhelmed with people who ran from their homes to be sure that I was OK. At first I felt very embarrassed, then very grateful for everyone's compassion and concern.

What I am finding most exciting about the position are the children. They are full of hope and joy and have such an eagerness to learn. I had a meeting in Bakchinhchien with all of the student volunteers as well as the incoming student volunteers. After our meeting, it was time for them to teach. It was very inspiring to watch their students pour into the school yard and run to line up for their classes. The JGG student volunteers are so professional and take their jobs very seriously. The students they teach respect them and try very hard in class.

School has been out since the beginning of August, however, each day, Monday-Friday, students come to the school with neat uniforms and learn. These students study part-time (summer school) and then come to JGG classes and learn until the sun is nearly going down. It is truly an inspirational thing to see! This makes me work harder than ever!

Welcome, Kimberly – and thank you to all of our supporters who make possible this very important work providing education and opportunity to Cambodian youth!



▲ Karen Andrews and a MAT patient

MEDICAL RELIEF & AIR TRANSPORT (MAT) PROGRAM HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE!

By Karen Andrews, MAT Coordinator

As the coordinator of our MAT program, it amazes me how I can put a few details into motion and our excellent MAT team will bring it all together. Let me tell you what I mean ...

On a recent Wednesday, the crew of aircraft N8456H took off from our headquarters in St. Louis and headed to Fort Smith, AR, to pick up a young boy and his father. Once boarded, they headed to Joplin, MO, to pick up a teenage girl and her mother. Loaded with all four passengers, the crew headed back to St. Louis where the boy and his father were met by a Wings of Hope Patient Flight Advocate (PFA), who connected them with the Shriners' driver who took them to the boy's appointment. Meanwhile, another PFA met the teenage girl and her mother and helped them board their next flight on N8048Q. Piloted by a new crew, they headed to Chicago for the daughter's appointment at Shriners Hospital. While in Chicago, the N8048Q crew picked up a father and his daughter, after she had completed her medical appointments, and flew them home to Olathe, KS. The crew then flew back to St. Louis. The next day, another crew picked up two patients and two caregivers in Chicago and flew them all home to Joplin, MO.

Days like these are ordinary in our MAT Program, but the teamwork it takes to pull them off is nothing short of extraordinary. I am inspired daily by the volunteers at Wings of Hope who give their precious time to help those in need. I am also extremely grateful to our donors. It is only because of your financial support that the patients we fly on days like the one described above get the life-changing care they need to heal and to hope. Thank you!

Wings of Hope Shop Now Open! The Wings of Hope shop is now open on our website! Show your Wings of Hope pride with a full selection of men's and women's shirts, caps, jackets, key chains and cups – all featuring the Wings of Hope logo! To check out the merchandise, go to www.wingsofhope.ngo and click on SHOP.



IN THE Spotlight

SECOND AIRPLANE RAFFLE SELLS OUT IN 12 HOURS!!!

Our airplane raffle in April was so successful - 3,000 tickets sold out in 24 hours and raised \$126,000 - that we raffled off a second plane on September 12. Who knew the second raffle could be even MORE successful? We sold 4,000 tickets in 12 hours, raising about \$170,000 to support our MAT Program. Check our website and Facebook for updates on the date for the raffle drawing - and thank you to all who participated.



YOU ARE SO GOOD TO US!

Our MAT Program was the beneficiary of some very generous support this summer! Gateway Buick GMC chose us for their #GatewayGivesBack program - which resulted in a \$6,650 donation. Vinson Mortgage chose us as their July Charity of Choice. Wal-Mart St. Peters Jungermann store renewed its Champions for Kids commitment for the third year with a \$2,000 donation. Long-time supporters - The Saigh Foundation, the Employees Community Fund of Boeing, and Emerson - once again awarded us grants. Your financial contributions literally keep our wings flying. Thank you!

◀ Doug Moon, Wal-Mart store #648, presenting Champions for Kids renewal check.

DOC DONATES C-150 TO WINGS OF HOPE!

Every year, we receive a number of donated aircraft. We use some in the field or for pilot training. Others, we sell to raise funds to support our programming.

One of our most recent plane donations was a Cessna 150 from Dr. Joe Costa, a urologist in Jacksonville, FL, who volunteers in Haiti performing reconstructive surgeries on women who suffer obstetric fistula and men with urethral stricture disease.

"These injuries suffered by men and women in developing countries can be catastrophic in terms of them becoming social outcasts due to complete urinary incontinence or obstruction," Dr. Costa says.

Like Wings of Hope, he espouses a "teach a man to fish" philosophy, so he spends much of his time training Haitian doctors to perform the complex surgeries that repair these problems.

"My own volunteer experience has resulted in tremendous personal satisfaction, as well as helped inform my opinion on what types of charitable organizations make a tangible impact on the communities they serve," he reflects. "I feel that Wings of Hope provides meaningful transportation services worldwide, including your wonderful domestic work with patients in need of medical transportation in rural areas."

Thank you, Dr. Costa, for your generous donation!

If you are interested in our plane donation program, you can find more information at <https://wingsofhope.ngo/get-involved/airplane-donation/> or call 636-537-1302.



▲ Wings of Hope pilot, Don Hoerstkamp, picking up a Cessna 150 donated to us by Dr. Joe Costa.

Calendar OF EVENTS

October 29, 2016

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

November 24, 2016

Thanksgiving Day Parade
Downtown St. Louis

February 11, 2017

15th Annual Wings of Hope Gala
The Chase Park Plaza, St. Louis

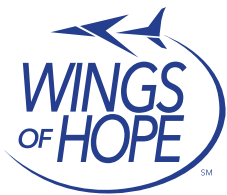
FABICK

CAT

Guess Who's Turning 100?

Fabick Cat's support of Wings of Hope began more than 50 years ago when Joe Fabick joined with three other St. Louis businessmen to raise the money to buy a metal airplane for a nun flying medical missions in Kenya. That capital campaign marked the birth of Wings of Hope, with Fabick leading the way as one of our four founders. Through the years, Fabick Cat and the Fabick family have been generous supporters of our work serving the poor worldwide and flying medical transports in the U.S.

2017 will mark the 100th anniversary of Fabick Cat. This is a milestone that speaks to the deep commitment of the Fabick family to building a business that is invested in its customers and its communities. Congratulations, Fabick Cat, on your Centennial celebration!



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*Where
There are
Wings,
There is
Hope*



Four-Star Rating on Charity Navigator,
GuideStar Gold Rating, and
twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize

Event RECAP

WINGS OF HOPE REPRESENTS AT OSHKOSH

▼ Patty Wagstaff and Laura Helling



Wings of Hope was well represented at the annual EAA AirVenture convention in Oshkosh, WI, July 24-31. Known simply as "Oshkosh" to pilots and billed as "The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration," the weeklong event features spectacular air shows, aircraft, hands-on workshops, forums and exhibitors. Wings of Hope's Laura Helling had the pleasure of meeting up with Wings of Hope Honorary Council member and aerobatic pilot Patty Wagstaff, who dazzled the crowd with her amazing air show. Oshkosh also afforded a happy meeting between Wings of Hope and representatives of Garmin, who generously offered to provide the avionics equipment on the Cessna 172 we just raffled off. Thank you, Garmin! We can't wait for Oshkosh 2017!

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