

LIFT

WINTER 2016-17 | VOL. 3 | ISSUE 1

Where There are Wings, There is Hope

As we enter our busiest season here at Wings of Hope, I sometimes wonder if Mother Nature is having a little chuckle at our expense – shortening the days just when it seems as if there are never enough hours to accomplish all that we need to do.

In just a few short months – mark your calendars for February 11! – we will celebrate our single biggest fundraising event: the 15th annual Hope Is Where the Heart Is Gala benefitting our MAT Program. We just wrapped up our second airplane raffle, an incredibly successful fundraiser that brought in more than \$170,000 for our MAT Program. And we are already seeing a wonderful response to our annual appeal. (See story page 3.)

The success of these fundraising activities is so very important to our work in the field, both here in the U.S. and around the world.



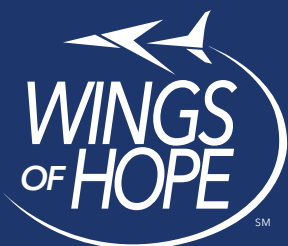
▲ Wings of Hope pilot, TJ Stewart, lands on airstrip in Belize.

We flew 239 patients to life altering care via our MAT Program through the third quarter of this year. This puts us on track to serve more than 325 patients in 2016, compared to 267 in 2015.

Outside of the U.S., we began supporting an effort in Papua New Guinea to provide medical air transport to people who are literally cut off from all health care. We completed a successful transition of our medevac services in Nicaragua to our longtime partner, Adventist World Aviation (AWA). We provided the plane that AWA is now using to serve people living in remote villages, and we will send a second plane to Nicaragua upon completion of a plane rebuild by students participating in a STEM project. (See story page 3.) Our focus in Nicaragua has shifted to supporting a “chicken project” which will help feed children living at a local orphanage. We are grateful to our Young Ambassadors, who raised the \$3,000 seed money to get this program “hatched” (pun intended). (See story page 2.) TJ Stewart, who was our pilot in Nicaragua, is now flying medical missions in Belize. As we continue to grow our education program with our partner in Cambodia, John Givonetti Giving, we helped secure a new field director to manage the day-to-day operations and improve our data collection and program evaluation methods.

As you can see, lots of good things are happening at Wings of Hope. When I put them down on paper, it can be a little overwhelming. But I am equally overwhelmed by the generous support of our donors and volunteers, who continue to open their hearts and their wallets to make all of these good things possible.

Thank you!



Laura Helling

Laura Helling, Interim President

Field NOTES



GLOBAL PROGRAM CHICKEN PROJECT HATCHES IN NICARAGUA

For a number of years, our work in Nicaragua has centered on providing medevac services to the indigenous Miskito people living in remote villages. In August, Adventist World Aviation (AWA) took over this service when we sent our pilot TJ to Belize. But our work in Nicaragua continues. When TJ was working in Nicaragua, a local orphanage run by the Verbo Church provided him housing. The orphanage struggles to feed the 150 children living there on a shoestring budget. With the support of our Young Ambassadors, who raised \$3,000 to get the project started, we now support a "chicken project" to provide the children with a sustainable source of eggs and meat. Our friends at the orphanage built a simple, but sturdy, coop – and the hens are already producing a bountiful supply of eggs. We are so "egg-cited" to see this project grow!

MEDICAL RELIEF & AIR TRANSPORT (MAT) PROGRAM 22-YEAR-OLD LOGS 22 MAT FLIGHTS

Although about 85% of the individuals we transport are children, we place no age constraints on those we serve. Sometimes, we begin transporting our patients as children and continue to fly them well into adulthood. This is the case with Corynn.

Corynn is a beautiful young woman who first started traveling to St. Louis for treatment of cerebral palsy when she was only three. Back then, she would pile into the family car with her mom and four siblings for the nine-hour car ride from a small town in Kansas. When she was 13, Corynn and her family learned of Wings of Hope. Corynn turns 22 this month, and we have flown her in our MAT planes 22 times. She has been treated by a team of experts at both St. Louis Shriners and Children's Hospitals. Now that she has "aged out" of those facilities, she is receiving treatment at the Center for Advanced Medicine in St. Louis.

Her mother, Jody, says the quality of care available in their hometown could never match the treatment Corynn has received in St. Louis. In addition to meeting with a renowned team of specialists, Corynn has been able to participate in clinical trials and research programs that have afforded her advanced care available nowhere else.

"None of this would have happened back at home," says Jody.

Corynn has no doubt that her life would be vastly different without Wings of Hope and the St. Louis doctors who have cared for her all these years.

"I would not be walking if not for Shriners and Children's," she says.

We are so privileged that our wings have played a part in Corynn's journey to an improved quality of life!



Run for Wings of Hope! Are you looking for a good opportunity to get in shape, build community, and raise money for your favorite local charity? Join the GO! St. Louis 5K Team for Wings of Hope! **The Young Ambassadors will be leading a team of runners at the April 8th event in Forest Park.** For more information, please contact Jess Watson at jessica.watson@wingsofhope.ngo.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AIRPLANE RAFFLE WINNERS!!

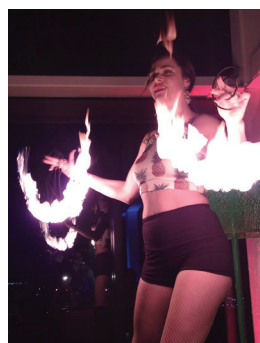
On October 25, we drew the winning tickets to our latest airplane raffle. Congratulations to Chris Cookenmaster of Arley, Alabama, who won our grand prize plane, and Christopher Haroldson of Fargo, North Dakota, who won the second prize PPL Scholarship! We sold 4,000 tickets in 12 hours and raised about \$170,000, making the real winners the children and families we serve in our MAT Program. **Thank you to all who participated!**

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT



Wings of Hope was the grateful recipient of a \$2,000 grant from the Regional Business Council's SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT program – an effort to support nonprofits and community agencies in the St. Louis region that have difficulty funding small, but important, capital improvement projects. We will use this grant to update safety testing equipment for our MAT airplanes.

Thank you, RBC!



THREE SIXTY LUAU BENEFITS WINGS OF HOPE!

For the second consecutive year, Three Sixty hosted an "End of Summer Luau" benefitting Wings of Hope. Guests enjoyed Hawaiian-themed food and entertainment from the glorious vantage point of Three Sixty's rooftop bar – and Wings of Hope got 10% of the night's proceeds. **Thank you, Three Sixty!**

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theISTATfoundation

GRANT TO SUPPORT PAPUA NEW GUINEA!

The International Society of Transport Aircraft Trading (ISTAT) Foundation awarded Wings of Hope an \$8,000 grant to support medevac services at one of our newest field bases: Papua New Guinea. This is the second grant we have received from the ISTAT Foundation. In 2015, the foundation awarded us a \$10,000 grant to support our work in Nicaragua. ISTAT Foundation Trustee and Humanitarian Committee Chair, Julian Balaam, notes that, "The Humanitarian Committee strives to utilize ISTAT Foundation funds to improve the lives of people who are suffering whether this is as a result of unique natural events, such as earthquakes or floods, or because of conflict, poverty, or disease." Learn more about the ISTAT Foundation at www.istat.org. **Thank you, ISTAT!**



STEM STUDENTS REBUILD WINGS OF HOPE PLANE

Fifty middle and high school students from the Lancaster Independent School District in Texas are spending their Saturdays rebuilding a Cessna 182 Wings of Hope delivered to a hangar near the Dallas-area school earlier this fall. This intensive, hands-on STEM challenge was designed by Experience Aviation, a nonprofit founded by Barrington Irving, a record-setting pilot who joined Wings of Hope's Honorary Council in 2016. The project is free to the students, who were selected based on their interest in STEM and aviation careers and teacher recommendations. Under the supervision of a mechanic, students will perform airframe and bodywork, remove and overhaul

the plane's engine, put in new aircraft radios, and install a STOL (short take-off and landing) kit to prepare the plane for its use in the field. Students will learn aerodynamic principles, how to apply basics physics to an aircraft system, and quality and safety procedures. At the project's end in February 2017, the aircraft will return to Wings of Hope for a thorough maintenance and safety check – then it's off to Nicaragua where it will be used by our partner, Adventist World Aviation, providing medical air transport to people living in remote villages.

Calendar OF EVENTS

November 18, 2016

Hangar Talk: Meet & Greet for SLU Aviation Students and Industry Professionals
Wings of Hope Hangar

November 24, 2016

Thanksgiving Day Parade
Downtown St. Louis

February 11, 2017

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

April 1, 2017

Spring Airplane Raffle
Tickets Go on Sale

April 8, 2017

GO St. Louis! 5K
Forest Park, St. Louis

OUR APPEAL

to You...

So many of you are so generous to us in so many ways. You donate your time and your dollars because you have a real desire to help someone in need – and we are truly grateful.

Our annual appeal is another opportunity for you to make a world of difference for someone who needs your help.



To learn more about how you can support Wings of Hope, go to www.wingsofhope.ngo/annual-appeal
Thank you!



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HOPE
is Where the Heart is

15TH ANNUAL WINGS OF HOPE GALA | FEBRUARY 11, 2017

6 PM | CHASE PARK PLAZA | ST. LOUIS, MO

Join us in celebration and support of Wings of Hope's St. Louis-based Medical Relief & Air Transport (MAT) Program serving children and families across the United States for 15 years and counting. The evening includes a cocktail hour, silent and oral auctions, dinner and program, and an after-party with entertainment!

www.wingsofhope.ngo

For questions, call Angela at 636.537.1302

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