

LIFT

SUMMER 2017 | VOL. 3 | ISSUE 3

Where There are Wings, There is Hope

This issue of LIFT is jam-packed with stories about so many good things happening at Wings of Hope! As I was thinking about what ties all these stories together, it came to me: Every single one of our efforts requires partners.

We link arms with partners in all 11 of our international field sites. In-country partners are invaluable to us because they have “boots on the ground” and an intimate knowledge of the people we serve. Our Global Programs and Partnerships Director Jess Watson recently returned from India, where she met with our partner there and learned more about a new effort we are supporting to keep girls in school. (See Page 2.)

Philanthropic partners provide mission-critical funding to support our programming all over the globe. In June, one of these philanthropic partners, Gateway Buick GMC, dedicated a percentage of all car sales to Wings of Hope. Anyone who bought a ticket in our last airplane raffle or made a donation on Give STL Day is also our philanthropic partner. Even your non-monetary donations make a difference. When you donate a treasured piece of art or power tools that you no longer use, we can sell those and use the money to support programming. (See page 3.)

We couldn't accomplish anything without the partnership of our volunteers. Every year, we honor one Volunteer of the Year at our volunteer luncheon. This is always a difficult choice as we have so many wonderful volunteers who selflessly donate their time and talents. So this year, we honored three: Mike Calcagno, Bill Hoffman and Bev Wrobel. You can read more about all three honorees on our website: www.wingsofhope.ngo/discover-more/newsletter.

Finally, it's hard to put a value on this last kind of partner. I call them our ambassadors. In early June, we hosted our annual Ladies Luncheon to acknowledge the powerful support of women in advancing our mission. We shared conversation and talked about giving back, and my hope is that every guest left knowing a little bit more about Wings of Hope. Whenever one of those guests shares what she learned, with a friend or a neighbor, she is our ambassador. So when you are saying good things about Wings of Hope in the community, you are our ambassador, too! (See page 4.)

I thank you for your partnership – in whatever form that takes. Whether it's volunteering your time, including us in your charitable donations, or simply telling a friend about the good work that we do ... Thank you!

Laura Helling

Laura Helling, Interim President



Field NOTES

FOCUS: WOMEN IN INDIA

"Meeting with a group of bright, curious teenage girls about the pressures on them to drop out of school was the most impactful moment for me," said Global Programs and Partnerships Director Jess Watson after her nine-day trip to India with volunteer Mike McCombs in March 2017. "The girls are facing pressures from poverty and gender discrimination on a daily basis, but they desperately want to get an education."



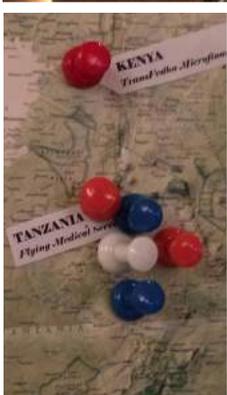
Watson and McCombs were visiting Wings of Hope field partner Nari O Sishu Kalyan Samitee (NSKS) in Balasore on the southern coast of India. They were evaluating Project Keep Girls In School, a new joint effort between NSKS and Wings of Hope which focuses on supporting groups of women to sell women's health products in local schools and in their communities. The combined goal of the project is poverty alleviation, improving women's health, and combating the drop-out rate among teen girls. After intensive meetings with NSKS staff and the community members involved, the project was recommended for approval.

The Wings of Hope team also met some of the women benefiting from the work center we constructed there in 2014. It now serves as an incense production facility and provides a supplemental income of \$50/mo. for 70 women. "Fifty dollars might not seem like much to us, but to a woman in this part of India, it is the difference between living in poverty and providing for her children," McCombs said. Women sit in rows on the floor in the spacious room and package incense in boxes to be sold all over the country. Demand is high, and they already have big plans for expansion. The women talked about being able to pay for medicine, food for their family, and school fees for their girl children, who often had to drop out before their mothers had an income. At Wings of Hope, we believe that the best way to help a child is by empowering her mother – and this field trip really brought that home!



YOUNG AMBASSADORS SUPPORT TANZANIA IN 2017

On March 30, the Young Ambassadors of Wings of Hope held their annual meeting to vote on an international project to support with fundraising in 2017. Members were presented with five options, then voted by placing pushpins on a map. When all pushpins were counted, the group voted to support flying medical clinics in Tanzania!



YOUNG AMBASSADORS RUN FOR TANZANIA!



A team of Young Ambassadors ran in the GO! St. Louis 5K on April 8th and raised over \$1,800 – a very good start to their Tanzania fundraising effort!

IN THE *Spotlight*



AIRPLANE RAFFLE SELLS OUT ... WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

On April 1, 2017 at 6 a.m. Central Time, we launched our latest airplane raffle to raise funds for our Medical Relief & Air Transport Program. Before noon, all 4,000 tickets had sold out! Nyla Schroeder of Minnesota won the Grand Prize Piper Archer II, and John Blangiardo won the second prize (private pilot's license or advanced training scholarship). Congratulations to the winners – and THANK YOU to all who participated!



GIVE STL DAY DRIVES DONATIONS

On May 11, 2017, we participated in our third consecutive Give STL Day. Out of more than 800 participating nonprofits, Wings of Hope ranked 3rd in amount of total donations – **raising over \$56,000** during the 24-hour online giving event. We always say we have the world's best supporters – and this is why! **Thank You!**

CONSIDERING A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY?

A charitable gift annuity is a wonderful way to support Wings of Hope and guarantee yourself or other beneficiaries a fixed income for life. Here's how it works: 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.



#GATEWAYGIVESBACK-AGAIN!

So excited that Gateway Buick GMC chose us to be their #GatewayGivesBack partner for the second year in a row! All through the month of June, a portion of every car sold supports our lifesaving Medical Relief & Air Transport Program. Thank you, Gateway Buick GMC!



A Mom's Thank You

Want to know how much our Medical Relief & Air Transport Program means to the families of the children we transport? Read this note from Amanda, the mother of a little guy we fly for treatment of clubfoot:

"Walking is always an exciting milestone in any child's life, but especially when your child is born with a medical condition. As Corey and I were reflecting on this past year, our hearts are overwhelmed with gratitude for Wings of Hope. You have helped make it possible for Griffin to take his first steps! We are so thankful for everyone at Wings of Hope!"

Calendar OF EVENTS

July 1, 2017

135th Veiled Prophet Parade
Downtown St. Louis

September

Fall Aircraft Raffle
launch

October 14, 2017

Taste of Hope
International Food Tasting
Wings of Hope Hangar

November 11, 2017

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

CAN WE TAKE THAT OFF YOUR HANDS?

We sell many donated items on eBay to raise funds for Wings of Hope programming – but our eBay stock is running low. If you have items to donate, please drop them by our headquarters or email Norm Hild (norm.hild@wingsofhope.ngo) for more information. Here is a quick guide as to what we will and will not accept. **Thank you!**

Yes, Please!

Power Tools (working), specialized hand tools, currently supported avionics, pilot gear (GPS & headsets), consumer electronics, sports equipment (fixed-based equipment, multi-speed bicycles), boats, outboard motors, limited artwork (provide type, artist name and print number to angela.walleman@wingsofhope.ngo for decision)

No, Thank You!

Vehicles, collectibles, clothing, cheap audio speakers, trailer hitches, computers/monitors, kitchenware/dishes, appliances, furniture, bedding, guns



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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 Ladies Luncheon

Don't let the title fool you, women at the annual Wings of Hope Ladies Luncheon shared some serious ideas about how to make giving back a priority – no matter how busy life gets. Guests who attended the June 1 event at the Chase Park Plaza enjoyed catching up with old friends, meeting new friends, and learning a bit more about our global humanitarian work. Gateway Buick GMC Marketing Director Kelley Haenny shared how being a childhood cancer survivor has motivated her to pay it forward – and challenged guests to find ways to weave charitable efforts throughout their own lives. Applause filled the room as Ms. Haenny announced Wings of Hope as the Gateway Gives Back charity for the month of June. Many guests left wearing colorful scarves – a popular table gift at the annual event. Laura Helling, Angela Walleman and Dr. Elizabeth Sugarbaker Akre co-chaired the lunch.

- HONORARY COUNCIL**
- Dra. SHERRILL KAZAN**
Chairperson
 President, World Council of Peoples for the United Nations
 - ROY CLARK** Entertainer and Humanitarian
 - JOHN DANFORTH** Former U.S. Senator and Humanitarian
 - ELIZABETH DOLE** Former U.S. Senator, Former President of the American Red Cross/ Humanitarian
 - CARL EDWARDS** NASCAR driver
 - HARRISON FORD** Actor, Pilot
 - BARRINGTON IRVING** Pilot, STEM Educator
 - GEN. COLIN L. POWELL** Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Former Secretary of State
 - HIS EMINENCE JUSTIN CARDINAL RIGALI** Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia
 - KURT RUSSELL** Actor, Pilot
 - LT. GEN. TOM STAFFORD** Former Astronaut
 - PATTY WAGSTAFF** Aerobatic National Champion Pilot
 - BRIG. GEN. CHUCK YEAGER** Test Pilot, Author