



Where There are Wings, There is Hope

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Barrington Irving Joins Wings of Hope Honorary Council

Pilot was first African American to fly solo around the world

ST. LOUIS, MO (February 2, 2016) — Barrington Irving, a pioneering pilot and aviation educator, has joined the Honorary Council of [Wings of Hope](http://WingsofHope.org), the St. Louis-based aviation charity. Irving was born in Jamaica and grew up in inner city Miami, surrounded by poverty, crime and failing schools. When he was 15, a chance encounter with a pilot ignited in Irving a passion for aviation that would lead him to shatter his own expectations and the record books. In 2007, at the age of 23, he set a Guinness World Record as the youngest person at that time and only African American to fly solo around the world.

“Barrington’s rise from some of the toughest streets in America to record-setting pilot is an inspiration to any child who has ever dreamed of something better,” said Wings of Hope President Don Hamblen. “Even more impressive is his dedication to sparking a passion for STEM careers in young people.”

Irving founded [Experience Aviation](http://ExperienceAviation.org), a nonprofit that aims to boost the numbers of youth in aviation and other science and math-related careers. The program engages students with hands-on robotics projects, flight simulator challenges, and STEM-inspired field trips. In his inaugural “Build & Soar” program, 60 students from failing schools built an airplane in just 10 weeks—and then watched Irving fly it. In 2014, he launched the world’s first flying classroom, a jet with digital, cutting-edge global flight curriculum that travels the world inviting students to participate in real-world STEM research and expeditions.

About Wings of Hope

Wings of Hope is a global humanitarian charity that has been helping the world’s poor since 1962. The nonprofit works in Africa, Asia and the Americas, partnering with communities to improve their health, education, food security and economic opportunity. In 2003, the charity established its Medical Relief and Air Transport (MAT) Program, the only free medical air transport service in the U.S. with air ambulances that can accommodate stretchers, wheelchairs and medical equipment. Wings of Hope has been twice nominated (2011, 2012) for the Nobel Peace Prize and dedicates 90 cents of every dollar directly to programming. For more information, visit wingsofhope.ngo or call 636-537-1302.

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