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Wings of Hope names new president

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Don Hamblen, a general aviation pilot, marketing executive and former U.S. Navy Captain, has been named president of Wings of Hope, an international humanitarian organization based at Spirit of St. Louis Airport in Chesterfield.

Effective Jan. 1, he replaced Douglas Clements, who announced this past summer that he planned to retire in 2015 after having served as the nonprofit's president since 1997.

Hamblen has more than 30 years' experience in marketing and sales development, most recently as chief marketing officer for Milwaukee-based Roundy's Supermarkets. He also has held marketing and sales executive posts with Family Dollar Stores Inc., Sears Holdings and Monsanto Co., among others.



Don Hamblen

Hamblen also was a naval flight officer and spent 24 years in the Navy before retiring as a captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Wings of Hope is known for its U.S.-based Medical Relief and Air Transport Program that provides free air ambulance services. The nonprofit also works to develop infrastructure and self-sufficiency in poor and needy regions in 47 countries, providing assistance with health care, education, and sustainable food and water. The organization's services are provided by about 3,000 volunteers. Larry Lemke is its board chairman.

Wings of Hope reported total revenue of nearly \$3.7 million and expenses of \$4.3 million for the year ended Dec. 31, 2013, according to its most recent IRS filing.

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