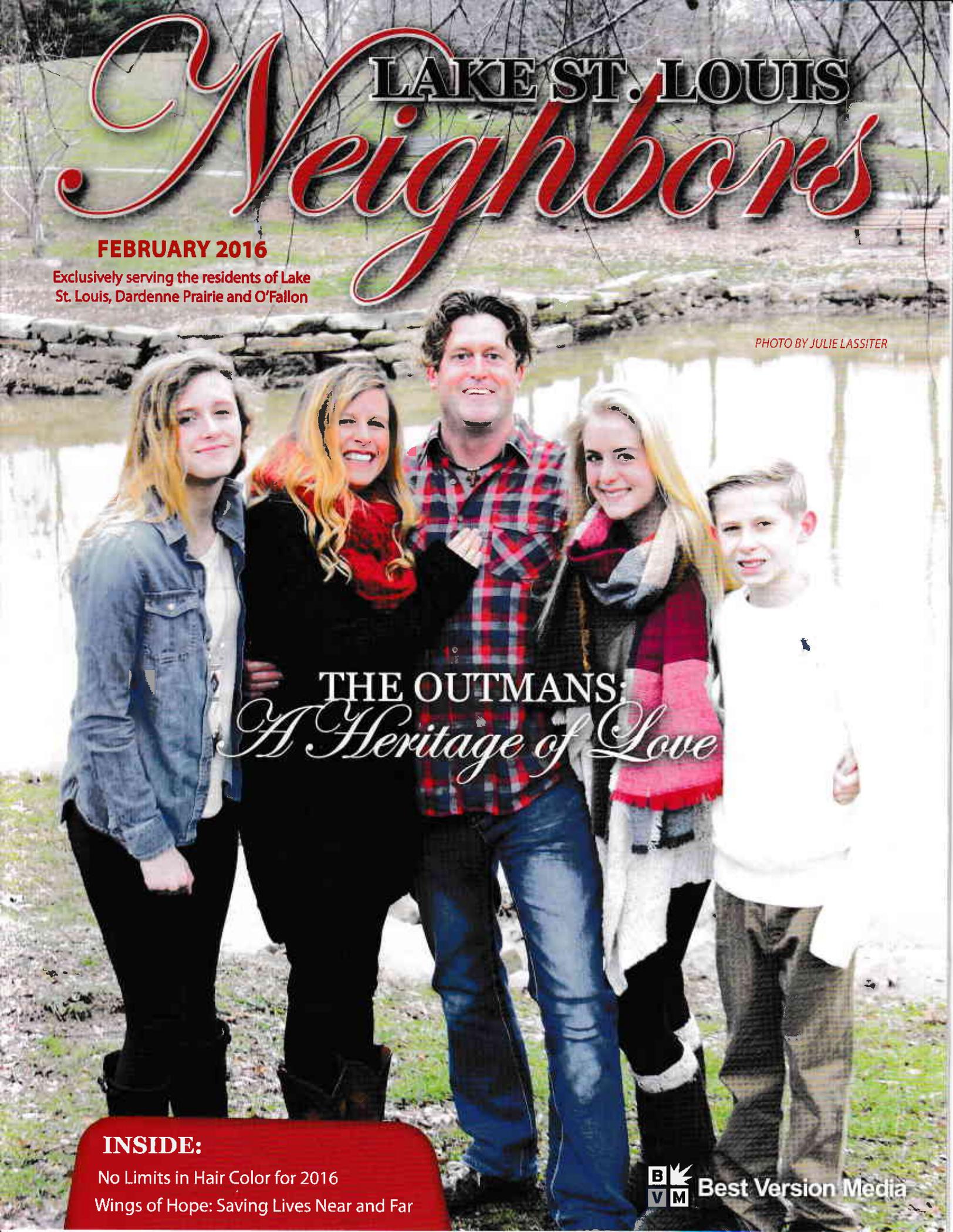


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THE OUTMANS: *A Heritage of Love*

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Wings of Hope: Saving Lives Near and Far



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Wings of Hope

SAVING LIVES NEAR AND FAR

By Carol Enright

Did you know that just a short trip over the Daniel Boone Bridge lies an internationally recognized charity that has been saving lives at home and abroad for more than 50 years?

Wings of Hope, an aviation-based charity located in a hangar at Spirit of St. Louis Airport, uses its wings to help the poor worldwide and transport seriously ill children from Missouri and throughout the Midwest to lifesaving medical care.

A FLYING NUN

Wings of Hope traces its history to 1962, in the northwestern deserts of Kenya. Catholic missionaries were already in the region when Wings of Hope founders learned of a nun flying supplies and medical care to the famine-stricken people using a fabric-winged plane that had been gnawed on by hyenas. So the four founders, businessmen from St. Louis, raised \$30,000 to replace that deteriorating aircraft with a metal Cessna 206. Then, they handed over the keys to Sister Michael Therese Ryan: a real-life Flying Nun!



MEDICAL AIR TRANSPORT

In 2003, the charity expanded its mission to the United States when it established the Medical Relief and Air Transport (MAT) Program, which provides free flights to seriously ill people who need specialized care but have no way to access it. Wings of Hope has three custom-equipped air ambulances—prop planes that can accommodate stretchers, medical personnel and equipment—dedicated to transporting patients to places such as the Mayo Clinic, Shriners Hospitals and M.D. Anderson.

One of these patients was Claire. This little girl from the St. Louis area was only two when she was diagnosed with a rare and life-threatening disease, Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH). Her mother, Marianne, had been driving Claire to Cincinnati Children's Hospital, an HLH Center of Excellence. But when the 7-hour drive became too uncomfortable for Claire—even dangerous to her health—and Marianne knew that her daughter's weak immune system ruled

out a commercial flight, she grew desperate. Fortunately, she found Wings of Hope.

"I took so many things for granted before Claire was diagnosed—things like just going outside, taking my kids to the park, a restaurant, or even a plane ride on a commercial airline," said Marianne. "It is just not that simple for many families. There are so many sick children in hospitals or at home healthcare that need to get to other places in the United States to see a specialist. We are so grateful to the Wings of Hope program that has truly had a large part in transporting our daughter to the right doctors which, in turn, saved her life."



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Over the next 18 months, Wings of Hope flew Claire to Cincinnati nine times for treatment. In July, Claire received a clean bill of health. Claire's remarkable recovery was the direct result of the expert care she received at Cincinnati Children's—care made possible by Wings of Hope. Claire is just one of the hundreds of patients Wings of Hope flies through its MAT Program every year. The charity also helps thousands in Africa, Asia, Central and South America through programming designed to improve the health, education, food security and economic opportunity of some of the world's poorest people.

POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS

Wings of Hope prides itself on its worldwide network of volunteers, including hundreds who volunteer locally. All of its MAT pilots, nurses and patient flight advocates are volunteers. Most of its mechanics and administrative support people volunteer their time as well. That tremendous volunteer base is what allows the charity to dedicate 90 cents of every dollar directly to programming. It also allows Wings of Hope to provide all of its services, including the MAT Program, free to those it serves.



CLAIRE WITH HER MOM
AFTER TREATMENTS

Wings of Hope is always looking for volunteers at its Chesterfield headquarters. Current needs include:

- Avionics technicians
- Light aircraft appraisal and sales
- Aircraft mechanics/helpers
- Experienced pilots (min. 1,000 of logged flight time)
- Receptionists
- Administrative assistants

If you would like to volunteer for Wings of Hope, call (636) 537-1302 or send an email to Bernie Schmidt at bsinmo23@gmail.com.

Learn more about Wings of Hope at www.wingsofhope.ngo or at www.facebook.com/wingsofhopeinc •

Lisa Broome's
Chocolate Crinkle Cookies



These cookies taste like little brownies and would make a great treat for kids or adults on Valentine's Day!

- 3 large eggs
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 4 squares (4 ounces) unsweetened chocolate, melted
- ½ cup canola oil
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ cups powdered sugar

In a large mixing bowl lightly beat the eggs. Add the sugar, melted chocolate, oil, baking powder and vanilla, beat well. Slowly stir in the flour until thoroughly combined. Cover and chill for one to two hours or until the dough is easy to handle.

Preheat oven to 375°. Shape the dough into 1-inch balls then roll in powdered sugar to coat. Place cookies on an ungreased cookie sheet two inches apart. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until edges are set and tops are crackled. Remove cookies right away from cookie sheet and cool on a wire rack. If desired, sift more powdered sugar over cookies. Store in an airtight container.