

# LIFT

SPRING 2016 | VOL. 2 | ISSUE 2

*Where There are Wings, There is Hope*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Spring is a season of renewal and growth—so it seems appropriate that in this issue of *LIFT*, I update you on several key areas of renewal at Wings of Hope.

First, I am thrilled to announce that we have grown our Honorary Council by two world-class aviators: Patty Wagstaff and Barrington Irving. If you're a pilot, you know all about Patty and Barrington. But the more "grounded" can check out their inspiring stories on page 3.



We are so honored that Patty and Barrington have joined our team at Wings of Hope. And, as I mentioned, this team has been busy!

We revised our mission, vision and core values to more accurately reflect why we exist and the change we aspire to achieve. This laid the foundation for updating our strategic plan—a process which involved staff, board members and volunteers.

We redesigned our brand image to help tell our story in a more contemporary and engaging way. You will see this in this newsletter, our new website, and all of our marketing and donor materials.

We implemented a new donor relationship management tool, eTapestry, which is already yielding dramatic improvements in the timeliness and accuracy of our donor communications. We also changed our email address to one top-level domain: [wingsofhope.ngo](http://wingsofhope.ngo). (See story page 3.)

Change of this magnitude requires the support of an energized and dedicated team. I am extremely grateful to all—staff and volunteers, alike—who focused their intellect, energy and heart for serving others toward these significant change efforts.

The history of Wings of Hope is rich and fruitful because of the continuing efforts of our team to challenge the status quo and bring in new perspectives—like those of Patty and Barrington—to find better ways to serve those in need and each other. It is a spirit of renewal that has powered this organization for more than 50 years, and continues to prove that Where There are Wings, There is Hope!

**WINGS  
WINGS  
OF HOPE®**

Don Hamblen, President

# Event RECAP

## *"A Night for Miracles"* SOLD OUT SUCCESS!

More than 375 packed the house at Wings of Hope's 14th annual "A Night for Miracles" gala on Feb. 13 at The Chase Park Plaza—the single largest fundraiser for our Medical Relief and Air Transport Program. Tickets sold out weeks before the gala, and the night raised more than \$300,000—making it the most successful in the event's history.

Steve and Elizabeth Akre and Roger and Jan Debenport chaired the event, with ample support from Melanie Halley, Mike Calcagno, the dinner auction council, and the more than 60 volunteers who were on site at the Chase to make sure everything went off without a hitch. More than 20 members of our newly formed Young Ambassadors group attended the gala either as volunteers or guests—a fantastic showing for a group just launched in the fall!

Y98's Guy Phillips entertained the crowd as the evening's celebrity auctioneer. He masterfully egged on bidders in "friendly" competitions during the live auction. One of the most popular items was a suite for 25 at a Cards-Cubs game which, after a very spirited "tug of war" between two guests, finally sold for \$8,000.

As is the case every year, the highlight of the evening was meeting two of the young people who benefit from our MAT Program. Seven-year-old Amerlyn, whom we fly to St. Louis Shriners for treatment of her prosthetic leg, charmed the crowd during her interview with Wings of Hope board member, Fred Meyland-Smith. And there was nary a dry eye in the room when Emilee Williams, a young woman who had lost the ability to walk but has been quickly recuperating thanks to the support of Wings of Hope, joined her father for the evening's first dance to "Fight Song," by Rachel Platt.



Jan & Roger Debenport



Fred Meyland-Smith & Amerlyn



Guy Phillips



Steve Akre



Wings of Hope Young Ambassadors



Emilee Williams & her father



## KENDRA SCOTT JEWELRY PULL SPARKLES!!!

One of the most popular tables at our "A Night for Miracles" silent auction was the Kendra Scott Jewelry pull—which featured 75 items donated by Kendra Scott. For \$50, guests could purchase a small box guaranteed to contain a beautiful piece of designer jewelry valued at \$55-\$195. Boxes were practically flying off the table, as eager guests opened them to reveal the surprises inside. We noticed a few "swaps" among friends, but all left with a little extra sparkle around their necks or dangling from their ears. Thank you, Kendra Scott, for your generous donation, which brought in \$3,450 for the Wings of Hope MAT Program!



## MEET PATTY AND BARRINGTON!

Wings of Hope is honored and excited to welcome Patty Wagstaff and Barrington Irving to our Honorary Council. Both are esteemed pilots whose feats in the air push the limits of aviation performance. But what makes them such great ambassadors for Wings of Hope is their shared passion for using their exceptional aviation talents to serve others.

### *Patty Wagstaff*

Patty is a world-renowned aerobatic pilot, a six-time member of the U.S. Aerobatic Team, and has won the gold, silver and bronze medals in Olympic-level international aerobatic competition. She is the first woman to win the title of U.S. National Aerobatic champion—and one of a select few to win it three times. For more than a decade, she has trained pilots in Kenya who work to protect elephants, rhinos and the country's natural resources from poachers. She also served as a CAL FIRE pilot before starting the Patty Wagstaff Aerobatic School in St. Augustine, Fla. She was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 2004, and her Goodrich Extra 260 airplane and life story are on display in the The National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.



### *Barrington Irving*

Barrington 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 him a passion for aviation that would lead him to shatter his own expectations and the record books. At 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 is also the founder of Experience Aviation, a nonprofit that aims to boost the numbers of youth in

aviation and STEM careers through hand-on programs—like building a plane from scratch! Barrington's rise from some of the toughest streets in America to record-setting pilot and STEM educator is nothing short of an inspiration.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR INTERNATIONAL SITES?

Check out the blogs of our pilot in Nicaragua, **TJ** (<http://tjstewartwingsofhope.blogspot.com/>) and our pilot in Tanzania, **Elsa** (<http://www.elsaklarich.blogspot.com/>)

## Calendar OF EVENTS

**April 1, 2016**

Annual Aircraft Raffle launches

**May 3, 2016**

Give STL Day

**May 14-15, 2016**

Spirit of St. Louis Air Show  
& STEM Expo

**June 2016**

3rd Annual Ladies Luncheon

www.wingsofhope.ngo

## What's With the Dot NGO?

You may have noticed some new letters around Wings of Hope. Three, to be precise:

N, G and O. You will see them in our new website ([wingsofhope.ngo](http://wingsofhope.ngo)) and in our new email addresses ([don.hamblen@wingsofhope.ngo](mailto:don.hamblen@wingsofhope.ngo)). Dot ngo is the new worldwide standard for charities that are non-governmental organizations—which is exactly what we are. Wings of Hope does not accept government funding, so dot ngo is actually a much better reflection of who we are than dot org, dot com or any other dot. You can now reach any Wings of Hope staff at a consistent, easy-to-remember email address: [firstname.lastname@wingsofhope.ngo](mailto:firstname.lastname@wingsofhope.ngo).

We think that's the dot best!

# WINGS OF HOPE®

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www.wingsofhope.ngo

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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

WINGS  
OF HOPE®

1 ticket  
**\$50**  
or  
3 tickets  
**\$125**

Don't wait!  
The 2015  
raffle sold  
out in just  
22 days!

Raffle ends  
June 30, 2016  
or when the 3,000th  
ticket is sold –  
whichever comes first!

## 6th Annual AIRPLANE RAFFLE



### Grand Prize 1964 Piper Cherokee PA-28-235

TTAF 2307Hrs, SMOH: As of 11/14/2013 194 hrs.; shiny aluminum exterior with red stripes; interior features tan cloth seats with burgundy vinyl accents, burgundy vinyl side panels and burgundy carpet; Garmin GNS430 GPS/Nav/Com and Garmin 106 CDI. No damage history! **PLUS** a PPL or Advanced Training Scholarship

#### SECOND PRIZE: A PPL or Advanced Training Scholarship

All proceeds from this 6th Annual Aircraft Raffle go toward our Medical Relief and Air Transport Program serving hundreds of kids!

For tickets, visit [www.wingsofhope.ngo/airplane-raffle/](http://www.wingsofhope.ngo/airplane-raffle/)  
or call 1-800-448-9487.

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