

LIFT

FALL/WINTER 2018 | VOL.4 | ISSUE 2



46,000 lives.

This is the number of people we directly served through our international programs and U.S.-based Medical Relief & Air Transport (MAT) Program last year. While that's an impressive number, it doesn't mean as much until you take a closer look. Recently, I was able to do just that.

This past summer, I visited five international field sites to see our work firsthand. Inside these pages you will find a recap of my travels to Africa and South America. If I can sum up what I took away from these trips, it is this: the work we are doing to serve people in need around the globe is something that we can all take great pride in.

This knowledge of how we are reaching

people that can be reached no other way – underscored by the work of our volunteers, board, staff and key stakeholders during our recent strategic planning process – creates a sense of urgency around our new mission statement: **Wings of Hope changes and saves lives through the power of aviation.**

With these words as our beacon moving forward, we are committed to forging new partnerships around the world – and I look forward to sharing news with you about two new developing partnerships in South America.

It is also full steam ahead here at home. In this newsletter, you will read the story of 8-year-old Claire, a former MAT patient who is a happy, healthy third-grader thanks to the life-saving care she received as a toddler. Seeing how our flights transform the lives of children like Claire encourages us to go further – to reach even more folks who need access to specialized medical care. With encouragement and guidance from our board of directors and strategic planning committee, our team is exploring the best ideas for expanding the reach and impact of the MAT program.

It's exciting times at Wings of Hope. I look forward to navigating them with you.



*Changing & Saving Lives
Through the Power of Aviation*

Bret Heinrich,
President & CEO

Field NOTES



DELIVERING HEALTH CARE IN TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA

When Wings of Hope President and CEO Bret Heinrich visited Tanzania this past June, he was able to join our longtime partner Flying Medical Service (FMS) on their fly-in medical clinics serving Maasai women and children. FMS flies doctors into 25 Maasai communities, visiting each settlement every two weeks to provide pre- and post-natal care for mothers and vaccinations for babies. They also weigh the babies, using a scale hanging from a plane wing, to make sure they are gaining sufficient weight through nursing. Mothers of underweight babies are given a mixture of powder and vitamins that they can make into a drink for their babies called "Plumpy." Wings of Hope mechanic, Bill Patterson, joined Bret on the trip to perform an annual inspection on the FMS plane.

Next, Bret traveled to Zambia to visit with our partner FlySpec, the country's only orthopedic, reconstructive and plastic surgery organization. In 2017, FlySpec offered medical care to nearly 5,000 individuals and performed 1,388 surgeries. During his trip, Bret observed a surgery at a local field hospital.



POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS IN SOUTH AMERICA

In August, Bret continued his field-site visits in South America, joined by Wings of Hope mechanic Curtis Kelley.

First stop Paraguay: Our field director, Cliff Schisler, uses a 1959 Cessna 175 to support the Guarani people with medevac services, health and dental clinics, food and other assistance. Bret and Curtis joined Cliff on one clinic where they fed 600 people.

Then it was on to Ecuador to meet with Alas de Socorro del Ecuador (ADSE) – which translates to Wings of Help – an organization that provides medevac support to the Waorani people in the Amazon jungle.



When they landed in a Waorani village, the Wings of Hope crew was greeted by Grandpa Dyuiwi, one of the oldest living members of the Waorani. Every time a relief plane lands, Dyuiwi rushes out to pray with the pilot and gives thanks to God for his safe arrival. The irony is that Dyuiwi was part of a killing party that cut down

five missionaries, including Nate Saint, one of the very first pilots who tried to provide assistance to the Waorani in the 1950s. Since that horrific day more than 60 years ago, Dyuiwi has dedicated his life to making amends by welcoming all relief pilots who have come since.

Wings of Hope has a long history in Ecuador. We are excited to start the next chapter as we move toward a partnership with ADSE. We are also in talks with Centa, a group that operates a job skills training center on land originally donated by Nate Saint. Our involvement will be supporting ADSE's medical relief flights into and out of the jungle, as well as flying Waorani to Centa to participate in job skills training.

Before leaving South America, Bret and Curtis visited Colombia to observe how local organizations are providing health care to the indigenous people and explore opportunities for expanding into this region in the future.

To see photos from all of Bret's summer travels, visit our photo gallery at wingsofhope.ngo/media/gallery.

IN THE *Spotlight*

WINGS OF HOPE VOLUNTEER IS HONORED AS AGELESS REMARKABLE

Our own Jay Rickmeyer, who has been volunteering in our hangar going on 18 years, was honored on October 20 by the St. Andrew's Charitable Foundation as an Ageless Remarkable St. Louisan. The award recognizes individuals, 75 and older, who are making a tremendous impact in St. Louis through philanthropy, volunteerism and leadership.

News anchor Mike Bush of KSDK NewsChannel 5 stopped by to interview 79-year-old Jay about his service to Wings of Hope, his many years flying U.S. medical air transport missions (more than 220!), and the hundreds of children he has helped along the way – including a little girl named Claire.



▲ Mike Bush interviewing Jay Rickmeyer in our hangar



▲ MAT Patient Claire

Now eight, Claire was only 18 months old when we started flying her from St. Louis to Cincinnati Children's Hospital for treatment of HLH, a rare autoimmune disorder. Jay remembers Claire from the nine Wings of Hope flights she took during her treatment. It has been four years since Claire's last Wings of Hope flight – and she is doing great!

Wings of Hope President and CEO Bret Heinrich called Jay "the heart and soul of our domestic program."

"He's here working every day, really before anyone else arrives and stays many nights until everyone else is gone," Bret said.

Always more comfortable shining the spotlight on others, Jay's response to the award was true to form: "Mine is really a minor role. It's the medical professionals that make miracles."

FALL RAFFLE SELLS OUT IN FOUR HOURS – RAISES \$260K!

All 4,000 tickets to our September 17 airplane raffle sold out in four hours! We continue to be blown away by the popularity of our raffles – and the generosity of our ticket buyers. Most important, this raffle generated more than \$260,000 which will go directly to support our U.S.-based Medical Relief & Air Transport Program. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket!



SPRING RAFFLE PLANE DELIVERED

Brian Franz of Texas is the grand prize winner and proud new owner of the Cessna 172 we raffled off in April. Brian has purchased tickets to several of our raffles, including the most recent one in September. He is thrilled with his new wings and plans to continue participating in our raffles because he knows the money supports our medical air transport program. Our chief RDM (retrieval, delivery and maintenance flights) pilot, Don Hoerstkamp, delivered the plane to our happy winner. Congratulations, Brian!

Event RECAPS



▲ Laurna (right) pictured with Sokhary Pavese, Chairman of John Givonetti Giving, Wings of Hope's partner in Cambodia

LAURNA GODWIN INSPIRES AT WINGS OF HOPE LADIES LUNCHEON

As a three-time Emmy award winning broadcast journalist and owner of her own communications firm, we had high expectations for our Ladies Luncheon speaker this past June – and she did not disappoint!

Laurna Godwin inspired everyone with her interactive talk about "being authentically you." Here is what Laurna spoke about, in her own words:

"The way we present ourselves to our family, our friends, and our community is a gift we give to them. That's why it's always important to strive to be our best selves and our authentic selves.

"Do not try to be someone you are not, and certainly do not try to be someone that someone else wants you to be!"

Words to live by!



TASTE OF HOPE BRINGS FOOD, FUN & FRIENDS TO THE HANGAR!

The second annual Taste of Hope drew 300 people to the Wings of Hope hangar on Saturday, October 6, for an afternoon of noshing on tasty samples from Vito's in the Valley, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Zen Thai & Japanese Cuisine, El Burro Loco, Mayuri, Mango, Double G Ham, Viviano's Festa Italiano, Hearth Room Café, The Croquetterie and Smoothie King. Granite City Food & Brewery, Urban Chestnut and O'Fallon Brewery offered craft beer, and Major Brands supplied the wine. Best of all, the event raised \$15,000 to support our international health projects, including lifesaving surgeries in Zambia. Thank you to sponsors Joe-K Used Cars, MBM Wealth Consultants, First National Bank-Staunton, Ben & Betty Adams and presenting sponsor Dierbergs! Check out more fun photos on the Young Ambassadors of Wings of Hope Facebook page or at wingsofhope.ngo.



GSLBAA GOLF TOURNAMENT & TRIVIA NIGHT BENEFIT WINGS OF HOPE

Every year, Wings of Hope is the fortunate beneficiary of two fundraising events hosted by the Greater St. Louis Business Aviation Association, or GSLBAA. This past summer, GSLBAA's annual golf tournament and trivia night resulted in a \$29,000 gift to Wings of Hope's U.S. Medical Relief & Air Transport program. To cap it off, Team Wings of Hope took first place in the B Flight of the golf tournament – and the Wings of Hope Young Ambassadors' table took home the first place trophy at trivia night! Thank you, GSLBAA!

WINGS OF HOPE REPRESENTS IN AMERICA'S PARADE

Future Wings of Hope pilot, Mason, led the Wings of Hope balloon down the streets of St. Louis in America's Birthday Parade. We fly Mason to St. Louis Children's Hospital for treatment of clubfeet and he makes the entire Wings of Hope family smile whenever he's in town. On his last visit, Mason gifted us a copy of his new book, "In My Feet." Mason wrote and illustrated the book, which tells the story of his battle with clubfeet and how Wings of Hope has helped him on his journey to walking. So proud of this young author and future aviator!





SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE

IT'S ANNUAL APPEAL TIME!

By now, you should have received our annual appeal in the mail. This simple mailing has become one of our most successful fundraisers. Our 2017 annual appeal raised \$130,717.08. Your generosity continues to surpass our expectations, and we hope you will consider a gift this year.

Wings of Hope is 100% donation driven, and every dollar you give makes our work possible. Just \$10 pays to vaccinate a child in Africa.

A \$26 gift helps pay for an emergency medical flight in Belize or Paraguay. \$600 fills the tank for a one-way medical air transport flight in the U.S. Every gift, large or small, supports our mission of changing and saving lives through the power of aviation.

To learn more or give online, go to wingsofhope.ngo/annual-appeal/

Thank you!

HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED?

Imagine if you could support the causes you care about, even after you are gone. A thoughtful planned giving process can have powerful benefits for both you and Wings of Hope. Planned giving is a great way to support your financial goals, while making a significant impact on our ability to fulfill our mission well into the future.

ENDOWMENT

An endowment preserves your gift in perpetuity, as it ensures our good work for generations to come.

Advantages of endowments:

- Magnify the impact of Wings of Hope today and into the future.
- Provide a lasting tribute for someone who has inspired you or changed your life.
- Express your passion for Wings of Hope with a gift equal to your commitment.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

A charitable gift annuity pays you income in your retirement years – and supports Wings of Hope's mission. Setting one up is easy. Through a simple contract you make a donation of cash, stocks or other assets to Wings of Hope. In return, you (and someone else, if you choose) receive a fixed amount each year for the rest of your lifetime.

Advantages of charitable gift annuities:

- Fixed lifetime annuity at an attractive rate.
- Your initial gift is partially income tax-deductible.
- Your payments are not affected by ups and downs in

the economy.

- The gift annuity can be for one or two people, so your spouse or another loved one can also receive payments for life.
- If you use appreciated stock to make a gift, you can usually eliminate capital gains tax on a portion of the gift and spread the rest of the gain over your life expectancy.

BEQUESTS

Have you ever considered leaving a gift to Wings of Hope in your will or living trust? You can structure the bequest to leave a specific item, amount of cash, securities or property. Make the gift contingent on certain events or leave a percentage of your estate to us. You can even add Wings of Hope as a beneficiary to your retirement account or life insurance policy.

Advantages of making a bequest:

- A bequest costs nothing now, yet gives you the satisfaction of knowing you have provided for Wings of Hope in the future.
- You retain control of and use of your assets during your lifetime.
- You may modify your bequest if your circumstances change.
- Gifts to Wings of Hope from your estate are exempt from federal estate taxes.

For more information about planned giving, including suggested wording to use in making bequests, go to wingsofhope.ngo/get-involved/planned-giving. You may also contact Vice President-Director of Development, Laura Helling, at 636-537-1302 or by email at laura.helling@wingsofhope.ngo.

Thank YOU!



HERBERT A. & ADRIAN W. WOODS FOUNDATION SUPPORTS MAT

Thank you to the Herbert A. & Adrian W. Woods Foundation for their \$11,000 grant supporting our MAT program. This family foundation has a long history of giving in the St. Louis community – and their grant will allow us to continue flying children like Elizabeth to lifechanging medical care!



ISTAT FOUNDATION AWARDS \$6,000 TO SUPPORT PARAGUAY

The ISTAT Foundation awarded Wings of Hope \$6,000 to support our work providing health care, food and educational programming to 16 indigenous communities in Paraguay. The grant will offset the field site's annual aviation fuel and parts costs. Thank you, ISTAT Foundation!



Joe Buehrer, VP-Store Manager, Chesterfield Mall Macy's, with Wings of Hope VP Laura Helling.

MACY'S GIVES BACK

Thank you, Macy's, for donating nearly \$1,500 to Wings of Hope through Macy's Gives Back. So grateful to Joe Buehrer, the entire Macy's Chesterfield Mall team and everyone who rounded up their purchase for Wings of Hope during the first two weeks of August!



KATIE'S PIZZA & PASTA GIVEBACK TUESDAY!

Thank you Katie's Pizza & Pasta Osteria for your generous Giveback Tuesday donation to Wings of Hope! On June 26, a hearty crowd of Wings of Hope family and friends braved the stormy weather to enjoy Katie's delicious Italian cuisine – and Katie's donated 100% of the day's proceeds to Wings of Hope.

ISLAND HOPPING KITCHEN TOUR RAISES \$2,000 FOR WINGS OF HOPE

St. Louis Homes + Lifestyles magazine hosted a tour of some of the St. Louis area's most beautifully designed kitchens – and donated 100% of the ticket sales to Wings of Hope. Beyond the generous \$2,000 donation, the tour was a fantastic awareness-building opportunity, exposing dozens of individuals to the Wings of Hope mission. Thank you, St. Louis Homes + Lifestyles!



BOEING INVESTS IN NEW STEM PROGRAM

Boeing awarded Wings of Hope \$79,896 to support Soar into STEM. The pilot program, set to launch in 2019, will engage local high school students in hands-on aviation engineering to pique their interest in STEM and aviation careers. The grant supports Boeing's commitment to developing tomorrow's innovators by investing in STEM education, workforce development and the 21st century skills required in today's modern workplace. Thank you, Boeing!

Calendar OF EVENTS

November 22

Thanksgiving Day Parade
Downtown St. Louis

December 14

Holiday Luncheon
Wings of Hope Hangar

February 9, 2019

Wings of Hope Dinner Auction
The Chase Park Plaza, St. Louis

March 16, 2019

St. Patrick's Day Parade
Downtown St. Louis

April 1, 2019

Spring Airplane Raffle
Tickets on Sale

May 1, 2019

Give STL Day

Thank You

FOR HONORING THE PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT WITH A WINGS OF HOPE TRIBUTE GIFT ...

Honorarium and memorial gifts are a wonderful way to celebrate and honor the people who are special in our lives. Wings of Hope is the humble recipient of hundreds of these tribute gifts annually. Those individuals who have included us in their estate plans are recognized in our Legacy Society. If you are interested in finding out how you can include Wings of Hope in your legacy and estate planning, please email Laura Helling at laura.helling@wingsofhope.ngo or call 636-537-1302.

In Honor Of...

David Carpenter

Michele Bridge

Everest Finn

Joli Pate

Charlotte Headrick

Lelia J. Headrick

Anne Heinrich

Bret Heinrich

David Hopkins

Bob Welker

Linda Wallace Jones

Richard & Linda Jones

Owen Kehr

Paul Maro Johnson

Payton Manning

Marilyn Black

Linda Manning

Don H. & Sally Morton

Anonymous

Dave Pogorzelski

Michael & Joan Landgraf

Jay Rickmeyer

Richard Denda

John Huston & Kim Skrainka

Mark D. & Anne (Lisa) Rickmeyer

Jack Weitz

Diane Pfeiffer

In Memory Of...

Bruce Baker

Lois Haller

Charles Bourneuf

Edward V. Bourneuf

Hallmark Cards, Inc.

Pfizer, Inc.

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John & Nancy Walters

Leonard Jaeger

Central Mine Equipment Co.

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Paul Johnson

Richard D. Allen

Greg & Kathy Bullock

Carol Childs

Cory & Stephen Christie

Teri Cohen

Michael & Brenda Edgington

Michael & Claire Fisher

Judy Hays

Alex Henderson

Dennis Myers

Shirley Rouse

John Strain, II

Janet Kreitman

Arnold Kreitman

Rose Kreitman

Suzy Seldin

Beverly & David Wrobel

Rosalind Lamb

Bob Fry

Esther Levine

Beverly & David Wrobel

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Julie Lowrey

George Paul Menos

Michael Kontominas

Alexander Rogers

Sakis Salas

William & Amy Laycock

Michael & Jacob Metzger

Gernatt Asphalt Products, Inc

Mary Strickfaden

Nadia Sebastian

The Welsh Family

Mark Sebastian

Joe Mills

Felicia Sapp

Florene Kramper

Nadine Boyd

Ron & Debra Peck

Vickie Dunn

Mark & Nancy Melliore

Landon Michael Moore

Susan Harrison

Norman L. Morrisette

John & Jewell Ries

Rickey & Teresa Oeth

Tabitha Kennedy

Jeffrey Ryan

Gary & Paula Smith

Christopher & Leslie Heilig

Anonymous

Michelle L. Sabin

Michael & Jewell Coulson

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James & Cheryl Cochran

T. & B. Shively

Tony & Virginia Thompson

Ryan J. Cochran

Frank & Umeko Shiflet

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James & Patricia Daniel

Roger & Anna Perret

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Lester Muckerman

Joseph & Carol Honich

Marilyn Davis

Jim & Carol Kron

Timothy Murray

Paul & Mary Ann Hunker, Jr.

Gertrude Steiger

Ken Nettleton

Ruth Marie Eggers

Tom & Pam Fichter

Carissa Torres-Cruz

Bill Nehrt

Sue Centko

Jim Rosso

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Harry Sablotny

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Anthony & Susan Tumminello

George Tichacek

Jan Debenport

Janet Marie Torrisi-Mokwa

John G. Bell

Hannah Watson

Carole Watson

Mason Wienke

John & Marie McCutcheon

Carla Wienke

Edward Zanck

Arnold Kreitman

This list is for gifts received from 4/26/18 through 10/15/18.

Are you a Thrivent member? If yes, Wings of Hope needs you! See how you can make a difference at thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/ or call Laura Helling at 636-537-1302.



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*Changing
& Saving
Lives
Through the
Power of
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Four-Star Rating on Charity Navigator,
GuideStar Gold Rating, and
twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize

SAVE THE DATE

HOPE
Is Where the Heart Is

WINGS OF HOPE
ANNUAL
DINNER AUCTION

FEBRUARY 9, 2019 | CHASE PARK PLAZA