

Wings of Mercy MN

December 2014

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Volume 17, Issue 1

December 10, 2014

With deepest sympathy

It is with sadness that I share with you the passing of our founder, Dr. David Van Nostrand. Our thoughts and prayers are with Catharine and family during this difficult time. He will be missed by all of us at Wings of Mercy MN.

His great sense of giving created a strong foundation for Wings of Mercy MN and inspired others to share their talents to provide access to the best in medical care. We will be forever grateful to Dr. Van for his vision and leadership. It is an honor

to carry on the mission he created. We will continue to honor Doc's legacy and dedicate this newsletter to him as we provide "Wings to those in need."

Wayne D. Horntvedt

President

Financial Reporting

In 2014 over 75% of donations to Wings of Mercy MN have gone directly to reimburse fuel expenses for missions. Operational expense like telephone, communications, postage and website presence make up the remainder of the budget. Our Board of Directors is made up of volunteer pilots, financial and legal professionals, health professionals and business owners committed to allocating most of your gift to fuel reimbursement.

Wings of Mercy MN Founder

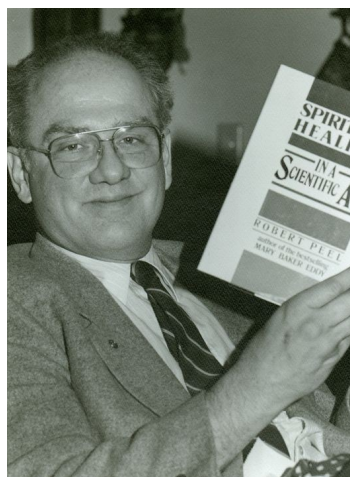
David Van Nostrand

December 29, 1936 – November 27, 2014

David Brakke, St Cloud Times www.sctimes.com

A St Cloud doctor, known by many as an innovator, humanitarian and surgeon died Thanksgiving day. Van Nostrand spent many years as a general surgeon at Central Minnesota Surgeons. One of his colleagues Dr. Alan Tims, said Van Nostrand was an innovator in his field, an inspiration to many. Tims says Van Nostrand was a man of many firsts, having conducted St Cloud Hospital's first pacemaker, laparoscopic, and gastric bypass surgeries. Van Nostrand retired from a 30 year career in surgery in 1996, but he later founded Occupational Medicine Clinic in St Cloud. His work at the clinic included evaluating people

with disabilities. Doc's humanitarian efforts took flight with his interest in air travel. He had held a pilot's license since medical school, and in the early 90s used his flying skills to travel to Africa and later Jamaica as part of the Flying Physicians Association. In 1995 Van Nostrand brought that concept closer to home. Coordinating with Wings of Mercy Michigan, Van Nostrand founded a local chapter of the nonprofit organization. Wings of Mercy is made up of pilots, nurses and other volunteers with a mission to provide free air transportation to needy patients looking for specialized care at distant hospitals. The



group's president, Wayne Horntvedt, said Doc dedicated himself, and his resources to help others. "Pilots are a breed of people that like to share." "Dr. Van was the epitome of someone that wanted to share the love of flying with his sense of giving back to the community."



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Husband, Brother , Father, Grandfather, Physician, Founder, Innovator and Friend



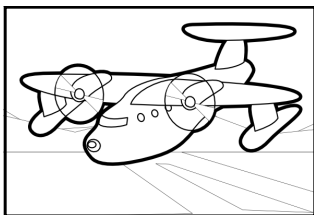
Dr. Van personally flew over 100 missions, co-piloting many more!

Known variously as Dave, Doc or Dr. Van; David Van Nostrand practiced medicine in the St Cloud area for 45 years. A pioneer and innovator, he was the first surgeon to implant a cardiac pacemaker at the St Cloud Hospital in 1971. He learned and then taught others about the laparoscope and introduced laparoscopic surgery techniques that required smaller incisions and thus faster healing time for pa-

tients. A skilled pilot, Dr. Van taught aviation physiology at St. Cloud State University. Combining his love of flying and medicine, he founded Wings of Mercy MN in 1995. Along with volunteer nurses, staff and other pilots, Dave donated his airplane and time to fly missions around the Midwest. For his volunteer service work, he received CentraCare Health Foundation's "Spirit of Caring" award in 2002. His alma

mater, Grinnell College, honored him with an alumni award in 2013. The prestigious award recognizes graduates who distinguish themselves by embodying the college's mission of life long learning and service. Dave is survived by wife Catharine, daughters and granddaughter.

In 2014 Wings of Mercy MN has provided for critical patient transportation needs more than 50 times; many of those missions provide round trip services.



I don't like saying "NO." Flight Director, Richard La Bute

I don't like saying NO to those in need. Wings of Mercy has four basic criteria for accepting patient passengers: a Minnesota connection, 500nm radius operating area, financial need and medical need. While these criteria are objective and straight forward there are many others that fall just outside one or more of our criteria. This is what makes the job of flight director both difficult and rewarding. I try not to say NO to any legitimate request.

We are often reminded of Jesus' message to minister to the marginalized and

least of society and in doing so, we are doing for him. This is an easy and direct correlation to the work of Wings of Mercy MN pilots, co-pilots, nurses, staff and donors.

As the flight director, I am filled with a sense of compassion, obligation and fulfillment. However, without the co-support of each element, I cannot do my job nor can we fulfill our mission of providing "wings to those in need." This has been true for nearly 20 years, with more than a 1100 missions. I look forward to the next 20 years.

In 2014 Wings of Mercy MN

has provided for patient transportation needs over 50 times. Most missions originate in North or South Dakota and terminate at one of the many hospitals in Minneapolis/St Paul or at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. During the past year we have also coordinated missions with Wings of Mercy Michigan for several long range flights to and from the east coast. We thank you for your financial support in 2014. We hope that you will continue to keep us in your charitable giving and always in your thoughts and prayers.

Pilots – New and Retiring

Wings of Mercy MN accepts new pilots and would welcome the opportunity to get to know you and share how our organization operates. Just recently two new pilots have joined the ranks from Longville, MN. We are grateful for their interest – they have already flown a mission for us.

Long time pilot, Gary Miller will be retiring soon due to his health. While Gary's health has prevented him from piloting he is still in the co pilot seat. Gary has flown 105 missions with Wings of Mercy MN since October 1999. He started as a co-pilot with Eric Benson on a flight from St Paul to Bismarck, ND. The reimbursed fuel cost of the flight was \$225. Today

that same flight is about \$600. We want to express our sincere thanks to Gary for his dedicated service to Wings of Mercy MN and look forward to celebrating his retirement in early January 2015.

We lift Gary up in our prayers as he continues to fight lymphoma.

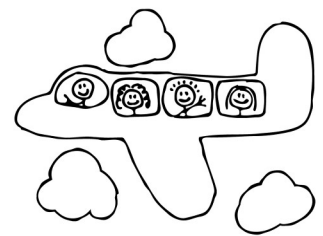


Come fly with us

While reducing travel time from distant or remote locations is often the reason Wings of Mercy MN passengers request assistance, it isn't the only one. A 56 year old Iowa resident has just been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. It wouldn't be safe for him to

make the drive to Mayo Clinic alone. He asked for help. Enduring airport security, long lines and congestion prevent a young woman from flying commercial – consider adding two or three hours to an already long trip when you feel lousy. She asked for

help. A mother and her two sons have a rare genetic condition. Physicians wanted to evaluate all three to create an action plan that would be effective for both adult and children. A trip for all three was financially impossible. They asked for help.



Plane and Simple THANK YOU

Getting out the word.....

Wings of Mercy MN doesn't have a Twitter account or a Facebook page but we do have a new, more dynamic website. Most of the patient passengers that come to us for service are referred by hospital social workers or patients who have used the service in the past. They

have graciously shared the information at a treatment center, in a waiting room or across the table of a hospital cafeteria.

The website www.wingsofmercymn.org provides access to basic information about what to

anticipate, along with medical authorization and waiver of liability forms. Feature articles focus on passenger and pilot stories. Donors can give online. Prospective volunteers can find announcements of upcoming events and application forms.

Wings of Mercy MN occasionally partners with Wings of Mercy Michigan. Our website provides a link to the Michigan organization to assist patients with making connections for flights outside of our service area.



President's Message



Greetings from Wings of Mercy MN. 2014 is coming to a close and I am increasingly humbled by the service provided to those in need through your ongoing financial support. Wings of Mercy MN continues to serve the Midwest by providing non-emergency air transportation to those in need. And, access to some of the premier medical facilities in the country.

As you have seen in this current newsletter, we mourn the passing of our founder, Dr. David Van Nostrand. It was from his vision and sense of community that Wings of Mercy MN was created. The persons we have served in the five state area have benefitted greatly from his inspiration and kindness. Those of us who continue to carry out his legacy embrace his dedication to those in need and are committed to providing service to the communities you live in.

First, as a pilot, then as a Board Member and now as your President, I appreciate very much how Dr. Van must have felt when creating this wonderful organization. Where can anyone combine their love of flying with a deep sense of giving back as we do here at Wings of Mercy MN? The deep personal satisfaction each of us feels as we complete a mission is difficult to describe. As the patient disembarks the airplane at their destination; whether it is at the medical service end of the flight or back home; we feel the appreciation through the hand shake, the embrace or simply the smile. It is this genuine appreciation that motivates our pilots and nurses with a continued calling to contribute their time, talent and expertise to the organization Dr. Van created.

It is our hope to bring some comfort and peace to our recipients. Our volunteer pilots donate their expertise as well as their planes and the costs associated with their aircraft. **Wings pays nothing for maintenance costs, storage, training or anything else that is associated with keeping the plane and the pilot current. All pilots, nurses and other professionals come to Wings already trained and licensed.** Through our fund raising efforts, Wings of Mercy MN coordinates all flights and **reimburses** the pilots for the aviation fuel consumed during the flight; which accounts for only 27% of the total cost of the mission, the rest is covered by the pilot themselves.

Thank you for your continued support, it is your partnership in this mission that allows our pilots to take flight and transport passengers and care givers to needed medical care. We appreciate each and every donation.

Wayne D. Horntvedt

President

Wings of Mercy MN, Inc.