



Newsletter

March 2010
Issue No. 201001

President
Wayne Horntvedt

www.wingsofmercymn.org

"Providing Wings To Those In Need." This is a very honorable mission the volunteer pilots and nurses of Wings of Mercy provide. As I reflect on the past year and look forward to the next, many opportunities and challenges face our board, our volunteers and our patients.

Our Flight Director, Richard LaBute, coordinates the missions, matches the pilots and airplanes to the patient requirements and keeps us all informed of the continuing need for our service. It reminds us all of the impact we have on peoples' lives. I can't think of a more gratifying way to serve than sharing our love of flying with someone who needs transportation to a chemo appointment or a hospital stay. The last mission I personally flew was a gentleman who needed a life saving surgery at the Mayo Clinic. His last words to me were: *"You may not know this but you have just saved my life"*. Stories are the fabric of human interaction and our pilots and nurses create a new story on each and every mission. Even in these economic times and possibly because of this, the need for providing our service seems greater than ever.

Wings of Mercy Board members work tirelessly to keep our organization staffed with great pilots and nurses. Our annual benefit and fund raising efforts provide the needed resources to continue serving those in need. I want to thank each of our Board Members and our Outreach Director, Kate Ritzer, for their continued commitment to our mission.

The greatest commitment to our mission of *"Providing Wings To Those In Need"* is by our volunteer pilots and nurses. They deserve the greatest thanks by all of us. Our pilots not only donate their time and skill but also donate the use of their airplanes. In today's economic times, the cost of maintaining an airplane is higher than ever. We at Wings of Mercy depend on this generosity and ask all of you to thank them.

We at Wings of Mercy Minnesota continually search for ways to meet the needs of our patients. We are expanding our partnerships with other like organizations to provide a broader service when necessary. Patients within Minnesota sometimes need services outside our flying area. We have partnered with Wings of Mercy East Michigan to fly a Minnesota patient to Boston for treatment.

As we look forward to the future, I feel honored to be part of an organization with such a committed group of people, our Board, our pilots and our nurses. I want to thank them and I want to thank every one of



Adopt-A-Flight # 797.

Taylor Strand, a teenage 3rd degree burn victim. Dura Supreme Corp. sponsored this roundtrip flight from Anoka MN to Cincinnati OH.

Flight Director
Richard LaBute

Friends of Wings of Mercy

Thank you again for your on-going support of our mission to *"Providing Wings To Those In Need"*.

Since our last newsletter, Wings of Mercy has provided dozens of one-way and round-trip flights to local people with serious medical conditions and few, if any, financial means. Allow me to highlight just three of our recent missions.

Just last week, February 2010, Wings of Mercy MN again transported Susan from Buffalo MN. to Decatur IL for on-going experimental chemotherapy for metastasized breast cancer, which became lung cancer. This experimental treatment is only available in a few locations in the nation. Wings MN committed to Susan and her family for the duration of her treatment which began in September 09. Presently one of our aircraft/crew carries her to and from treatment approx. every two weeks. These on-going



**Flight Director
Richard LaBute**

Takeoff Weight

If you've ever watched movies involving air travel from the 30's & 40's, you will commonly see that in addition to their baggage being weighed, each passenger was also asked to step on a scale at the ticket counter, so the agent could record their exact weight. What you were watching was a detail of flying safety that still goes on today.

For a trip by car, you can usually pack it full of luggage, books, games and people without thinking about how much everything weighs. This is not so for aircraft. An airplane will simply not fly safely above a certain weight called the "maximum takeoff weight". Prior to every flight, including commercial jets, the total weight of the aircraft is calculated to make sure it's within safe limits.

Take, for instance, the plane I fly. It has a maximum take-off weight of 5600 lbs and it weighs 3800 lbs empty. That gives us 1800 lbs of useful load. It's always nice to have enough fuel, so let's figure we fill the tanks to the top before our flight. The plane stores 1000 lbs of fuel when full, which subtracts from our lifting ability, so our useful load is now at 800 lbs.

That means we have 800 lbs of lifting ability left. Wings of Mercy flights require two pilots. I weight 200 lbs while my copilot weighs 180 lbs. My flight bag, containing maps and headsets, weighs 20 lbs. So with both pilots on board, our lifting ability now stands at 400 lbs available for the combined weight of our passengers and their belongings. Quite a drop from the initial 1800 lbs!

The FAA says the "standard" weight of a passenger is 170 lbs. Using their number, we can carry two passengers with a maximum of 60 lbs of luggage. If a passenger weighs more than 170 lbs, their actual weight is used, which of course reduces the available weight for baggage. It's a trade-off.

Two days before a Wings of Mercy flight, the patient completes a form asking their exact weight and the weight of their baggage. This information allows the pilot to perform initial weight calculations for the flight, and discuss various options with the Wings of Mercy Flight Director, including shipping baggage by ground, if there are safety concerns.

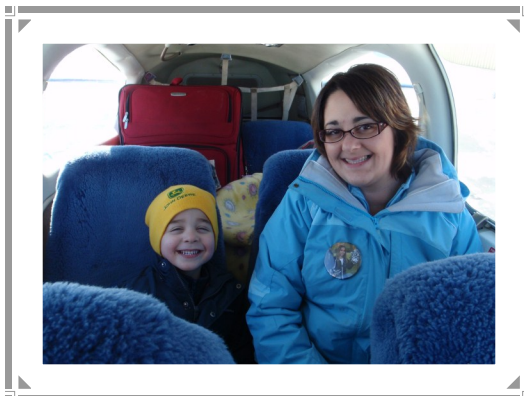
Friends of Wings of Mercy cont'd

missions represent a huge commitment for Wings MN, your sponsorship is welcome!

Just last month, January 2010, Wings of Mercy MN transported Kathy to Boston for a lung transplant. This was a particularly interesting mission for us in that Wings MN coordinated the missions with Wings East Michigan. Wings MN provided transport in a pressurized aircraft (so as not to aggravate her lung condition at altitude) from Rochester MN to Pontiac MI. From Pontiac MI, Wings East MI carried the patient to her destination in Boston. I received a very nice thank you card from Kathy last week expressing her appreciation to everyone involved. She is looking forward to her trip home with us, maybe in April.

Finally, for the purposes of this newsletter, there is Brooke. Brooke is a young teen from Bismarck ND with a case study worth of medical issues. Wings MN transports Brooke 1+ times per month from her home to the Twin Cities for treatment and/or surgery. This child has suffered through approx. 18 surgeries. These missions are also part of our on-going commitment to Brooke and her family.

There you have it from the Operations side of the house. On behalf of Glenn Young and me, we thank our friends and sponsors for your on-going support to our Mission. Until our next report, Fly Safe!



Adopt-A-Flight # 823.
Dalton suffers from severe epilepsy. Ms. Judith West sponsored his one-way flight from St. Paul MN to Bismarck ND.



*Mark your calendar now!
 Friday, September 17, 2010
 Fall Fundraiser Air Show plus Pig Roast
 Buffalo Airport*

Missions Summary Report

Monthly Breakdown

Year	Total	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1995	28				3	1	2	4	2	7	6	1	2
1996	42	1	5	3	2	2	1	1	6	8	4	5	4
1997	50	2	2	5	5	9	4	4	4	1	4	4	6
1998	42	3	3	2	2	3	9	1	9	3	4	0	2
1999	60	4	3	6	4	7	8	7	3	7	4	3	4
2000	79	7	7	9	8	10	2	6	2	4	7	10	7
2001	61	1	5	3	5	7	2	6	6	7	7	7	5
2002	105	9	3	12	6	11	5	14	9	11	5	12	8
2003	69	11	8	8	7	0	3	4	9	5	3	6	5
2004	54	4	6	3	7	0	3	7	2	4	7	8	3
2005	52	2	2	4	3	7	3	5	6	5	5	5	5
2006	69	8	2	9	5	2	6	6	5	5	5	7	9
2007	69	8	6	9	5	5	4	5	8	5	7	5	2
2008	31	3	2	3	3	0	1	3	2	0	4	9	1
2009	68	5	9	4	6	8	4	5	6	10	3	4	4
Totals	879	68	63	80	71	72	57	79	79	82	75	86	67

Total Beneficiary Mileage since beginning = 607,488.00

Total Beneficiary Mileage 2009 = 52,533.00

Children flown = 436 missions, adults = 407 missions. Totals do not add up to total number of missions because earliest missions did not compile statistics.

Wings mercy missions have transported patients to the following hospitals:

Mayo Clinic, Rochester	238	Milwaukee Cancer Place	15
Children's / Msp	53	St. Cloud Hospital	11
Gillette/ St. Paul	44	Bethesda, Twin Cities	3
Fairview Hospital, MSP	136	Children's, Out State	12
Parker Hughes, Roseville	47	Regions, St. Paul	2
Shriner's	125	Others	45

Pilot Volunteer Hours

Year	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2001	691						44	65	108	178	121	116	59
2002	1363	125	49	130	95	163	61	172	81	148	78	154	107
2003	916	164	108	99	99	0	48	63	127	60	38	65	45
2004	841	64	83	39	113	0	38	90	61	98	98	103	54
2005	787	29	33	68	54	105	40	70	88	92	56	77	75
2006	388	124	29	127	78	30	77	67	90	62	69	102	124
2007	1009	120	100	146	64	68	50	61	117	61	106	82	34
2008	402	24	38	35	40	0	10	31	32	0	60	118	14
2009	481	60	114	62	80	95	70	78	74	129	40	59	74
Totals	7923	710	554	706	623	461	438	619	778	828	666	876	586

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