

Spotlight on an Angel Passenger Johnny R.

by Cheri Cimmarrusti, Associate Executive Director

Johnny R. is 29-years-old, and was living the life that most young people do. That is, up until August 2011 when he noticed a lump on his head that turned into a scab. At the time, he thought maybe he had scratched it, but it didn't heal and kept getting bigger. His health insurance wasn't available until October 1st, so he had to wait to be seen by a doctor. When he finally saw a dermatologist the diagnosis was melanoma.

Johnny had the growth removed by a dermatologist in Visalia. Unfortunately, he began to experience multiple reoccurrences on his scalp. He had them surgically removed followed by skin grafts. The doctor also found swollen lymph nodes in his neck, surgically removing 44 of them. Four tested positive for melanoma. At the time, he was still seeing the dermatologist in Visalia.

In 2014, the melanoma had spread to his lungs. That is when his doctor referred him to the Angeles Clinic in Santa Monica where they were working on malignant melanoma with chemotherapy. Johnny began to make the long drive from

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L to R: **Passenger Johnny R. with So. CA Wing Command Pilot Jeff Moorhouse** flying home from Santa Monica, CA to San Luis Obispo, CA. Johnny receives chemotherapy every three weeks for metastatic melanoma. He is unable to drive due to the expense of driving and staying overnight, in addition to tiring easily from his treatments.

AFW Golf Fundraiser, Monarch Beach Golf Links at Dana Point, CA

The Angel Flight West Golf Classic is back! The fundraiser will take place on **Friday, October 21** at the beautiful **Monarch Beach Golf Links at Dana Point, CA**. In addition to fabulous golfing, we have planned a reception with wine and cuisine tasting, live and silent auction, and a short program. It will be a momentous day to connect with friends and colleagues, new and long standing. And all for a GREAT cause—to help more people with our transportation services.

Please join us in supporting AFW by becoming a sponsor or a golfer for the tournament!

For more than 33 years, AFW has been delivering help and hope by using donated flights to serve those with healthcare and other compelling needs. In 2015, we flew nearly 4,000 missions throughout our 13 western states. And with our *Ascent to 8000 Initiative*, we hope to double the number of people we help.

Date: Friday, October 21, 2016

Time: 10:00 AM – Registration 12:00 noon – Shotgun Start

4:00 PM – Wine Tasting & Reception & Silent Auction

5:00 PM – Reception & Program, Live & Silent Auction

Place: Monarch Beach Golf Links • 50 Monarch Beach Resort N. • Dana Point, CA 92629

Shoot a Hole-In-One and win a BMW, Lexus or Cadillac!

Get Closest to the Pin and enjoy a Tesla for the weekend! Have fun with our Helicopter Ball Drop!

You can sign up online by clicking the Golf Banner at the top of the AFW Website home page (<http://www.angelflightwest.org/golf/>) or call 310-390-2958 x110



ASK JOSH

by Josh Olson, Executive Director

Question: *"I recently signed up as an Earth Angel, how can I get started and best help?"* – Susan Chase

According to our friends at Health Outreach Partners, after treatment costs, transportation is the biggest barrier to accessing critically needed healthcare. Of course, this doesn't come as a surprise to any of our volunteer pilots, but it might surprise you that many prospective AFW patients refuse our donated flights because they can't afford and/or navigate ground transportation once they arrive at their destination. Volunteer pilot Sean McMillan saw a need for these services and started a program with the local Santa Monica Rotary clubs that we now call "Earth Angels." After a few years of testing that system and the Oregon Lions clubs adopting a similar program, we realized that air plus ground transportation is often the "curb-to-curb" service our patients need.

Thanks to some generous grants and donations, we've been able to build the infrastructure into our flight planning software AFIDS to recruit, sign up, and orient volunteer drivers, and schedule Earth Angel trips attached to flights when needed by the patient. And since advertising the need for drivers on Facebook, we've signed up hundreds of volunteer drivers in the past couple of months. If you are a volunteer pilot, you have likely seen these mission legs available. You can also sign up for them as a pilot if desired! I know some pilots have used the opportunity to divert the mission to their home base and drive the patient to treatment. It's also a great opportunity to recruit family, friends, and coworkers to

volunteer for AFW!

We will need your patience and help as we work out the kinks of technology and scheduling these flights with our volunteer drivers and pilots. It creates some extra workload for our coordinators and requires another piece of communication between pilot, passenger, and driver. Additionally, if you are a new driver like Susan, you can do what she did and volunteer to help us coordinate upcoming drives locally in your area. If you are interested in being a volunteer coordinator in your area, please let us know. It requires about 15-20 minutes per day using our system to email and/or call volunteer drivers in your immediate area about upcoming needs for volunteers.

We really want to thank and welcome our new volunteer drivers into AFW! We're so excited to have you as part of the AFW family. We're thrilled at the opportunity to enable more volunteer help to serve our passengers in need of health and hope. Like me, I'm sure you will find this among the more rewarding and inspiring experiences of your life as you meet people who are bravely battling difficult health and life situations as well as other volunteers that are generously donating their time, talent, and resources to help them. It's the secret sauce that has made AFW such an amazing organization for nearly 35 years!

Angel Flight West Wishes to Thank Our Top Contributors

June 25th to September 7



Green Foundation

A&E Networks

IMAX Corporation

Freshends

Employees Community Fund of Boeing California

Save the date! 
Endeavor Awards Weekend!

Saturday, May 6, 2017
The Endeavor Awards celebration
will be held at the
California Science Center
Los Angeles

AFW Calendar of Events

OCT	20-22	Aviation Expo, Palm Springs, CA
	21	AFW Golf Fundraiser, Dana Point, CA
NOV	28-30	CA State Rural Health Conference, Sacramento, CA

Contact Wings for local information or click on:
<http://tinyurl.com/pxv6cxc>

Spotlight ...continued from first page

Visalia to Santa Monica, and then from San Luis Obispo to Santa Monica, after moving there with his fiancée, Kristen, in 2013. One day, a neighbor told Kristen about AFW. A few phone calls later, working with our Operations Team, Johnny and Kristen were set to fly. This was a big relief for them both!

Johnny is continuing to work for Southern California Gas Co. and needs to take as few days off as possible. Flying with AFW cuts the time of his trips significantly, not only allowing him to miss less work, but to turn what was essentially eight hours per trip driving, into two short hours flying. We have also provided him with Earth Angels making his ride to and from the airport a breeze!

Johnny says, "It has been a real blessing to be a part of Angel Flight. It has really made our trips stress free. Not only is there financial help, but the mental stress of the long drive and the Los Angeles traffic really took a toll on me. I am so blessed to be able to use this service." So far, Johnny has had a total of twelve mission legs with eight different pilots!

Johnny will need two years of treatment at the Angeles Clinic. At this time, he sees no end to his need for repeat trips. Angel Flight West will be here for him as long as he needs us. Our hopes and prayers are that the doctors' work is successful, and that someday Johnny will no longer need AFW!



AFW Welcomes our
New Mission Coordinators!
L to R: **Anne Paik, Christine
Barton, and Kortney Davis**

New Beginnings At AFW Santa Monica Office

by **Cheri Cimmarrusti, Associate Executive Director**

There are big changes coming for the AFW Mission Operations Team. In the 19 years I have been here, this is the first time Mission Operations will be operating with a whole new team!

Sapeer Kadoch, who started with us in January, was given a great opportunity at USC to begin her Masters. We have been lucky enough to hire Anne Paik to replace her. Anne has a B.S. in Neuroscience from UCLA.

Isabel Sotomayor has been here for a year and will now be traveling while she applies to a Post Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Program. She will remain working on a project remotely by building a database of AFW and AFIDS related information that will be accessible by a simple FAQ type page, but more importantly, will be used as a training tool here at the office.

Our other new employee, Christine Barton, has a B.S. in Fashion Merchandising and extensive background in the commercial airline world. She served as chief liaison between customers, major corporate clients and airline management in Africa, Asia, and Europe. Christine is our second new Operations Coordinator.

For quite some time, AFW has needed a position

dedicated to outreach, communication and marketing. Please join me in congratulating Ivan Martinez as, in just a few weeks, Ivan will move out of Mission Operations and start work as the Director of Outreach and Communication. While I am very sad to lose Ivan as a part of our immediate Operations Team, I am thrilled to see him progress into this position and know that he will do a great job working to increase our missions and pilot numbers. Ivan will also be working with our Wing Leaders helping them build strong Wing Leadership Teams to grow our organization.

Moving into Ivan's spot is Kortney Davis. Kortney graduated from the University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Health Science and is working on her Masters at Antioch University. We welcome her to the team as our third new Operations Coordinator. While I will miss both Ivan and Isabel in Operations, I look forward to our new beginnings!

So, what does this mean for Mission Operations? It means I will be working with three new Mission Coordinators as we launch some new software to help improve our communications in Operations! AFW has always been at the forefront of technology, striving to improve our ability to coordinate missions! Pilots and passengers can expect the same high level of service they are used to receiving. Our passengers and pilots are our lifeblood. While I'll miss Isabel, and the day-to-day interactions I've had with Ivan, this new team will be fantastic!

Join me in sending good wishes to Ivan and Isabel, and to welcoming aboard Anne, Christine and Kortney! Good times ahead!

From Our Passengers Words of Thanks

The service was absolutely wonderful! Great coordination and my patient sang the praises of her pilots. Such an amazing resource!

– Social Worker
Amanda Harshbarger

I truly and very deeply appreciate Angel Flight. Without this service and the kind volunteer pilots I don't know what I would do. Cancer is hard enough–this is one thing that makes it easier. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

– Passenger Holly G.

Thank you so much for helping to provide this valuable service, especially in and out of Southeast Alaska on Alaska Airlines. My son has epilepsy which makes it very stressful to travel. Thanks for helping ease that stress.

– Father of Passenger Owen O.

I have never met a more dedicated group of individuals. This company has saved my life a couple of times, getting me somewhere I otherwise could not afford; as well as flying below a certain altitude that is vital for my health due to pressure changes. Thank you!

– Passenger Ashley W.

You've SAVED MY LIFE bringing me to and from UCLA for a liver transplant. You guys are ANGELS. Many blessings to you AFW.

– Passenger John M.

I couldn't have had my heart surgery without AFW. I would have passed away in six months because I couldn't afford the airfare to go to Anchorage to have the surgery. Thank you for giving me another chance to live a better life.

– Passenger Kathi C.

Thank you so much for everything you did for me. Being able to use AFW to see my specialist in Oakland, California allows me to continue to live in Alaska knowing that I am getting the best care possible regardless of where I am.

– Passenger Abigail T.

Thank you so much for donating your time and resources to fly our kids to Camp Laurel this summer! It's only thanks to big hearted supporters like YOU that The Laurel Foundation is able to offer free week-long camp programs to children and youth affected by HIV/AIDS throughout California and Nevada. Angel Flight and its volunteers are such a tremendous blessing to Camp Laurel and the families we serve!!! We so appreciate you all!!!

– Coordinator Lauren Franklin



Left **No. CA Wing Command Pilot Pedro Zadrozny**, **passenger twelve-year-old Zackareya H.** (in wheelchair), his grandfather and legal guardian Raymond and two cousins David and Elijah, on their way home from “Heroes & Villains Fan Fest” in San Jose to Sacramento. Zack was a VIP attendee thanks to the Make a Wish Foundation. **No. CA Wing Command Pilot Fritz Glasser** and **AFW Earth Angels Michael McDonald and Rodger Barkoff** also made this happen! Zack is battling his second go-round of a very aggressive cancer. The family's resources have been depleted by continued medical costs and contributing to expenses for multiple grandchildren.

BEST WAYS TO DONATE TO AFW

Angel Flight West exists solely on the generosity of those who support our amazing organization.

We want to extend a huge thank you to all of our generous supporters who enable our life-changing gifts of flight!! The best way to give to AFW is, of course, volunteering your time. It's the most valuable asset any of us have, and it's what makes the AFW experience so rewarding. For every one dollar required to arrange a flight, six additional dollars are donated in-kind by our volunteer pilots and commercial airline partners like Alaska Airlines.

As we grow by finding, serving, and arranging more flights for people in need of our services, AFW requires more resources to efficiently and effectively accomplish our mission. Currently, we rely on individual donations, grants, and fundraising events to sustain and grow our services.

Did you know that you can donate securities, such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds or ETFs to AFW? For gifts of publicly traded securities held longer than one year, you can claim a charitable deduction for the full market value of the securities on the date the gift is made, regardless of what you

originally paid for them. In addition to the charitable deduction for taxes, you may also avoid paying capital gains tax on the amount of appreciation on the security. That's right, you get a deduction for the gift and pay no capital gains tax on the appreciation! Giving appreciated securities is a tax-smart way to support AFW. Appreciated securities can be transferred to AFW in a variety of ways.

Even after you retire your wings, you can give through planned giving. Naming AFW in your will or estate plan, even if you can't give what you'd like right now, is a special way that you can help fulfill our mission for years to come. Planned giving allows you to include charitable donations in your overall financial plan, which helps to ensure the future of AFW.

There are a number of other ways to leave a legacy:

- Bequests made in your will or trust: you can choose a specific dollar amount to pass on or you can provide a specific percentage of your estate.
- You can designate a specific asset (like a residence or piece of art).
- You can provide for your loved ones first and designate AFW to receive the remainder of your estate.

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To view all AFW Command Pilots who have flown missions in the last 90 days click on or go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/mwsv2s7>

Congratulations to AFW's Executive Director, Josh Olson

Josh has been selected to receive the Distinguished Recent Graduate Award from Marylhurst University for making significant contributions in his career. The award will be presented at Reunion 2016 on Saturday, October 22nd at a celebration luncheon. Congratulations, Josh, from the AFW family!



Seven-year-old **Christopher W.** on a 3-leg mission. The 1st leg flown by **CO Wing Command Pilot Duane Button** from CO to WY, the 2nd leg by **WY Wing Command Pilot Jack Schulte** from WY to ID, and the last leg by **ID Wing Command Pilot Ryan DeLuca** (pictured) from ID to MT. Single mom Elizabeth has low income and no reliable vehicle. Christopher is being treated for burns at the Burn & Reconstruction Centers of Colorado.

Air to Air

- ✈ Our sincere condolences to the families of **AFW Command Pilots George Mitchell, David DePaolo, Carl P. Walter, and Robert Drescher**. We are saddened by the passing of these wonderful AFW volunteers.
- ✈ Our condolences also to the family of AFW **passenger Christian L.**
- ✈ Welcome to our **new So. CA Wing Leader Genevieve Lavin**, who is succeeding the **incredible Vince Giampa**. Vince has done a wonderful job leading the So. CA Wing for many years, and we cannot thank him enough.
- ✈ The aviation-focused company **Scheyden** offers a 50% discount to AFW members on their eyewear products. Use the promo code ANGEL on checkout at: <http://scheyden.com/>
- ✈ **glassybaby**, a private Seattle company of handmade glass votive candle holders, donates a percentage of profits to charities that help cancer patients. AFW is one of these fortunate charities. Go to website at <http://glassybaby.com/power-of-giving>
- ✈ You can donate miles to **AFW via Alaska Airlines** at: <http://tinyurl.com/993tk7s>
- ✈ **Amazon Shoppers!** We will receive a portion of your Amazon purchase if you click on: <https://www.amazon.com/?tag=afw-homepage-20>, which will take you to the Amazon page for AFW.
- ✈ **AFW Store!** In conjunction with Land's End, AFW is offering a variety of men's and women's clothing and other merchandise for purchase. Click on: <http://tinyurl.com/lq27xg2>
- ✈ **Phillips 66®** has agreed to provide AFW pilots a \$1-per-gallon avgas rebate. Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/ha2gxyv>

Best Ways to Donate to AFW ...Continued from page 5

Leaving a legacy bequest in a will or trust is one of the simplest and very popular ways to make a planned gift, yet there are also other ways such as:

- Retirement Plans
- Life Insurance Policies
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Charitable Remainder Trust

In addition, you can DOUBLE your impact to AFW through your employer's matching gifts program. Did you know that on average, one in 10 companies match employee donations? By simply completing a matching-gift form from your company (ask the human resources department), you may be able to double (or even triple) the impact of your donation to AFW. Some employers even include spouses and retirees in their matching-gift program. For example, if you

contributed \$500 and your company matched that amount, you would be enabling four missions instead of two!

We encourage you to take advantage of this great program in two easy steps:

1. Ask your HR department if your company participates and complete their form.
2. Contact Angel Flight West and let us know that you are participating.

If you're interested or want to learn more about how to donate to AFW, please contact us at 310-390-2958 or email josho@angelflightwest.org. We even have volunteers who will provide their services to help you plan if desired.

Thank you for continuing to help AFW now and as we continue to spread our wings through your generous gifts of all kinds! You've definitely earned your wings!!

From A Pilot

by Tom McGrath,
No. CA Wing Command Pilot



No. CA Wing Command Pilot Tom McGrath flying Catalene, Yamila, and Anna (not in photo) to Camp Pacifica, a camp for deaf and hearing-impaired children. Mission Assistant Marianne Bertoldo is in the plane. Below is Tom's old AFW Mission Report Form used by pilots before AFIDS. Read his story to the right.

On the nostalgic side of things, I was looking at my logbooks of "firsts" across a number of categories and found this is my 25th year flying with AFW (and was also flying with AirLifeLine at that time). My first AFW flight was with patient Bob C. from Palo Alto to Van Nuys on May 8th, 1991.

As I was going through my notebook (paper and real photos) from 1998 to 2005, I found my old mission assignment form (left below) of my second mission for patient Ken P. from Santa Monica to Sacramento. That was the form we used then.

When I look through that notebook, you can see the computer coming into play, and forms changing rapidly as AFW honed the operation for more volume. I remember there were times I'd be searching for a mailbox to send in my flight report form—even knocking on doors to ask someone to mail it! Now with the computer and AFIDS, it's much easier. So much easier that I sometimes forget to send it in!

Unfortunately, I lost my previous notebook on a mission with earlier flights from '91 to '98 and the photos in it. My old notebook had repeated entries of some of the great coordinators—Susan Connor, Cheri Cimmarrusti, Kathy Ezemoli, Mary Beth Ventrice, later followed by AFW Coordinator (short hand for more great people like Josh and Ivan). I kinda miss the days when we actually talked with who was helping the patients at headquarters. It's different getting missions online now instead of connecting to the great folks making this wonderful mission happen at the mother ship. Yet, I don't know how we would be able to reach many more people in need without AFW's mission computer system.

Remembering those days/nights when Susan, Kathy, Cheri or Josh would call directly knowing they had one to fill and knowing the pilot on the other end would help if at all possible makes me still happy to have experienced it. What a great team!

95/14/1998	09:21	3182379638
ANGEL FLIGHT MISSION ASSIGNMENT FORM		
(310) 280-2982 or (800) 4 AM ANGEL		
P	Ken Peterson	PL's first flight?
98873	Age 44	
Fri, May 15, 1998	Weight 230	
Scheduled DATE OF TRAVEL	888 Wilshire Way	address
Cheri Cimmarrusti	City	State
Coordinator's name	City	State
(310) 390-2958	City	State
Companion (s)?	City	State
Coordinator's phone (day/night)	City	State
Karalyn Frick	Origin: SMO	State: CA
AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE	State: CA	
John Wayne Cancer Institute	Destination: SAC	State: CA
REQUESTING AGENCY	State: CA	
AGENCY DEPARTMENT	Date flown	
(310) 218-6128	DATE OF REQUEST	
Agency Phone	DATE OF REQUEST	
PILOT	CO-PILOT	
Aircraft type	Is	cost/yr.
Day/night	expenses	Total Cost
FLIGHT TIME: Patient has 1:00 PM appointment and needs to arrive by 12:00.		
MISSION COMMENTS: Patient is participating in an experimental cancer recreation program.		
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS (INTERNAL ONLY):		
DESTINATION: Dr. Fishag at 310-315-4125 or 310-829-8447		
MEDICAL RELEASE REQUESTED: 42598 MEDICAL RELEASE RCVD: 42598		
DOCTOR'S INFO: Doctor in Sacramento is Dr. Gregg Fulton 916-989-1030.		
FINANCIAL INFO: PL has a job and insurance, but social worker says that the family is without other resources.		

Friends and family are honored and remembered through donations made to AFW in their names.

June 25th to September 7

In Memory Of

- Sue Blevins
- Mike Bond
- Hermie Chatfield
- David DePaolo
- Sherry Brink Hood
- Josh Merrill
- William Merrill
- Frank Moreno
- Peter and Kathleen Tomarken
- Carl P. Walter

In Honor Of

- Linda Wilson
- Travis E.
- Jerry Forston
- Craig Greenberg
- William Leland
- Greg Lennox
- Kathleen Maxfield Phelps
- Kyle Moffat



Angel Flight West
3161 Donald Douglas Loop South
Santa Monica, CA 90405

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So. CA Wing Command Pilot Pete Van Helden flying these **happy campers** to Camp Pacifica, a camp for deaf and hearing-impaired children and their families. This is AFW's biggest camp of the summer in CA. Mission assistant and photographer Jerry Phan says: "This is their first plane ride. All the family came and did a circle of prayer in sign language with AFW pilots Pete and Woody for a safe flight and a fun camp. Really amazing to see."



No. CA Wing Command Pilot Richard Gerry with **passenger Waring P.** on their way from Oakland, CA to Ashland, OR. Waring is being seen for a pre-surgical orthopedic consultation due to nerve damage of his shoulder. He receives SSI, has no travel resources, and the treatment is not available where he lives.

Angel Flight West delivers health and hope using donated flights to serve those with healthcare or other compelling human needs.