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WINGSPAN

Angel Flight Central's E-News Update for AFC Volunteers and Partners

Summer 2015

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Greetings from Angel Flight Central!

Greetings from Angel Flight Central! Our

"E-News Update" is intended to keep the AFC family informed about the organization's happenings, news and successes. You

are encouraged to pass this newsletter on to your friends and family as we hope to build and maintain awareness and presence throughout our 10-State region. Enjoy!



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ANGEL FLIGHT CENTRAL ANNOUNCES 2014-'15 VOLUNTEER HONORS

The humble and generous work of the Angel Flight Central volunteers remains the heart-and-soul of the organization's impact and success. The 2014-15 fiscal year was no different, with over 9,000 hours donated by AFC Volunteers to serve people in need. While there were many individual volunteers who went above and beyond the call, three honorees were identified who helped lift the organization to a new level. AFC is proud to announce the 2014-15 Volunteer Award Winners.

Join our list

Pilot of the Year:

Joe Ratterman & Right Seat Co-Pilot, Wife, Sandy

There exists seven very stringent categories of achievement that must be met in order to qualify for AFC's Volunteer Pilot of the Year Award, and Joe and Sandy Ratterman went the extra-mile even beyond the qualifications! "The Ratterman's generous spirits have lifted the entire organization to new levels", said Don Sumple, AFC CEO/Executive Director.



*Joe and Sandy
Ratterman*

Joe and Sandy joined AFC just five short years ago, and have amassed 75 total flights (at the time of printing). They successfully completed 23 last year, which includes several flights that were "special" circumstances due to time-frame and distance. The Ratterman's are so quick and willing to respond to the needs of the organization! On the ground, Joe and Sandy have been donors and participants of Wine Flight, assisted greatly with community outreach and education, and are the creators of the "Ground Support Team" concept, where friends and family are offered the opportunity to support AFC by learning about each of the Ratterman's flights. The Ground Support Team donors are responsible for "adopting" several dozen additional flights each year. Additionally, Joe is an active member of the AFC Board of Trustees! Congratulations and thank you Joe and Sandy!

Volunteer of the Year

Michael DeMarea

AFC is truly blessed to have many wonderful and dedicated volunteers. Determining "the" volunteer who has gone above-and-beyond is never easy. However, numbers don't lie, and volunteer Mike DeMarea separated himself by accumulating 481 hours of service to AFC last year~ placing himself at a level most deserving of the 2014-15 Angel Flight Central Volunteer of the Year.



*Michael
DeMarea*

Mike comes into the office faithfully twice a week and works a four hour shift each time. Mike spends most of his time in mission coordination answering the phone, screening passengers and calling AFC pilots to fill open flights. Mike also assists with outreach events, was a Wine Flight Committee member, donor and attendee. He is also very creative and will make commemorative craft items to hand out as gifts to special-event attendees; which we love! Mike is a compassionate individual who believes in AFC's mission and we are so grateful that he gives his time, talent and treasure as a ground volunteer for AFC. Thank you, and congratulations Mike!

Distinguished Service & Leadership Award

John "Jack" Kennedy

The 2014-15 Angel Flight Central Distinguished Service & Leadership Award is presented to Mr. John (Jack) Kennedy. Jack served Angel Flight Central in numerous capacities. He was a pilot who transported individuals in need. Jack also served on the Board of Trustee and held the position as VP or Resource Development. On September 1st of 2009, he began his two year term as President and Chairman of Angel Flight Central. His leadership, business acumen, people skills and vision led the organization through the tumultuous times of a failing economy. In addition to everything just mentioned, Jack was a 7-year Board Member for Air Charity Network, earned AFC's "Excellence in Development Award" in 2009 and was one of a very few to have reached the Golden Eagle Society "Gold Level". It is with great pleasure that we present Jack with the Distinguished Service and Leadership Award!



Jack Kennedy

Wings & Wedges is Moving to Chicago!



Like golf? Then you won't want to miss participating in Angel Flight Central's **8th Annual Wings and Wedges Golf Tournament** on Friday, September 18th at a brand new location! This year's event will take place at the Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago.

Wings and Wedges organizers, Steve and Angela Pearson, are excited about moving the event to the Chicago Metropolitan Area. You can fly in or drive to this grand event benefiting Angel Flight Central, your charitable aviation organization helping Midwestern neighbors by arranging charitable flights to health care or other humanitarian purposes. Click [here](#) for all of the details.

Two Big "THANK YOU's" from AFC

AFC would like to thank passenger, Kimberly Dowd, from St. Louis for holding an incredible fundraiser to benefit the ongoing mission of Angel Flight Central. Kimberly's event was held at Sheldon Hall in St. Louis and included a live and silent auction, heavy appetizers, a cash bar and a concert. Sheldon Hall was rock n' to the sounds of a wonderful Elvis impersonator which Kimberly sang backup with for the second half of the



Kimberly Dowd, past passenger and current hero of AFC!

concert. Kimberly and her team did an incredible job with this first class event.



Jim Hassenstab,
AFC Pilot and
Immediate Past-
President of the
Board

The second thank you is handed out to AFC Board Member Jim Hassenstab and his wife Rose who is AFC's State Chair in Nebraska. The duo hosted the "Second Annual Hangar Happy Hour" in Omaha at Signature Flight Support. Jim and Rose received incredible support from AFC Pilot John Mcleay who provided wonderful support in bringing the event together. The Hangar Party featured incredible food and drinks, a chance to win a weekend get-a-way to the incredible Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island in Michigan plus a couple of opportunities to get fly with Jim and John for a \$100 hamburger.

The events in St. Louis and Omaha were greatly appreciated by everyone involved with AFC. These events helped us spread the word to others about our service. They allowed us to share our mission with potential pilots who might be willing to join our team and make a difference in an individual's life. They also raised much needed funds for AFC to maintain its operation like it has for the past 20 years. So here is a "BIG Salute" to Kimberly, Jim, Rose and John!!!! Thank you for your efforts and a hearty thank you to all who attend and supported these two wonderful events.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH ANGEL FLIGHT CENTRAL

The Social Connection - Facebook

Join us on Angel Flight Central's official [Facebook](#) page! Our supporters are critical to AFC's mission of arranging charitable flights and we need you to help spread the word. That is why we love Facebook! What an easy way to support a cause that is important to you by simply sharing stories, pictures and thoughts. We appreciate all of our supporters every day and welcome your feedback. Let us know how we are doing!

Make Plans to Celebrate the Big "20" with AFC!

Wine Flight 2015 Coming in November!

Come and enjoy yourself at one of the nation's premier wine events, Wine Flight 2015. Wine Flight will take place on Friday November 20, 2015 at the Starlight Theatre in Kansas City. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the fun and entertain will continue until 11 p.m.



Wine Flight is made possible through the generosity of Doug Frost, one of only four people in the world to hold both Master Sommelier and Master of Wine titles. Doug is the founder of The Jefferson Cup Invitational, an annual wine competition where hundreds of winemakers submit their best wines for consideration by a panel of renowned wine critics. The top picks receive Certificates of American Merit. All bottles are then donated to Angel Flight Central for Wine Flight. The evening offers you a unique opportunity to join more than 425 community leaders and enjoy great wine and food while supporting the mission of Angel Flight Central, a 501c(3) nonprofit organization.

Sponsorship and ticket information is available in the "Events" section [here](#). Wine Flight, November 20th, a perfect way to kick off your Holiday Season while supporting a charity that has been serving people in need by arranging charitable flights for health care or other humanitarian purposes for 20 years!

Wishing You & Yours a Healthy & Happy Autumn Season!

The AFC Staff would like to thank all of our volunteers (both pilot and ground) and each of our donors for providing the support that is necessary for this organization to continue our mission. It takes a team effort to maintain this organization on a daily basis.



Your Friends at Angel Flight Central

Angel Flight Central's mission is to serve people in need by arranging charitable flights for access to health care and for other humanitarian purposes. Angel Flight Central assists children and adults with free long-distance transportation and supports pilot and outreach volunteers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Angel Flight Central, Inc., formerly Wings Over Mid-America, Inc., is a non-profit volunteer pilot organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under I.R.C. sec. 501(c)(3).

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