ANGEL FLIGHT WEST FACT SHEET

Angel Flight West bridges the gap between home and health by arranging free air transportation for people who need to access medical care and other essential services.

What We Do

- Angel Flight West (AFW) links volunteer pilots in private aircraft and our commercial airline partners with people in need whose health care and other circumstances require them to travel to and from facilities to access services. The costs of all flights are donated. There is never a charge for an Angel Flight West mission.
- In addition to medical flights, we arrange transportation for other humanitarian purposes, such as individuals and families escaping domestic violence; injured military personnel taking part in therapeutic programs offered by veterans’ organizations; and prospective parents hoping to adopt a child. Because not all healing takes place in the hospital, Angel Flight West also serves as the “official airline” for a number of children's special needs camps attended by youngsters and teens.

Where We Do It


How We Do It

- Support of Angel Flight West programs produces an exceptional return on investment. Because all flight costs are donated, each dollar awarded allows AFW to provide $3.00-$4.00 in services.
- We have more than 1,200 volunteer pilots as well as 200 ground volunteers who help with outreach, pilot recruitment, arranging flights, and ground transportation. Alaska Airlines donates 900 tickets to AFW each year, primarily to fly people from Alaska to the Lower 48 but also for those times when weather prevents small aircraft from taking to the skies. Hawaiian Airlines donates tickets for residents who need to fly island to island. Additionally, there is a relationship with PenAir to assist those families in Alaska living in regions not served by Alaska Airlines.
- Our Mission Operations team is responsible for scheduling each mission. Every flight begins with a contact from a physician or case manager who verifies the passenger’s circumstances, ensuring that our services are directed to those most in need. Because our passengers’ schedules often change, for every three missions flown, we arrange five.

Our Passengers

- One-third of AFW passengers are children or youth; half are ethnic or cultural minorities, and 80% are designated at low- or poverty income levels. Every mission we fly positively impacts someone’s life.

Accomplishments

- Since the organization started in 1983, we have successfully completed over 54,000 missions that comprise more than 321,000 hours and 15.9 million miles flown – the equivalent of $38.9 million in flight costs donated by AFW’s volunteer pilots and commercial airline partners.
- In 2012, we filled over 4,000 flight requests for 400 hospitals and agencies.
- For four consecutive years, Charity Navigator has awarded Angel Flight West an exceptional four-star rating for sound fiscal management & transparency.

For More Information

For information about Angel Flight West:

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