Wyatt’s parents have used Angel Flight West only a few times. Christine says, “We can afford to drive ourselves, but that’s not the point. Driving five hours with my husband and I both having to take time off work has become a burden. And having a 13-year-old at home alone also takes time away from our family. Flying with AFW has been a blessing and the pilots are just amazing. Dennis Bracken, who flew Wyatt, told me that he does it because it’s his passion to fly and that he wants to use his service for people who need it. I know the truth of this because it shows.” Christine asks anyone who listens to donate to AFW because she has experienced the toll it takes to care for a seriously ill and very loved child.

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUNDRAISER**

*We’ll climb above, together*

While these are undeniably turbulent times, no one navigates turbulence better than a pilot. We understand the need that hospital and medical workers are facing right now. Although we have temporarily suspended volunteer-flown missions for patients, we have pivoted our services to provide emergency assistance to:

- Transport healthcare workers and other first responders to high-need areas.
- Expand necessary blood, cargo, and goods transport (face masks, hand sanitizer, ventilators, and other essential PPE and supplies).
- Provide assistance to patients needing ground transportation to their required appointments.

YOU can help us get these supplies where they need to be, help the frontline workers get to the areas with the highest need, and help ensure our healthcare personnel have the critical protective equipment they need to keep them protected as they continue saving lives. We welcome your support of these efforts with a donation towards this emergency assistance fund.

We ask for continued thoughts and prayers for our patients, healthcare workers partnering this crisis, and all those affected. We’ll climb above COVID together.

**Thank You to Our Sponsors**

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[Link to Emergency Assistance Fund]

**Angel Flight West Volunteers During Coronavirus**

On the morning of March 30, 2020, Denver Command Pilot Phil Rosnik took off from Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport with 85 pounds of hand sanitizer in his Cessna Turbo 182 for delivery to Wray Community District Hospital. Colorado Hospital Association (CHA), like all others across America, is struggling to get urgently needed supplies to rural hospitals.

“Forty-three percent of Colorado's hospitals are rural,” says CHA Vice President Julie Lonborg, “which can present challenges when trying to restock vital supplies quickly. Colorado Hospital Association is incredibly grateful to AFW and its volunteer pilots for making their service available.”

Wray’s CEO John Hart said, “Wray Community District Hospital is grateful for AFW today. Cases of hand sanitizers were delivered this morning and distributed to the hospital, clinic, and nursing home. Thanks to Phil Rosnik with a heartfelt elbow bump for making the delivery. This is great coordination with many entities from the front range to the eastern plains!”

Phil adds, “Every day I get to fly is a good day, but a day when I get to fly an AFW mission is a great day. Having a meaningful way to help out in a crisis, or to help bring a patient to needed treatment, is a special privilege for a life-long general aviation pilot!”

**Thank You for Your Support!**
Helping to Relieve Pain for a Terminal Teen

Thanks to your support, Angel Flight West gives passengers relief when traveling by car is physically painful.

M ya is a very busy sixteen-and-a-half-year-old teenager who attends public school and volunteers for a myriad of children’s programs. She won student of the year, and yet she told her mom Carly, “I just want to be a normal kid.” Mya was born with brittle bone disease, a condition that causes continuous fractures mostly in her femurs and hips, producing ongoing pain. She’s had surgeries to alleviate the pain, but her disease is terminal and she is on palliative care.

When she was younger, Carly would drive 50-60 trips by car from Missoula to Spokane, hoping the medical staff could find a way to help her daughter. She didn’t seem to find any answers there. She drove from Missoula to Salt Lake City where the medical team there was also unsure of how to help her. These car trips were hard on Mya’s body. In addition, the driving and medical care were draining Carly's family financially. Finally, she was able to get help at Seattle Children's Hospital and at Bellevue in pain management, but her disease is terminal and she is on palliative care.

Meanwhile as Mya has grown, she developed thoracic outlet syndrome, and scoliosis, and her spine is now pushing into her brain stem. In addition, she now has sleep apnea and 50% lung function. Despite the endless pain and worsening physical complications, her mom says, “Mya never complains, talks about her terminal illness, or shows any weakness. She’s very smart and kind and just pushes through everything. When we’re in the plane,” Carly continues, “it gives me a chance to breathe, not cry all the time, and relax for a little while because Mya is not in pain. It seems like so little, but it’s really so big.” Carly adds, “Many who know Mya say that she is the definition of courage and compassion.” Both Mya and Carly are an example for us all.

A Grateful Family

F or Wyatt’s first four years he was always on the go. At five, when he started complaining of headaches, mom Christine thought maybe it was just dehydration. After one debilitating headache, Christine took him to the doctor at Children’s Hospital in Bakersfield on May 2, 2019. The diagnoses were a DIPG brain tumor, chiari malformation and hydrocephalus, the last requiring a shunt and the first: terminal. The doctors referred the family to a hospital in San Francisco where they were told there were very few options other than chemotherapy and radiation. So, hours and miles of driving to doctors began.

Christine learned of a doctor in Michigan who was researching a trial drug for this type of brain tumor and Wyatt was accepted. AFW flew father and son. The doctor performed new tests that showed a different type of brain tumor, more rare than previously diagnosed; however, just as fatal with nine to 18 months life expectancy. Wyatt is in his 10th month. As the year has progressed, Wyatt’s body is failing. Parts of his limbs are locking so it is difficult for him to sit, a problem especially if he has to drive five hours again to San Francisco where he’ll be treated if he is let out of the trial. He is also losing speech, which is becoming “frustrating for him and for us,” Christine says.

(continued on back page)

With your help, AFW is able to lessen the pain of travel for Mya who suffers from brittle bone disease and car travel is painful.

THANKS to YOU!

THANKS to YOU!