Help AFW Patients Fly Another Day

Your gifts now will ensure AFW continues to grow pilot recruitment and outreach to healthcare providers to make more people aware of our services.

For patients who must receive care now, AFW is one of the safest ways they can travel long distances without exposing themselves to the Coronavirus. As doctors begin to reschedule appointments, our services will be more in demand than ever and we need to be prepared to fly patients another day.

Please consider a one time gift or monthly donation to keep our life-saving flights going. Make your gift here: https://afids.angelflightwest.org/give

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AFW, Alaska Airlines & Southwest Airlines Help First Responders

AFW is grateful to have partnered with Alaska and Southwest Airlines in getting COVID-19 medical personnel to and from their assignments.

Alaska Airlines generously donated miles to AFW to arrange transportation so COVID-19 first responders could get to and from their assignments. As of this printing, Alaska Airlines has flown 121 medical personnel and 391,812 miles.

In addition, as a thank-you, Alaska Airlines is donating a free round trip, which they call an “R & R Ticket,” to each first responder who flew with them to the front lines. Passenger Justin Ireland who volunteered his paramedic services and travelled via Alaska Airlines to an underserved hot spot area in Chicago says, “I am so appreciative of AFW and Alaska Airlines for making my trip to Chicago happen! Paramedics don’t do what we do for the money, nor recognition, but out of a sense of duty. This gift of transportation allows us to fulfill our mission of ‘helping others at all times.’” From a very grateful

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With Love, From Strangers
Your donations have helped save lives in suffering tribal communities.

"With Love, From Strangers" is not just a sign-off phrase at the bottom of a letter -- it's the name of a nonprofit organization begun by Dr. Christina Thuet. After spending many years as a pediatrician caring for children of southwest tribal communities, Dr. Thuet knew all too well the battle against COVID-19 in this geographically isolated and resource-limited region. As the infection rate on the Navajo Nation began rising rapidly in March, she began contacting everyone for donations and many "strangers" came forward including AFW. (Ultimately, the Navajo Nation held the position as the highest infection per capita rate in the country in May.)

Dr. Thuet's nonprofit has banded together with AFW and volunteers from all over Utah and other states, and in only six weeks delivered over 40 tons of much-needed PPE, medical supplies, and family care items on 130+ flights to 11 healthcare facilities and tribal communities spread across the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, White Mountain Apache and San Juan Paiute reservations. AFW Wing Leadership volunteer Joanne Brattain introduced Dr. Thuet to AFW and pilots Mark Miller and Steve Bollinger. On the occasion of the partnership's 100th COVID-19 relief mission, Steve said, "Since we hadn't been able to fly our normal missions for patients during the pandemic, we're grateful to be able to help those that have been hit the hardest."

A physician at one recipient hospital wrote, "We wanted you to know how palpable the confidence was when we received the reusable PPE gowns you delivered. Three days after your gowns arrived our disposable supply would have been critically low. So thank you, again."

If you'd like to learn more about With Love, From Strangers go to: https://www.withlovefromstrangers.org/about-us

AFW Helps Rural Colorado Hospitals in Need
Thanks to you, many CO rural hospitals were able to receive desperately needed PPE and remain open.

Before COVID-19, Vice President for Rural Health and Hospitals at the Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) Benjamin Anderson had a personal relationship with Angel Flight after using AF Central to fly his son to the Mayo clinic. So, when the COVID crisis hit, and the Colorado Governor's Task Force connected to Project C.U.R.E. to procure PPE for rural hospitals, Benjamin knew that AFW would help deliver them. Sixty-two AFW pilots flew 115 flights to 32 of the 43 rural hospitals in the hardest hit rural areas of Colorado.

Benjamin says: "Rural hospitals are at the end of the supply chain with needs that go beyond just during the COVID crisis. AFW helped prevent hospital closures and save lives by getting health care workers what they needed." Supplies are still needed and Benjamin thinks "this may be a one-to-two year problem because of future outbreaks."

I was fortunate enough to have spent the majority of my time welcoming new life into a pandemic-filled world. I won't forget the patients who labored/birthed alone due to visitor restrictions or the families who lost infants due to complications. I find comfort in knowing I was able to support the hospital staff and patients as best as I could."

In total as of this newsletter, AFW has served 147 first responders through Alaska Airlines and Southwest. Thank you to both these incredible airlines for their generosity during this unprecedented crisis.

Alaska Airlines & Southwest Airlines continued from page 1...