Too many families know that the rising cost of healthcare can wipe out their precious savings. Pete and Susan know this only too well due to the costly treatment of Pete’s cancer. His chemotherapy treatments require frequent visits traveling 800 miles round trip by car. Transportation for his healthcare is an added hidden cost both financially, due to travel expenses, and physically as Pete’s illness and side affects of treatment can leave him uncomfortable and nauseated.

From the time the engine is turned on to fly one of Pete’s frequent missions, to the time it is turned off, an AFW pilot has donated his or her plane, expertise, time, and money. In 2012, our pilots and commercial airline partners donated $3.35 million dollars in services. This generated a significant reduction in healthcare costs for the 4,007 missions flown out of the 6,880 missions that were arranged.

“The real heroes of Angel Flight West are the courageous patients and families that we fly.”

–Volunteer Command Pilot
Imagine being a kid at summer camp and having to explain why you have scars on your arms or your face or your legs. Schendel is on her way to camp for burn survivors where she’ll be amongst other kids with the same health challenge. She looks forward to this every year because there she can feel just like another regular kid at camp.

Schendel was one of 521 camp missions flown to 16 different special needs camps throughout our 13 western state region.
An illness can take many resources to bear. An ill child often seems more resilient than some adults because many children don’t know any different.

Eight-year-old Larry has never had any solid food since he was born. He has a genetic defect of his liver and intestines. Liquids are injected directly into his lower intestine through a feeding tube. Larry travels to UCLA Medical Center for a series of transplants that will give him what many of us take for granted—the taste of real food.

In 2012, Angel Flight West provided 861 flights for children like Larry.
617 medical professionals requested flights.

1,463 Command Pilots and ground volunteers helped make our mission reality.
1,036 Command Pilots flew missions.
265 new members joined.

Although dealing with multiple issues associated with premature birth, twins Maci and Peyton have much to coo about. The twins are unable to travel by car for ongoing check-ups because of their vulnerable condition. The problem is relieved by AFW pilots, and the twins’ unemployed parents can now put their time and energies towards more important things.

Leidy’s dad struggles in an unstable job barely making minimum wage and unable to provide transportation for his five-year-old daughter’s frequent liver/small bowel transplant appointments. Leidy enjoys this part of her care—“the airplane ride”—the best.

“Thank you so much for helping us with our patient, Jose L.! Big brother said he’d never been in a plane like that before. We were happy to see them, because they’ve missed several scheduled appointments with us due to transportation issues.”
–Hospital Social Worker
“...I remember when I was injured and unable to drive, our pilot not only flew me to my destination, but also drove me in his personal vehicle all the way to my clinic.”

–AFW Passenger

In addition to their flight costs, AFW volunteer pilots personally paid $35,915 for commercial tickets when an AFW mission was canceled due to weather.

Alaska Airlines donated 850 tickets to our mission. In addition, AFW is a premier charity for Alaska Airlines Mileage Program allowing more AFW missions to be completed. You can also donate your frequent flyer mileage at http://tinyurl.com/993tk7s
Approximately 449,000 nautical miles were flown for a total of 9,717 volunteer hours.

130 passengers needing ground assistance were driven from the airports to their destinations by volunteers in our Earth Angels program.

Angel Flight West is proud of our continued association with the Wounded Warriors Program and to have flown WW II veterans to Washington, D.C., as part of the Honor Flights.

"You probably do not know that these flights have been the highlight of my stressful, hectic life as of late. I look forward to them and the couple of hours when I have no worries and can just sit back, relax, and enjoy the flight."

–AFW Passenger
The mission began in 1983 with a few generous pilots wanting to do more than just fly their planes. The fifteen Angel Flights that were flown that first year were arranged by phone from a paper list. Today, pilots can request a mission with a click of a key. This is accomplished through our Angel Flight Information Database System 2.0 (AFIDS 2.0) originally designed by a volunteer member and now updated in 2012. We are proud to offer AFIDS 2.0 free to all volunteer pilot organizations in order to coordinate flights for needy passengers across the country.

“When I first joined AFW, I was hoping to do some good and log a few hours in the air. I never expected to be so touched by the opportunity to help so many wonderful people in a unique way.”
– Volunteer Command Pilot
For the second year in a row in 2012, Angel Flight West received Charity Navigator’s 4-star rating recognizing good governance and best practices, consistently executing its mission in a fiscally responsible way.

At 29 years old, Jason should have been hanging out with his wife and buddies, building a career, family and doing what any 29-year-old would do. But for Jason, life took an unexpected turn in the form of a malignant brain tumor that he battled for five years—and sadly lost. His wife says AFW’s “help allowed us to focus on exploring life together rather than worrying about how we were going to get to his doctor’s appointments. With no treatment available here in New Mexico, it was imperative that we get to a brain tumor center such as UCSF. Your team made sure that we were taken care of in our time of need.”

Over 200 blood donation missions were flown for those in need of life-saving transfusions.
Angel Flight West filled in the last blank in my list of needs for the surgery that has changed my life.”

—AFW Passenger

We would like to thank every one of our generous donors. Please know how much we appreciate your efforts to help us continue our mission.

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”I can’t possibly tell you how much it means to patients when I tell them what I can arrange for them through your generosity, when they feel they have nowhere to turn for help.”

–Social Worker
“Most patients are severely financially stressed from lost wages and mounting medical and household bills. They simply cannot afford airfare to Seattle for the potentially life saving or life extending treatment they so desperately need.”

–Social Worker
Every effort was made to make this list of cash donors as accurate as possible; in-kind donations and membership fees are not included. Should there be any error, we apologize and ask that it be brought to our attention via info@angelflightwest.com.

Financials

Ending net assets at December 31, 2012 totaled $1,225,641, consisting of $892,821 in unrestricted net assets and $332,820 in temporarily restricted net assets.
“These flights not only give patients access to care, but also hope for themselves and hope for humanity that such generosity exists.”
– Susan B. Merrick, Oncology Social Worker, Anchorage, AK

The costs of all flights are donated. There is never a charge for an Angel Flight West mission.

OUR MISSION
Angel Flight West arranges free air transportation in response to health care and other compelling human needs.

OUR VISION
Angel Flight West is dedicated to removing lack of access as a barrier to health care.

OUR VALUES
Angel Flight West is committed to helping one person at a time, to supporting the strength that lies in our grassroots, and to continuing to maintain a culture of professionalism.