Can One Person Make a Difference?

When I stepped into my role as president of Wings of Hope in 2015, I was excited. It seemed like the perfect opportunity for me put to use my dual passions for aviation and servant leadership. I was also a little intimidated. Wings of Hope has a long and illustrious history of doing good on a global scale. As I pulled into the parking lot my first day on the job, I wondered: “What can I, one person, do to make a difference at a place like this?”

If I’ve learned anything my first year here, it is that one person can, most certainly, make a difference. I’ve seen the difference one pilot can make to a woman in complicated labor in a remote village in Nicaragua whose only chance of delivering a healthy baby is a one-hour flight to the hospital.

I’ve seen the difference one teacher can make by teaching English to the sons and daughters of subsistence farmers growing up in rural Cambodia. Because that one teacher cares, those children can grow up to attend university and choose a future they never could have dreamed possible.

I’ve seen the difference one doctor can make to a young person who almost gave up all hope as she rapidly lost the ability to walk, hold a pencil, speak and even feed herself—until that doctor offered her a diagnosis and treatment plan that allowed her to see a path to recovery.

The truth is, every single good that is achieved in this world begins with the deliberate choice of one person to help another. Each choice sparks a one-to-one connection that creates an opportunity for someone to be healthier, more educated, less impoverished. Wings of Hope is simply a series of those one-to-one connections rippling out on a global scale.

As you read about our work both in the United States and abroad, please remember that behind every story, every life saved and every successful mission is one person doing his or her best to make a difference for someone else. It could be a pilot, a teacher or a doctor—but it is also the volunteer who stuffs a thousand envelopes to help us raise funds, the mechanic who works through the weekend to make sure our planes are safe, and the first-time donor who mails in a check for $10 because he wants to help. These are the ones quietly making a difference in the world by serving those who would otherwise be forgotten. And in my first year at Wings of Hope, I have been blessed to meet dozens. They inspire me with the good they achieve—and affirm that, yes, one person can make a difference.

Don Hamblen, President
Our Mission
Wings of Hope is an aviation nonprofit working around the globe to lift people in need toward health and self-sufficiency.

Our Vision
We envision a world in which all people have access to the resources they need to create a better life.

Our Work
We work in Africa, the Americas and Asia, partnering with communities to improve their HEALTH, EDUCATION, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND FOOD SECURITY.

- We are the only free medical air transport service with specially equipped aircraft in the United States, providing seriously ill individuals access to lifesaving treatment and medical specialists.
- We are a recognized international resource—twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize (2011, 2012).
SERVANTS of the Sky

Wings of Hope is almost entirely powered by volunteers. So many roll up their sleeves and jump in when we need them so we can get the work done and complete our mission. And we need every single set of helping hands to help us lift up those in need. Our volunteer pilots perform some of our most challenging work. Their heroic efforts are rewarded with a front-row seat to seeing the difference we are making in the lives of those we serve.

T.J. Stewart
PILOT, NICARAGUA
TJ flies emergency medical evacuation flights out of remote villages to hospitals in nearby cities. "Looking back on my one year here, I am filled with gratitude and joy for what has been accomplished. But the unlimited possibilities of what lie ahead are, to me, far more exciting. There is still so much to do."

Elsa Klarich
PILOT, TANZANIA
Elsa flies into remote villages to vaccinate children and set up clinics for pregnant women. “When you’ve actually seen a life being saved, you remember that. It’s a blessing from God.”

Dick Horowitz
CHIEF PILOT, MEDICAL RELIEF & AIR TRANSPORT (MAT) PROGRAM, UNITED STATES
Dick’s primary focus is safety—of our patients and our pilots. “The central theme is we are here to help people who need help, to help them have a better life in some way.”

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

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<tr>
<td>100+</td>
<td>ST. LOUIS-BASED VOLUNTEERS</td>
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<td>PILOTS (U.S. &amp; INTERNATIONALLY)</td>
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HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS GLOBALLY

NINE GLOBAL PARTNERS

- Adventist World Aviation (AWA)
- Belize Emergency Response Team (BERT)
- Flying Medical Service (FMS)
- FlySpec
- Iglesia Centro Cristiano Siloh
- John Givonetti Giving (JGG)
- Nari O Sishu Kalyan Samitee (NSKS)
- Shwe Parami Foundation
- Transfedha

DOMESTIC MAT PROGRAM HEALTH NETWORK

- Barnes-Jewish Hospital
- Cincinnati Children’s Hospital
- M.D. Anderson Center
- Mayo Clinics
- SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center
- St. Jude Children’s Hospital
- St. Louis Children’s Hospital
- Shriners Hospitals
Our Medical Relief & Air Transport (MAT) Program provides health care access to those in need, primarily children with life-threatening disabilities, birth defects or chronic, complex illnesses. We research and coordinate treatment, searching all viable options, including research hospitals, experimental treatments, specialists and university programs.

We transport patients to treatment until they are better – even when it requires several trips to support repeat therapies, multiple surgeries and follow-up care.

We are the only FREE medical air transport service in the U.S. with specially equipped aircraft that can accommodate stretchers, wheelchairs and medical equipment. We own our aircraft and maintain them to strict Wings of Hope and FAA standards.

Our staff of volunteer pilots, mechanics, doctors, nurses and patient flight advocates must meet our strict training and licensing requirements. Our focus on safety underscores everything we do.

"There are so many sick children in hospitals or at home with home health care that need to get to other places in the United States to see a specialist. We are so grateful to the Wings of Hope program that has truly had a large part in transporting our daughter to the right doctors which, in turn, saved her life."

– Marianne, mother of Claire, left, former MAT patient

U.S. MEDICAL RELIEF & AIR TRANSPORT PROGRAM
IMMUNIZATION AVERTS AN ESTIMATED 2-3 MILLION DEATHS EVERY YEAR.
But an estimated 18.7 million infants worldwide are still missing out on basic vaccines.*

**Tanzania**
In the remote areas we serve in Tanzania, there is only one doctor for every 125,000 people. We partner with Flying Medical Service, an organization that has been serving the Maasai and Sanjo tribes for more than 30 years. Our flying medical clinics visit each village every two weeks. Over a 3-day clinic, we vaccinate up to 500 babies – protecting them from deadly childhood diseases.

**Myanmar**
In rural Myanmar, we are bringing doctors and medical care to people using two donated diesel busses that we converted into mobile medical units. Our initial focus is providing cataract surgeries – and the sterile environment that the busses provide helps prevent infection which can lead to blindness.

**Nicaragua**
On the Northeastern Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua, it can take a day or more traveling down the Rio Coco River to reach the nearest hospital. We provide emergency medical evacuation flights, as well as medical and dental clinics – offering the Miskito people a chance at health and hope for the future.

**Zambia**
In Zambia, we support FlySpec, a flying medical charity that provides orthopedic and reconstructive plastic surgery to the rural poor. The majority of their work consists of flying volunteer surgeons into remote hospitals to provide corrective surgeries for children with cleft palates and clubfeet.

*Source: World Health Organization - www.who.int
“Putting a smile on children’s faces is not easy when there is no food in the family. Giving them education and good health is a mere dream when there is poverty in the home.”

— Mary used a microloan to build a successful dairy business and lift her family out of poverty.
Kenya
In rural Kenya, we provide microloans and business training to help women start small businesses as a means out of poverty. They use the money to pay for food, medical care and school tuition for their children. One of the most successful businesses is dairy farming.

India
Our program is located in Odisha, the Indian state with the highest level of child malnutrition. We help women form self-help groups and start small businesses, like handcrafted jewelry. We build women’s work centers, where they can meet, produce goods, share resources and store inventory. These centers are vital in a community in which women are not allowed to work alongside men. They use the income they earn to feed their families.

"I will build a school to assist poor children from around our villages so as to empower young ones." —Fancy, left, a successful dairy farmer who wants to share her good fortune with others.
FOOD SECURITY

Ecuador
From 2010-2015, we supported tribal groups in the Amazon basin of Ecuador through a “chicken program,” providing families baby chicks and feed to grow a sustainable source of protein. In those five years, we delivered more than 10,000 chickens to more than 1,000 families. Plans are underway to introduce a similar program, on a pilot basis, to support a women’s shelter and orphanage at another international site. These efforts grow out of a “teach a man to fish” philosophy, in which we provide the resources and training to support communities in creating sustainable programs.

EDUCATION

Cambodia
We support an education outreach program for students living in poor, rural villages of Cambodia. By teaching children the two skills they need to get into college – English language and computer skills – we offer the sons and daughters of subsistence farmers the opportunity to break out of a life of poverty.
“English is very important in Cambodia. If you know English in the country, you can find a good job with a good salary.”
- Sokhary Kong Pavese, Chairman, John Givonetti Giving, Wings of Hope partner in Cambodia.
We take pride in being good financial stewards of our donors’ dollars. In 2015, more than 92 cents of every dollar we received went directly to helping the people we serve.

In 2015, our programs reached thousands of people in 11 countries, including the United States.

We have received the coveted Four-Star Rating on Charity Navigator for several years running, putting us in the exclusive company of only 6 percent of charities that have received four stars at least five consecutive times. We are also a GuideStar gold participant. These two designations recognize our financial health and transparency.

Our 2015 990 and audited financials can be found on our website, www.wingsofhope.ngo.

Focus on Nicaragua

Nicaragua was one of our more active sites in 2015. Using a Cessna 172, our pilot, TJ Stewart, completed 89 medical air transport flights. Most of these were young women in distress during complications associated with pregnancy and labor. TJ also transported premature and sick babies and adults with a variety of ailments (e.g., cancer, pneumonia, infections, head trauma, broken bones, etc.).

Last year, TJ also used our plane to fly volunteer doctors, dentists and supplies into villages to support free medical and dental clinics. IN 2015, WE SERVED 275 PEOPLE IN THESE CLINICS.
In 2015, our Medical Relief & Air Transport Program provided 929 patient flights, accommodating both patients and their caregivers.

We support Belize Emergency Response Team (BERT), which provides all emergency land and air ambulance service in the region. BERT transported 336 patients in 2015.

English language peer tutoring program for 587 children in three schools covering 20 villages.

The sustainable food program has distributed approximately 10,505 chickens to 1,127 families in 35 villages in the Amazon rainforest region since 2010.

In 2014-15, our in-country partner, Nari O Sishu Kalyan Samitee (NSKS), trained 1,180 women—and 1,046 are currently pursuing entrepreneurial activities such as making leaf plates, stone statues and incense sticks. NSKS has linked 967 women with a local bank for credit.

In its first two years of operation, our microfinance partner, Transfedha, served 457 clients, 82% of whom are women—and they continue to expand.

Two city buses converted into Mobile Medical Units can see up to 10,000 people during a 3-4 day clinic. The buses were intended to extend that reach, and will now be used as sterile operating theatres primarily for cataract surgery.

Effort has served 364 people directly, either through emergency air evacuation or free medical or dental treatment. In 2015, our pilot transported 89 patients for emergency care. We also partnered with a U.S.-based solar company to electrify homes in three villages impacting 150 people.

Normal monthly medical clinics are attended by 200-300 people, while special trips during the month serve approximately 60 people. 250 + 60 = 310 X 12 months = 3,720 served yearly.

Reaches 25 settlements, every two weeks, with fly-in medical clinics serving those with no other access to health care. In 2015, the total number of patients treated, vaccinated, provided with prenatal exams or evacuated to a medical facility was a record 31,099, including 19,557 children who received vaccinations.

In 2015, FlySpec made 79 visits to hospitals, saw 4,754 patients and performed 1,317 corrective surgeries.
Our Young Ambassadors mission is to engage, empower and inspire young professionals aged 21-45 to create cross-cultural connections and help address global problems while building awareness of Wings of Hope. Our membership-based program supports the international projects of Wings of Hope through social, educational and fundraising events.

NEW & EXCITING IN 2015

We spread our wings into several uncharted territories in 2015. We gave our website a new look – and a new name (www.wingsofhope.ngo) – to better reflect our mission and tell our stories. We ramped up our participation in social media, taking it from virtually nil to a robust presence on Facebook and Twitter. We participated in our first online giving campaign—a wildly successful endeavor that we hope to build on in 2016. And we started a young friends group to engage a more youthful base of supporters.

YOUNG AMBASSADORS

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UPDATING A CLASSIC!

We updated our logo with a clean, contemporary look that still evokes our history and our roots in aviation. The airplane image features four quarters, each symbolizing one of our service areas: health, education, economic opportunity and food security. The upward arc represents our mission to lift up people in need.

GIVE STL DAY

On May 5, 2015, Wings of Hope participated in 24 hours of online giving called Give STL Day. This was our first significant participation in social media fundraising. We were delighted - and, frankly, humbled - by the high participation levels that resulted in us raising $69,285 in just 24 hours and ranking second in total dollars raised among the 790 participating St. Louis nonprofits.

HELLO, N, G & O!

We welcomed three new letters to Wings of Hope in 2015: N, G and O. You will see them in our new website (www.wingsofhope.ngo) and in our new email addresses (firstname.lastname@wingsofhope.ngo). Dot-ngo is the new worldwide standard for charities that are non-governmental organizations. Wings of Hope does not accept government funding, so dot-ngo is actually a much better representation of who we are than dot-org, dot-com or any other dot.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Wings of Hope is now on Facebook and Twitter!

www.facebook.com/wingsofhopeinc
@wingsofhope Ngo
n July 2015, I was honored to be named the new chairman of the Wings of Hope Board of Directors. One of my first commitments was to create a formal annual report to keep you, our friends, informed about how your support is impacting people in need around the world. In this, our first formal annual report, I am pleased to report that Wings of Hope is financially sound and fulfilling our vision.

2015 was marked by expansion in programs, development staff, Medical Relief & Air Transport (MAT) flights, revenue and expenses. Income from donated aircraft sales and our annual dinner auction (which exceeded expectations) - and additional fundraising from our development staff - helped us successfully support our programming in the U.S. and worldwide.

Still, challenges remain. The demand for our MAT flights outpaces our capacity; new and existing partners continue to request our assistance; and we labor to maintain and refurbish aircraft. Each of these challenges requires increased resources, both financial and human.

With these challenges in mind, our board of directors, guided by our executive committee, has refined our vision of providing hope. In an effort to build on our strengths and bolster our impact, we have realigned our mission with our roots in aviation. We have grown over the decades. This has been good for those we serve, but presents management challenges. To support our executive committee in their faithful stewardship of our resources, we have created the following new committees: investments, insurance, human resources and compensation, aircraft acquisition and sales, public events, and development. We reengaged our current board members in our mission and added new members – increasing our collective wisdom and diversity, and lowering the board’s average age. This newly reenergized board secures a bright future for Wings of Hope.

I hope you find this annual report enlightening. If you have questions, would like to support Wings of Hope, or just want to talk about our programs, please contact me.

Steve Akre, Board Chairman
Wings of Hope is an aviation nonprofit working around the globe to lift people in need toward health and self-sufficiency.

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