A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead, American cultural anthropologist

As I look back on my first year at Wings of Hope, I keep reflecting on the thread that runs through everything we do: our volunteers.

When I say everything, I mean it literally. Every activity we do is directly touched by the hand of a volunteer. From the more visible activities of our pilots who fly medical missions in the U.S. and around the globe…to the unsung heroes who assist us through their administrative work and event support…to those who engage new volunteers and donors in our mission by representing Wings of Hope in the community, our volunteers are the engine that runs this organization.

In 2017, our volunteers dedicated thousands of hours of service to Wings of Hope. As much as I am humbled by this staggering amount of hours and the boundless energy they pour into their service, I am equally impressed with the experience and professionalism they bring to us.

Our pilots come to us after successful careers flying for commercial airlines, in the military, or for corporations. Our finances and database are managed by volunteers with years of professional experience in these areas. Many of our patient flight advocates are highly skilled nurses. Our hangar is full of retired engineers and mechanics.

What all our volunteers share is a passion for our mission – and their enthusiasm is infectious.

In my short tenure here, we’ve received a number of unsolicited donations – some quite significant – from new donors who learned of us from one of our volunteers. I have welcomed many new volunteers who have joined us because they were brought to us by a friend.

Throughout this report, you will read stories highlighting how we’re using our wings to lift up those in need all over the globe, and how our volunteers are indeed the thread that holds the Wings of Hope fabric together.

I dedicate this annual report to our volunteers.

In gratitude,

Bret Heinrich
President and CEO
OUR WORK

OUR ROOTS ARE IN AVIATION. In 1965, we sent our first plane to the field to deliver medical care and resources to starving people in Kenya. Aviation remains central to our mission.

In 2003, we established our Medical Relief & Air Transport (MAT) Program to fly individuals with serious health conditions to transformative care at the country’s best medical facilities. The Wings of Hope MAT Program is the only free medical air transport service in the U.S. with airplanes specially equipped to accommodate stretchers and medical equipment.

Through in-country partnerships, our International Programs support some of the poorest communities of Africa, Asia, and Central and South America. We use airplanes to fly people in remote areas to emergency medical care. We also fly doctors into communities with no local health care. With self-sufficiency as the goal, we’ve partnered with communities on other opportunities to improve their health, education, food and financial security.

OUR MISSION

We are an aviation nonprofit delivering humanitarian programs 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.

WHO WE ARE

262 ST. LOUIS-BASED VOLUNTEERS

25 PILOTS (U.S. & INTERNATIONALLY)

282 VOLUNTEERS AT INTERNATIONAL FIELD SITES

9 GLOBAL PARTNERS

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

DOMESTIC MAT PROGRAM HEALTH NETWORK

Barnes-Jewish Hospital
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital
M.D. Anderson Center
Mayo Clinic
SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center
St. Jude Children’s Hospital

St. Louis Children’s Hospital
Swedish Medical Center
Shriners Hospitals
Wilson Disease Center of Excellence, University of Michigan

Health Network

Strength in Numbers

[ 3 ]
U.S. MEDICAL RELIEF & AIR TRANSPORT PROGRAM

Our Medical Relief & Air Transport (MAT) Program provides medical air transport services, free of charge, to individuals who need specialized medical care that is not available to them locally. Using aircraft specially outfitted with stretchers to accommodate fragile and non-ambulatory patients, we fly individuals to hospitals and treatment centers in 26 states within a 600-mile radius of our St. Louis headquarters.

Deborah Becker stopped by Wings of Hope seven years ago, after retiring as a flight attendant and service manager for a commercial airline.

“I wanted to volunteer,” Deborah says, “and I thought it was the right fit.”

When Deborah was asked if she would lead our team of patient flight advocates (PFAs), she had one question: What’s a patient flight advocate? She quickly learned that it was the person who meets the patients when they come to Wings of Hope for a medical air transport flight and, again, when they leave. She also learned it was the perfect role for her.

Like many of our PFAs, Deborah often goes the extra mile to make sure the people we fly feel comfortable. She talks about a little boy and his mother who spent three months at St. Louis Children’s Hospital, with no family in town. Deborah visited them at least twice a week and, oftentimes, she would take the mom shopping or out to lunch.

Why do you volunteer? “You get to see patients over and over again,” she says, “and you develop a relationship. Even if it’s someone new, it’s making them feel comfortable about flying on a small plane.”

Deborah says most people light up when they see someone waiting for them. But what’s the best part of her job?

“What’s really rewarding is the progress you see.”

Elizabeth

Born premature and with mild cerebral palsy, Elizabeth spent the first five years of her life pulling herself around using her forearms, aka doing the “military crawl.” We flew Elizabeth from rural Kansas to St. Louis Shriners Hospital for major surgery – and continue to fly her for post-op treatments. Now, she is walking with a walker!
195 Flights
2 Pilots per flight
= 390 Flight Hours

2.5 hours (pre- & post-flight)
975 hours (pre- & post-flight)
= 1063.7 Total Flight Hours
total time on all 3 planes

$72/hour (for experienced pilot)
2038.7 Total Hours
= $146,786.40 Grand Total

2017 MAT STATS

20 Volunteer MAT Pilots | 202 Patients Served

WHAT OUR VOLUNTEER PILOTS ARE WORTH… IN DOLLARS AND CENTS
**Belize**
- 137 medevac patients

**Nicaragua**
- 46 medevac patients
- 12 women entrepreneurs trained
- 730 children fed weekly

**Paraguay**
- 89 medevac patients
- 953 patients treated in medical and dental clinics
- 2,160 individuals provided food, agricultural assistance and education

**Puerto Rico**
- 1,000 people received relief items
*Puerto Rico was a one-time disaster relief effort, not a Wings of Hope field site.*

**Kenya**
- 1,034 entrepreneurs provided loans
- 3,491 individuals provided financial education

**Zambia**
- 4,931 patients offered medical care

**Tanzania**
- 24,700 patients treated in fly-in clinics
International Programs at a Glance

We are an aviation nonprofit, and two-thirds of our international field sites use aircraft to help people. When it makes sense, we also support programming that falls outside of the confines of aviation. These include on-the-ground efforts to improve health, food security, as well as income and education opportunities. In many cases, projects support multiple goals.

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In 2017, Wings of Hope DIRECTLY SERVED

45,656
AROUND THE WORLD

Belize
- 198 women supported in Self Help Groups
- 1,286 teenage girls provided health education
- 388 teachers trained

Cambodia
- 977 middle school students taught English
- 63 high school students trained to teach
- 12 students supported in university

India
- 1,286 teenage girls provided health education

Papua New Guinea
- 249 patients treated
- 1,300 children vaccinated
- 1,900 individuals provided health education

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PARAGUAY
We partner with Iglesia Centro Cristiano Siloh in serving more than 3,000 people annually through monthly flights into 16 indigenous communities. In 2017, we provided medevac services to 89 people, treated 534 patients in medical clinics, provided 419 dental care, and delivered food, agricultural assistance and practical teaching on family, health and vocational skills to more than 2,160.

NICARAGUA
We support Adventist World Aviation in providing emergency medical evacuation flights (46 in 2017) to people in remote villages. We also support a sustainable chicken hatchery operated by 12 women entrepreneurs – producing eggs that help feed 730 children five days a week, serving 14,600 meals a month via a local children’s feeding center.

BELIZE
We provide our partner, the Belize Emergency Response Team (BERT), a volunteer pilot and annual maintenance of their aircraft which they use to support medical air evacuation coverage for the country’s 380,000 people. In 2017, BERT flew 137 individuals to emergency medical care, up 17% from the previous year.

VOLUNTEER FIELD DIRECTOR
Cliff Schisler
Cliff Schisler has been field director for Wings of Hope in Paraguay since 2012.

“I came to Paraguay as an evangelical missionary, leaving a good job at UPS in Portland, Oregon. I wanted to pursue a more honorable vocation, in my opinion, of helping others find purpose in life and improve their possibilities for a better future.”

Why do you volunteer? "Some of the greatest satisfaction I have comes from seeing people develop their potential out of practically impossible situations. A case in point are two young brothers who have come from the indigenous communities and are now living in a boys home we have – working, studying and preparing for the future."

Beyond providing humanitarian assistance to indigenous communities, Cliff and his team have successfully engaged Paraguayan leaders in supporting a children’s home, a school aimed at lower-income families, and a boys home where young men form a committed group and, through discipline and hard work, are developing their potential.

“Of course, I will not take credit for all of this. Without God’s help and a good team of hardworking people, none of this would have been possible.”
BELIZE VOLUNTEER PILOT
Ken Pratt

Wings of Hope volunteer pilot, Ken Pratt, generously covered a gap in service in Belize during the two months between previous pilot TJ Stewart leaving and new pilot Michael Valley taking over. Ken flew for our MAT Program prior to signing up to help out in Belize.

Why do you volunteer? “I see my aviation career as having unfolded in three phases: First, I served my country. Then, I had the opportunity to build a successful airline career. Now, I have the time and financial security to serve those in need, domestically and abroad.”

One of Ken’s favorite poems is “The Bridge Builder” by Will Allen Dromgoole. It describes an old man traveling a “lone highway” who, after crossing a chasm, builds a bridge to provide safe passage for others who follow.

“I see myself as a bridge builder, working to span the gulf for those who need to get somewhere that seems impossibly far away,” Ken says. “I seek to ease the journey for those who are also traveling the ‘lone highway’ of life.”
KENYA
We partner with Transfedha Microfinance in providing microloans, education and mentoring to help women entrepreneurs start and grow small businesses as a path out of poverty. In 2017, they issued 1,034 loans and provided financial education to 3,491 individuals. As the women's financial security has improved, so, too, has the health and school attendance of their children.

TANZANIA
For more than 20 years, we have partnered with Flying Medical Service. Their fly-in medical clinics serve 25 Maasai settlements, focusing on prenatal and infant care. In 2017, they treated 24,700 patients — vaccinating more than 16,000 children and providing prenatal care to 3,368 women.

ZAMBIA
We support FlySpec, the only orthopedic and reconstructive surgery service providing care via airplane to remote parts of Zambia at no cost to patients. In 2017, the FlySpec surgical team saw 4,931 patients and performed more than 1,388 operations, the majority of which were corrective surgeries for children with cleft palates and clubfoot.

Jackline Kirui and her husband, Daniel, are school teachers who founded Transfedha Microfinance in Bomet, Kenya, to address the widespread poverty in their community.

"My volunteering at Transfedha started way back in 2010 when I got employed after graduating from university. Back in the village, poverty was the order of the day in every home — no food, no shelter and people dressing in rags because of extreme poverty.

"Mothers were the most affected as their husbands resorted to drinking alcohol to escape the reality at home. My employment was a blessing to not only me, but also to the whole society as people started resorting to our home to beg for all the basic needs. My husband was facing the same challenge, so we sat down and decided to help the members of our society establish their own sources of income. This was the birth of Transfedha."

Why do you volunteer? “Poverty is the worst disease. My joy is in transforming mothers from beggars into economic pillars in their homes.”
Bill Patterson started volunteering at Wings of Hope after retiring from a successful business career 20 years ago. Bill came to us with a private pilot’s license and some mechanical skills, and we trained him to be an A&P/IA (Airframe and/or Powerplant) certified mechanic, authorized to do airplane inspections. Bill flew hundreds of hours as a volunteer pilot for our MAT Program. He has completed inspections on our planes in Guyana and Nicaragua. In both 2016 and 2017, he flew to Tanzania to perform annual inspections on the two planes our partner, Flying Medical Service, uses for fly-in medical clinics.

Why do you volunteer? Bill has always been an extremely active individual, and retirement didn’t change that.

“I’m not going to retire and look at the sunset,” he says.

Bill says his interest in aircraft initially led him to Wings of Hope, and he very quickly bought into our mission. His personal motivation is simple: “There are good things that need to be done.”
CAMBODIA
We partner with John Givonetti Giving in a peer tutoring program that trains high school students to teach English to middle school students in farming villages. In 2017, we served 977 middle school students, trained 63 student teachers, and provided university scholarship support to 12 student volunteer alumnae. The first nine student volunteer alumnae graduated university in 2017.

INDIA
Our partner, Nari O Sishu Kalyan Samitee, supports 68 women in Self-Help Groups (SHGs) who earn $52, on average, per month making and selling incense. Project Keep Girls in School addresses poverty, women’s health, and the dropout rate among teen girls by supporting 10 SHGs (130 women) selling biodegradable sanitary pads and distributing 10,000 brochures – educating 1,286 girls and training 388 teachers in 2017.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
We partner with Lewis Jungle Ministries in serving the Sepik Region, a remote area with minimal health care resources. In 2017, they completed 29 emergency transports to the hospital, treated 42 people in clinics, and administered medical care to 178 patients in their home. They vaccinated 450 children (providing an extra 850 doses of vaccines) and provided health education to 1,900 people.

CAMBODIA FIELD PARTNER
Sokhary Pavese
Sokhary co-founded John Givonetti Giving’s (JGG) peer-to-peer English language teaching program in Pursat Province, in the same rural village in which she grew up. She says she was motivated to start teaching English to young students in Cambodia, “because without English, the door to higher education and a successful future will be closed.”

“So many rural children in Cambodia lack the opportunity to learn English well,” she says. “This was my own experience as a student. I wish to give the children in the villages JGG serves the best chance for success.”

Sokhary says the greatest impact of the program has been the number of students graduating high school – and now university – with a good foundation in English.

“As these students go on to complete university and begin successful careers, the community is learning how important education is,” she says. “This understanding has increased students’ interest in all their subjects, not just English.”
WHY DO YOU VOLUNTEER?

“I know the students in our program can be successful, but most will never reach their goals without the support of an organization like JGG. So, I want to give them all the opportunity they deserve. In the long term, it will take educated workers to fully develop the Cambodia economy.”
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS
In the hangar and around the globe, our volunteers were busy keeping our wings flying all year long.

HELPING IN THE HANGAR Our hangar crew was in overdrive in 2017, preparing 24 aircraft for service or sale.

HELPING PUERTO RICO We joined the Greater St. Louis Business Aviation Association in raising $4,726 to ship supplies collected by students to 1,000 people impacted by Hurricane Maria.

TASTE OF HOPE Our Young Ambassadors put on their first culinary event in the hangar, raising $12,700 for our international programs.

30 YEARS OF SERVICE We celebrated our longest serving volunteer, Gene Pfautsch.

2017 HOPE IS WHERE THE HEART IS GALA More than 80 volunteers worked tirelessly to pull off our most successful dinner and auction yet, raising $300,000+ for our MAT Program.

BELIZE PLANE SWAP Pilots, Rick Oloteo, Ed Schertz and Don Hoerstkamp, delivered a Piper Cherokee to our field site in Belize and brought back N206KY – our very first MAT plane!
2017 FINANCIALS

Expenses

- Program Services: 83.1%
- Administration: 16.9%

Income

- Contributions & Grants: 72%
- Fundraising Events: 12.4%
- Investment Income: 14.5%
- Other: 1.1%

Our 2017 990 and audited financials can be found on our website, www.wingsofhope.ngo.

Plane Donations Power Programming

Our retrieval, delivery and maintenance (RDM) team, led by Chief RDM Pilot Don Hoerstkamp, collected 22 donated aircraft and returned them to our hangar in 2017. In recognition of their generosity and heart for service, we present each donor with our highest honor: the Order of the Aviator. We are able to use some of these donated planes in the field to support our international emergency medical flight services and our U.S.-based Medical Relief & Air Transport Program. Those that are not suitable to handle field work are sold and the proceeds are used to support our programming. In 2017, sale of donated aircraft generated $448,863.78 for Wings of Hope.

Give STL Day Drives Donations

On May 11, 2017, we participated in our third consecutive Give STL Day. Out of more than 800 participating St. Louis nonprofits, Wings of Hope ranked 3rd in amount of total donations. Through 122 individual donations and a very generous $25,000 donor match, we raised nearly $57,000 during the 24-hour online giving event. We always say we have the world’s best supporters – and this is why! Thank You!
We are happy to recognize donors who support Wings of Hope with their generous donations of $100 or greater.

$100,000
Fabick Charitable Trust
William R. Jr. And Laura Rand
Orthwein Foundation

$25,000 - $49,999
Costco
Emerson Charitable Trust
GEICO Philanthropic Foundation
Robert and Irene Gulovsen
Mueh Family Foundation
John Pavese
The Saigh Foundation
William M. Taylor
Wagner Foundation, Ltd.

$15,000 - $24,999
Anonymous
Beverly Bridges
Greater St Louis Business Aviation Association (GSLBAA)
Estate of Bernice Mihalik
Ed Smith

$10,000 - $14,999
Anonymous
Collins & Hermann
Infrastructure Solutions
Elis Olsson Memorial Fund
Jeré Fabick
Jerome and Susan Grossman
Duane A. and Joy Hercules
Donald And Ruth Malvern Foundation
Maritz
James F. and Catherine Moore
Col. Andy Mungenast Charitable Trust

$7,500 - $9,999
Anonymous
Larry & Linda Lemke
Portier Outdoor Advertising Co.
Everett D. And Geneva V.
Sugarbaker Foundation

$5,000 - $7,499
Anonymous
August A. Busch III Charitable Trust
Sue Bathie
Bernice Priger Charitable Foundation
Blues for Kids
BNSF Railway Foundation
Boeing Employee Community Fund
Larry and Carrie Dalton
Classic Aire Care
Roger Debenport
Dierberg’s Markets
The Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Inc.
Melvon L. and Dorothy Leffkowitz Moneta Group
Mildred Simon Foundation
Laurence J. and Christie J. Tietjen
Ulrich Medical USA Inc
Carol B. Waldner
Wells Fargo Advisors

$2,500 - $4,999
Steve & Elizabeth Akre
Anonymous
Knox Family Foundation
Matthew and Casey Arnold
AVMATS
Linda L. Baker
International Charitable Foundation
Marc and Stacy Burton
Howard Canada
Teri L. Chapin
Gerry and Mary D’Angelo
Wholesale Plumbing
Nettie Dodge
Gateway Buick and GMC
A.C. “Butch” & Jan Giessman
The Goldstein Family Foundation
Mike and Betty Graven
Laurna Godwin Hutchinson
James Kaplan
Al and Kay Kent
The Kuhn Foundation
Mason Ave Family Foundation
Janine Fabick Mroz
Natoli Engineering Co Inc
Richard A. Noyes and Barbara N. Schaffer
Rick Olotoe and Laura Helling
Dave Pogorzelski
Mark D. and Anne Rickmeyer
Dennis Sappington
Sons of American Legion
John Teipen
The Tarlow Family Foundation, Inc.
Roland Quest Memorial Fund
Karen Unnerstall
Raymond R. and Laurie A.
Van de Riet, Jr.
James and Anne Von der Heydt
Yankton Wireless LLC

$1,500 - $2,499
The Albert Schoendienst Charitable Giving Fund
Anonymous
Thomas R. and Christine K. Berg
Deb Beryman
Mike Calcagno
Carl E. Kessler Family Foundation
Creve Coeur Days Inc.
Sander Foundation
Graybar Foundation
The Jeff Hansen Memorial Foundation
Dave and Kathy Hawkins
Skip and Diane Hill
Dave Huhn
Jewish Women International
Joe-K Used Cars
Peter H. and Kay Johnson
Larry and Terry Longseth
Fred Meyland-Smith
James D. Moffat, IV
Roger P. and Linda S. Mollman
Michael Parsons
Jonathan D. and Penelope Pejka
Jonathan Raskas
Michael J. Ross
Saint Louis Community Foundation
Sam’s Club #6252
Bernie Schmidt
John Schmidt, (Ret)
Schnucks Stores
The Sidener Foundation
David and Sara Taylor
Arthur W. Trulaske Foundation
West Star Aviation
Roger and Sandy Wickham

$1,000 - $1,499
Thomas A. and Lilly Altweiws
Anonymous
Alderfer Materials Foundation & Employees
David P. and Tracy Baynes
Bess Spiwa Timmons Foundation
Boeing Employee Individual Giving Program
Nadine Boyd
First Rule Film & Broadcast
The Cadby Family Foundation
Chris and Sheila Carnahan
William Charney
Shirley R. Coen
Daikin, Inc.
Jenna Deutsch
Doug Dillard
Dot Foods, Inc.
Jerome F. and Mary C. Doyle
Todd Emms
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George and Dianne Garrison
Gateway Pharmacology Laboratories LLC
Greater St. Louis Flight Instructors Assoc. (GSLFIA)
Rose V. Hall
Mark and Janis Halsey
Jean Henderson
Lilly Christy Busch Hermann Charitable Foundation
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Don Hoerstkamp
Douglas Horner
Dick Horowitz
Stanley and Karen Hubbard
Industrial Gas Products, Inc.
The JERA Foundation
Jhamandas Watumull Fund
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Shaun and Sal Laface
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Brent Lemon
Steve Long
Ken Shen and Kristin Mahendra
Merrill Lynch
Joseph Matteoni
Clifford Matukonis
Josef Meyer
MHS Travel and Charter, a Division of Centene Corp.
Jean-Paul and Isabelle Montupet
National Car Truck Company

$750 - $999
Anonymous
Roger J. and Cheri Bettlach
Terri Brockschmitt
Edward A. and Theresa Campbell
Bill and Carla Dowd
Dickson R. and Peggy R. Dunsworth
Dave and Karla Kramer
William Llewelyn
Mike Mahoney
Tom Miller
Dale Naas
Crystal Nelson
John R. and Lynn Quillico
Paul and Lisa Rolwes
Robert Roth, Jr.
David J. and Anne Stockman
Jack Taylor
Patrick Tracy
William F. and Nancy Wallace-Feund
Angela Wallman
Charles & Lauren Wilhelme
Emilee Williams
Gregory L. and Therese L. Witry

$500 - $749
Aero Performance
Amazon Smile
Ambassador Floor Company
Anonymous
William R. Barrett
Richard Best
Kenneth O. and Beverly Boody
2017 DONORS

$100 - $249 continued

Matthew R. Eisel
Robert C. and Beulah Elder
Steven T. and Elizabeth A. Eldert
Greg & Susan Elson
Rich Emery
Michael D. Erickson
R.E. Essen
Dale Evans
Bill and Deborah Everley
Isaac Faibisoff
John M. Fawley
Milton and Norma Fehrenbach
Joanne Mary Ferguson
Terry Finn
Barry B. and Laverne M. Flachsbart
Glen S. Foster
Kenneth Fox
Michael and Judy Franze
Mark and Jackie Fredman
James Funke
M Caroyln Gamache
Barry S. and Martha Ginsburg
Teresa K. Gill
Robert W. Garthwait, Sr
Gateway Inter City Council
Nancy Gelb
Jim Gempeler
Robert C. and Betty Little
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Betty J. Luke
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David Markel
Mike and Julie Margiotta
Ronald C. and Lynda Masters
Mary Ann Mastorakos
Tony & Anne Mateer
James Mateos, Jr.
Mark and Bonnie Mathisen
Christine Maxwell
Ange1 May
Donald and Phyllis May
Peggy L. McClintock
Melvin R. and Hazel McCollum
Patrick and Emily McGinnis
Bob and Peggy McKe1vey
Jenny P. Mellick
David Meleno
Lynn Merli
Laura Mertens
Jean Meyer
Jeanne C. Meyer
Millennium Pharmaceuticals
Terrell J.Mills
Lou Milos
Gwen Minkler
Jan Misuraca
Nabani1a Modak Fischer
Aaron and Helen Moffat
Peter Mohs
Laura (Murch) Moran
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St. Louis Flying Club
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Andrew von Gontard
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Charleen Walsh
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John D. and Pamela L. Warner
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FROM OUR BOARD CHAIRMAN

Wings of Hope is a vibrant, international nonprofit today because of our volunteers - exemplary, mission-driven individuals. One group of volunteers, who seek no recognition, is the Wings of Hope Board of Directors. Our Directors, and in particular our Executive Committee, lead with purpose and passion. Inspired by the vision of our founders, our Directors give freely of their time, talents, and financial resources.

Our Board recognizes the responsibility of developing a Board for the future, and the exciting prospects for Wings of Hope, all our volunteers, and the people we serve domestically and internationally. I am pleased to share some Board accomplishments in 2017.

• Completing a nationwide search for our President, introducing him to our culture and mission and nurturing his great experience in financial development.
• Communicating expectations for Board members’ commitment of time, talent and finances and providing opportunities to engage in committee positions.
• Our Aircraft Acquisition and Sales Committee worked to improve our donated aircraft valuation process, to accelerate refurbishments, and to enhance sales of donated aircraft.
• The board authorized the organization to offer – for the first time in its history – medical insurance benefits to our staff.
• Supporting best practices in safety for our flight department, a Committee of Director pilots made the hard call to set the maximum age of our pilots at 75.
• Creating an Investment Committee to competitively review and better oversee our investments, and our Audit Committee approved the audited financial statements and the 2017 tax return.
• Establishing a realistic budget - no easy feat given the unpredictability of forecasting donations, aircraft donations and sales, and program expenses.
• Completing a rigorous strategic planning process, which will provide direction to Wings of Hope.
• We recommitted to building our existing endowment fund and initiated an endowment campaign set to launch in mid-2018.

All of these efforts - and many not listed - position us to move forward on a firm financial and operational foundation as we pursue our mission of lifting up those in need.

I am grateful to our volunteer Board for their continued wisdom as we address matters before us as the premier aviation charity.

Thank you, Board, for making a difference in the world and helping to make Wings of Hope better for the next generation of board leadership.

Steve Akre, Board Chairman
Where There are Wings, There is Hope

Twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize