

Wings of Mercy Flyer

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS & 3,600 MISSIONS

FROM THE LEFT SEAT

By Terry Boer
President

FROM THE RIGHT SEAT

By Dan Horne
Vice President, Operations



The Practice of Compassion

Being involved with Wings of Mercy, I have witnessed the generosity of so many people. To experience the desire to help those in need is overwhelming. It is not the

size of the donation or the number of hours volunteered but rather the level of compassion.

Not too long ago, we received a donation of \$5.00. It came with a note saying it was all they had but wanted to help. Normally, I don't single out a donor or volunteer. However, the weekend of May 14, I was overwhelmed by the compassion of a young couple in Grand Rapids.

Their names are Aaron and April. They had no previous connection to Wings of Mercy. They were at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, where April was donating a portion of her liver to her sister. By the grace of God they ran into a Wings of Mercy patient also going through a transplant.

April's 26th Birthday



Continue on page 12...

Stewardship

Since the founding of Wings of Mercy almost 20 years ago, two words have been the guiding principles that are ingrained in the Wings of Mercy culture. *Safety and Stewardship.*

The safety of our passengers and pilots is our number one priority. All of our pilots agree to operate according to standards and practices that exceed the requirements of the FAA. Our flight record shows how safety permeates everything we do.

In the same way, the organization has the word Stewardship permanently etched in our culture. As a board, we have adopted financial practices that are above reproach. We have an outstanding treasurer (Bill Klungle) and outside auditors who provide oversight and ensure that the financial dealings of Wings of Mercy are transparent.

We are continually cognizant of the fact that our donors expect and deserve their money to be handled in a manner that maximizes that impact we can make for our patients.



Continue on page 12...



Jeff Ostrander

“How it All Started!”

By Pilot Jeff Ostrander

It started in a boat, like the old story about Jesus’ disciples, but this is a much nicer boat. It is owned by a successful man, retired to Florida, enjoying the natural reward for years of hard work. He is bobbing gently in the Gulf of Mexico on his beautiful boat, surrounded by fishing buddies, casting into the future for which he has so long prepared. There is a tug on his line and he sets the hook, and what he begins to reel in will change his life...

Peter VandenBosch – the man in the boat – is a practical man who over 35 years built his broadcasting network on a foundation of clear thinking, honesty and hard work, traits he learned well growing up during the Depression on a Minnesota farm, eleventh of twelve children. But he is a dreamer too, and one dream took root when, at twelve years old, a Ford Tri-Motor roared over the farm. “I’ll be there someday”, he told his sister.

And, years later when he left the farm, he did make his way into the cockpit, first as a pilot and radio operator in WWII and later as owner of his own business aircraft.

But all that is past now. He is on the boat, enjoying his retirement dream, blissfully unaware that he is about to be unretired. As he reels in his line, someone nearby says to him “Peter, there is more to life than this.” Startled, he looks quickly toward his friends and sees that no one has spoken. No one, and yet he heard the words plainly, can still hear them echo in his mind.

When he returns home that afternoon he tells his wife, Joan, about the voice. Her response is also startling: “Peter, this is serious. We’ve got to sell out and go home.” Over the next few months they do just that, and are soon reestablished in Holland, Michigan. He tells no one about the voice, and continues to pray and puzzle over its meaning. It isn’t long before an old friend calls to suggest that Peter use his airplane to help low income people who need transportation to special hospitals. He tells Joan who says, “There’s your call.”

On his first trip, Peter took a brother and sister – both fighting cancer and aging disease – from Holland to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.



“How it All Started!”

By Pilot Jeff Ostrander

Other flights followed, some more dramatic than others. Just before Christmas he receives a heart-breaking call; a 5-year-old girl is desperately ill and needs transportation to the Mayo Clinic immediately. Peter quickly plans the flight and hurries to meet the family at the airport, speaking briefly with weeping grandparents who do not expect to see the child alive again. He makes little Meagan and her parents as comfortable as he can and guides his twin-engine aircraft over the familiar track across Lake Michigan, Wisconsin, the Mississippi and into Minnesota. When they are almost to Rochester, the father suddenly rushes to the cabin - his daughter is failing. Peter communicates the emergency to air traffic controllers who immediately clear him to land. As he descends, the control tower tells him to shut down his airplane on the runway; an ambulance will drive across the field to take the girl. By the time Peter has the family's bags out of the airplane, Meagan is already on life-support, and the ambulance is ready to sprint to the hospital. Peter fuels up and heads home with a heavy heart. He has done what he could. As time passed, more pilots joined Peter's new organization.

As word of their effectiveness spread, separate branches were created in Flint and St. Cloud. Since Peter's first flights in 1991, Wings of Mercy pilots have flown more than 5,000 patients for crucial care, each with their own story. At “Care Affairs”, a series of fund- and friend-raising events sponsored by Wings of Mercy at local airports, Peter and his team often get a chance to meet patients and hear the rest of their stories. So it was not out of the ordinary when two women walked up to Peter to say “thank you”. He could not remember them but when the younger woman took him in her arms she began to weep and said, “My name is Meagan. When I was a little girl you saved my life.”

In 2005 the National Aeronautics Association awarded Peter VandenBosch its highest award for public service. More importantly, Wings of Mercy continues to provide crucial support to low income families in medical crisis.

Curiously, the ministry began on a boat, in the heart of a man who thought his work was done. But, like the old story of Jesus' disciples, when you go fishing with God it is sometimes hard to say who is reeling in whom.

Flight Log – November 2010

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3476	1-Nov	JEFF OSTRANDER	PETER NEAL	MADISON, WI TO MUSKEGON, MI
3477	2-Nov	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3478	5-Nov	KEVIN DINGMAN	MICHAEL KING	ANN ARBOR, MI TO HOUGHTON, MI
3479	9-Nov	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	MUSKEGON, MI TO BOSTON, MA
3480	10-Nov	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	BOSTON, MA TO MUSKEGON, MI
3481	10-Nov	PETER TOBIN	JIM FELLERS	ANN ARBOR, MI TO MARQUETTE, MI
3482	12-Nov	CARL WALKER	DANIEL MANTIONE	LUDINGTON, MI TO MADISON, WI
3483	12-Nov	CARL WALKER	DANIEL MANTIONE	MADISON, WI TO LUDINGTON, MI
3484	17-Nov	RYAN VEENSTRA	RAY CHESTER	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3485	17-Nov	RYAN VEENSTRA	RAY CHESTER	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3486	17-Nov	GEORGE SCHRAFT	FRANK CLARK	MUSKEGON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3487	17-Nov	GEORGE SCHRAFT	FRANK CLARK	ANN ARBOR, MI TO MUSKEGON, MI
3488	18-Nov	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3489	18-Nov	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3490	20-Nov	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	HOLLAND, MI TO RALEIGH DURHAM, NC
3491	20-Nov	TIM BRUTSCHE	GIL COLVER	ANN ARBOR, MI TO SAULT STE. MARIE, MI
3492	21-Nov	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	HOLLAND, MI TO BOSTON, MA
3493	22-Nov	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	BOSTON, MA TO HOLLAND, MI
3494	23-Nov	GEORGE SCHRAFT	FRANK CLARK	RALEIGH DURHAM, NC TO HOLLAND, MI
3495	23-Nov	RYAN VEENSTRA	RAY CHESTER	LUDINGTON, MI TO MADISON, WI
3496	23-Nov	RYAN VEENSTRA	RAY CHESTER	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3497	23-Nov	JOHN OLSON	RICK TERZO	MADISON, WI TO LUDINGTON, MI
3498	28-Nov	RICK TERZO	LINDA WALKER	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3499	28-Nov	RANDY CHAPMAN	RANDY MCCLURE	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3500	29-Nov	JOHN OLSON	RICK TERZO	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPID, MI
3501	29-Nov	JEFF UEKERT	JACK WARD	RALEIGH DURHAM, NC TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3502	30-Nov	ROB BECKER	HUGH EISEN	ZEELAND, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3503	30-Nov	ROB BECKER	HUGH EISEN	ROCHESTER, MN TO ZEELAND, MI

Flight Log – December 2010

3504	1-Dec	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	ROCHESTER, MN TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3505	1-Dec	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	ROCHESTER, MN TO HOLLAND, MI
3506	6-Dec	JOHN OLSON	RICK TERZO	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3507	7-Dec	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3508	13-Dec	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	IRON MOUNTAIN, MI TO MADISON, WI
3509	13-Dec	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	MADISON, WI TO IRON MOUNTAIN, MI
3510	14-Dec	KEITH BRYAN	FRED PERALMAN	CADILLAC, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3511	16-Dec	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN

Flight Log – December 2010

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3512	18-Dec	CARL WALKER	CRAIG BIRCH	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3513	18-Dec	JOHN WORKMAN	BILL KLUNGLE	MADISON, WI TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3514	19-Dec	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO BOSTON, MA
3515	19-Dec	JASON MORFORD	FRED MCKASKILL	ANN ARBOR, MI TO ESCANABA, MI
3516	20-Dec	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	BOSTON, MA TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3517	28-Dec	JEFF OSTRANDER	VEENA PELLAI	HOLLAND, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3518	26-Dec	JOHN OLSON	RICK TERZO	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3519	29-Dec	KEVIN DINGMAN	MICHAEL KING	ROCHESTER, MN TO HOLLAND, MI

Flight Log – January 2011

3520	2-Jan	JOHN WORKMAN	BRANDON BOLDE	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3521	6-Jan	RYAN VEENSTRA	KEN CLARK	LUDINGTON, MI TO MADISON, WI
3522	9-Jan	JERRY SCHMIDT	ROD TINNEY	ESCANABA, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3523	9-Jan	JOHN OLSON	RICK TERZO	SAULT STE. MARIE, MI TO PITTSBURGH, PA
3524	9-Jan	JOHN WORKMAN	DAN HORNE	OCALA, FL TO BELLAIRE, MI
3525	10-Jan	ALBERT SICKINGER	JUSTIN HEADWORTH	MUSKEGON, MI TO BOSTON, MA
3526	10-Jan	JERRY SCHMIDT	GEORGE SCHOENE	ANN ARBOR, MI TO ESCANABA, MI
3527	11-Jan	ALBERT SICKINGER	JUSTIN HEADWORTH	BOSTON, MA TO MUSKEGON, MI
3528	16-Jan	KEVIN DINGMAN	MICHAEL KING	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3529	17-Jan	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	LANSING, MI TO BOSTON, MA
3530	18-Jan	JEFF OSTRANDER	PETE NEAL	ROCHESTER, MI TO MUSKEGON, MI
3531	19-Jan	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	BOSTON, MA TO LANSING, MI
3532	20-Jan	GIL COLLVER	TIM BRUTSCHE	MUSKEGON, MI TO RALEIGH DURHAM, NC
3533	20-Jan	GIL COLLVER	TIM BRUTSCHE	RALEIGH DURHAM, NC TO MUSKEGON, MI
3534	23-Jan	PETER TOBIN	JIM FELLERS	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3535	23-Jan	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	PITTSBURGH, PA TO SAULT STE. MARIE, MI
3536	25-Jan	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3537	25-Jan	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3538	26-Jan	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPID, MI
3539	26-Jan	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3540	30-Jan	JOHN OLSON	RICK TERZO	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI

Sharon Huminsky, Senior Flight Director

Grace Spelde, Flight Director

100 South Pine Street, Suite #393

Zeeland, MI 49464

888-786-3729 616-396-1077 616-748-6093 Fax



Flight Log – February 2011

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3541	1-Feb	MIKE MILLER	CHAD WALES	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3542	3-Feb	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3543	3-Feb	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3544	3-Feb	JERRY SCHMIDT	GEORGE SCHOENE	ANN ARBOR, MI TO HOUGHTON, MI
3545	6-Feb	GEORGE SCHRAFT	FRANK CLARK	ESCANABA, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3546	13-Feb	MIKE MILLER	CHAD WALES	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO MADISON, WI
3547	15-Feb	PETER TOBIN	JAMES FELLERS	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3548	15-Feb	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	LANSING, MI TO BOSTON, MA
3549	15-Feb	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3550	17-Feb	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	BOSTON, MA TO LANSING, MI
3551	17-Feb	MIKE MILLER	CHAD WALES	BALTIMORE, MD TO KALAMAZOO, MI
3552	18-Feb	GEORGE SCHRAFT	FRANK CLARK	ROCHESTER, MN TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3553	19-Feb	JOHN OLSON	RICK TERZO	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3554	19-Feb	JOHN OLSON	RICK TERZO	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3555	22-Feb	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3556	22-Feb	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3557	22-Feb	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3558	23-Feb	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	ANN ARBOR, MI TO HOUGHTON, MI
3559	23-Feb	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3560	23-Feb	ALBERT SICKINGER	RUSS MCNAMARA	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3561	23-Feb	ALBERT SICKINGER	RUSS MCNAMARA	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3562	27-Feb	KEITH BRYAN	STEVE BLOCKER	IRON MOUNTAIN, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI

Flight Log – March 2011

3563	3-Mar	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	ANN ARBOR, MI TO ESCANABA, MI
3564	3-Mar	GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	ANN ARBOR, MI TO ESCANABA, MI
3565	5-Mar	JOHN WORKMAN	BILL KLUNGLE	PONTIAC, MI TO SAWYER, MI
3566	6-Mar	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3567	6-Mar	KEITH BRYAN	FRED MARTIN	ANN ARBOR, MI TO IRON MOUNTAIN, MI
3568	10-Mar	JOHN OLSON	RICK TERZO	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3569	15-Mar	PETER TOBIN	JIM FELLERS	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3570	17-Mar	GARY VANDERVEEN	JOHN VANBAREN	VERO BEACH, FL TO HOLLAND, MI
3571	21-Mar	CHRIS FAIRCLOTH	DAVE JOHNSON	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3572	21-Mar	CHRIS FAIRCLOTH	DAVE JOHNSON	ANN ARBOR, MI TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3573	24-Mar	GEORGE SCHRAFT	FRANK CLARK	HOLLAND, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3574	24-Mar	GEORGE SCHRAFT	FRANK CLARK	ROCHESTER, MN TO HOLLAND, MI
3575	28-Mar	GEORGE SCHRAFT	FRANK CLARK	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3576	30-Mar	JOEL ZIEVE	RICK CREPAS	IOSCO, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI

Flight Log – April 2011

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3577	1-Apr	CHRIS FAIRCLOTH	RICK CREPAS	ANN ARBOR, MI TO OSWOSSO, MI
3578	3-Apr	KEITH BRYAN	FRED MARTIN	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3579	3-Apr	KEITH BRYAN	FRED MARTIN	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3580	5-Apr	CHRIS FAIRCLOTH	DAVE JOHNSON	ROCHESTER, MN TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3581	6-Apr	VERN ELIASON	ROB SEIDL	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3582	12-Apr	RUSS MCNAMARA	JOHN HARBOTTLE	LUDINGTON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3583	12-Apr	RUSS MCNAMARA	JOHN HARBOTTLE	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3584	12-Apr	GEORGE SCHRAFT	CHIP CLARK	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3585	14-Apr	RUSS MCNAMARA	JOHN HARBOTTLE	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3586	1-May	JOHN WORKMAN	BILL KLUNGLE	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3587	17-Apr	GEORGE SCHRAFT	CHIP CLARK	MUSKEGON, MI TO SAVANNAH, GA
3588	17-Apr	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	SAGINAW, MI TO HOUGHTON, MI
3589	17-Apr	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	ANN ARBOR, MI TO HOUGHTON, MI
3590	17-Apr	FRED MARTIN	KEITH BRYAN	KALKASKA, MI TO PONTIAC, MI
3591	20-Apr	GEORGE SCHRAFT	CHIP CLARK	HOLLAND, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3592	20-Apr	MIKE MILLER	CHAD WALES	HOLLAND, MI TO BALTIMORE, MD
3593	21-Apr	JERRY ELLIOT	STEVE BLOCKER	HOLLAND, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3594	21-Apr	JERRY SCHMIDT	GEORGE SCHOENE	SAGINAW, MI TO HOUGHTON, MI
3595	21-Apr	CHRIS FAIRCLOTH	DAVE JOHNSON	PONTIAC, MI TO KALKASKA, MI

Wings of Mercy Gratefully Acknowledges Gifts, in Memory of:

Dream Team

Justin Welch
Andy Tillman
Asher Huminsky

Barbara Van Halm
Betty Hoeksema
Beatrice Hilgeman
Carmelita Marie Rial
Clara Louise Duncan
David DeGuise

Ernest Preuss
James Dowd
Marion Buehle
Noel Hanna
Roger Wiersma
Scott Phillips

Susan Stelma
Theodore Peppin
Turis Van Halm
Vern Thornton
Wanda Van Waarden
William Elco

*“ My wife was road weary from travelling to Boston Hospital. Then we found Wings of Mercy. And because you flew her back and forth to her appointments for the rest of her cancer treatments, I had another 4 months with her before she passed away.”
I can never thank you enough. God Bless You All. -Doug Stelma*

EVENTS 2011



Muskegon CareAffaire 2011

Saturday, June 4

8am-Noon

Executive Air Transport

103 Sinclair Drive, Muskegon, MI

Chairperson: Rex Vanderlinde

rex@ea-transport.com

Pancake Breakfast, \$6 Donation - \$25 family

Classic Cars, Plane Rides



6th Annual Run for Wings

Saturday, June 4

Start 8am

Executive Air Transport

103 Sinclair Drive, Muskegon, MI

Chairperson: Mike Workman

workman44@hotmail.com

Awards and T- Shirts



Hansen Collision Golf Outing

Wednesday, June 8

8am - 2pm

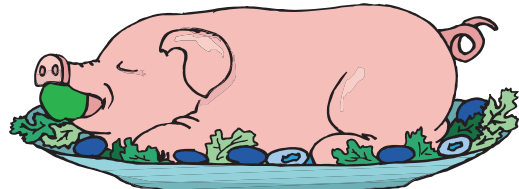
Meadows at GVSU

Contact: Amanda Ripley

aripley@go2hansen.com

All Proceeds Benefit Wings of Mercy

Prizes and Dinner



Wings of Mercy Pig Roast

Tuesday, July 12

5pm - 8:00pm

Holland Fish and Game Club

10840 Chicago Drive, Zeeland, MI

Contact: Tret Geurink

616-396-1077

Entertainment by "Smooth Groove"

BBQ Pork, Potatoes, Salad

EVENTS 2011



Traverse City CareAffaire 2011

Saturday, September 10

8am - Noon

Cherry Capital Airport

727 Fly Don't Drive # 2, Traverse City, MI

Chairperson: Mary Robinson

mrobinson@tbaisd.k12.mi.us

Pancake Breakfast, Plane Rides



Holland CareAffaire 2011

Saturday, September 17

8am - Noon

Tulip City Airport

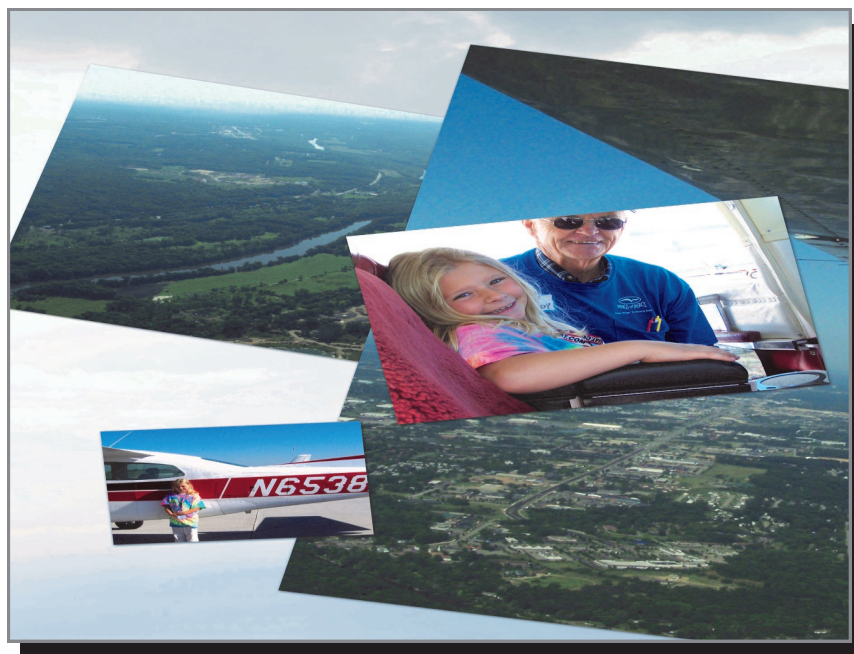
1581 S. Washington Ave., Holland, MI

Contact: Dave Siegers

dave_siegers@siegers.com

Pancake Breakfast, Plane Rides

Create Memories with Wings of Mercy!



Wings Of Mercy Chapters

West Michigan

Peter J VandenBosch , Founder, President Emeritus

East Michigan

Chuck Binder, Secretary



Greetings to all you readers,

5 years ago a well known business man from Holland telephoned and asked if he could come and see me regarding a very special person in utter confidence. I agreed. After the private meeting, he asked me how I got Wings of Mercy started. I told him. His immediate response was, “a book should be written about you.” I didn't agree, but he strongly insisted and on his own raised private money to begin my interviews with a well known professional author which took nine, two hours sessions to complete. The whole process is coming to fruition this year.

When the Fall Flyer comes out, I'll write the “rest of the story” and the book will be available.

All proceeds go directly to Wings of Mercy, Inc.

“It has never mattered what pilots we have flown with. We have always been treated with professionalism and grace.”

Marcel Bedard

www.wingsofmercy.org

Amazing Wings pilots!

Here is a story showing how generous and quick-acting Wings pilots pulled off a last minute flight in exactly an hour.

8:49—We get a call from the recipient telling me he had to go into U of M over the weekend (the cancer he though he had licked has come back.) They can't do anything for him until Wednesday, so he would like to go back home from Ann Arbor today.

8:57—We call a PIC based at Willow Run (YIP). He just had a planned business meeting in Houston get cancelled, so he can work things around and do the flight.

9:10 – After leaving phone messages with a few Ann Arbor based Second Pilots, with no luck, we send out a broadcast email.

9:12—Mark Pearson calls me and volunteers. He is on his way to work in Ann Arbor (and reading his messages on his cell phone? At a stop, of course) and happens to have a change of clothes in the car suitable for the flight.

9:16—We call the PIC and tell him we're set.

9:40—Mark calls me back and tells me he, the PIC and the recipient just had a conference call. Mark is on the way to pick up the recipient from the hotel, and then will drive to the PIC's hangar at YIP.

9:49—Paperwork in hand, the PIC grabs it as he heads out to the airport.

It doesn't always work out this way....It is so nice when it does!

Wings Of Mercy Chapters

West Michigan

Sharon Huminsky, Senior Flight Director



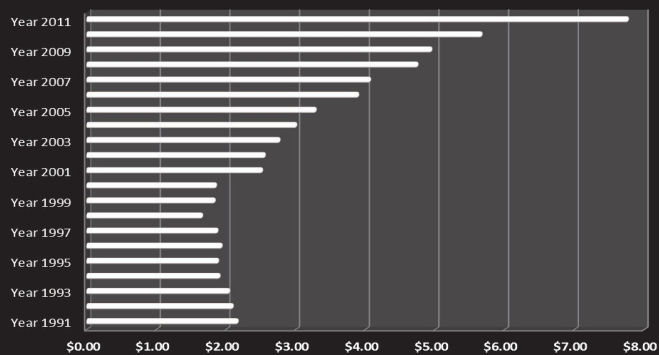
Wings of Mercy had one set goal in 2010. This was to “give wings to those in need.” Last year we flew 275 low income patients to and from medical

destinations anywhere east of the Rockies. WOM flies patients from MI, OH, WI, IL and IN. We utilize the gift monies you donate to reimburse our pilots their fuel cost, which is 1/3 of the cost to operate their aircraft.

18% of our gift monies go to office expenses and 82%, goes to fuel reimbursement. All our pilots are volunteers and use their own aircraft. We are currently at mission number 3,600 and have just experienced the busiest year since 2005. In 2010 pilots donated 987 hours, flew 135,141 nautical miles and used 28,422 gallons of fuel. This year fuel is at a premium. The average cost is \$5.63 a gallon and as high as \$8.39 and that’s with a discount. In

2005, we had a year with 273 missions flown, flying 105,709 nm, 1247 hours donated of the pilot’s time, and we used 47,182 gallons of fuel at \$3.29 a gallon on average. In 2010 we had a significant drop in gallons used and we attribute this to the doubling up of patients, and round trips. Since our new patient load has increased this year, we expect to fly more missions than we ever have. In 2005, it cost Wings of Mercy \$500.00 for a flight to and from Rochester, MN to the Mayo Clinic in a twin-engine plane from Holland, MI. The past 2 years that same twin plane uses the same amount of fuel but costs us \$700.00 in fuel monies. That is an increase of 22%. Most of our flights are to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. As stewards of the gift you may give, the staff continues to offer pilots round trip flights, or fill a flight with a patient going out to their destination and on the return flight a patient is aboard to go home. This scheduling is done often enough so we make a difference in our spending. Thank you for your part in this organization and in helping create records that show what a blessing you are in your service to others.

Cost of Fuel Per Gallon 1991-2011





100 South Pine Street
Suite #393
Zeeland, MI 49464
(616) 396-1077
(888) 786-3729

Over 3,600 Missions Flown Since 1991

FROM THE LEFT SEAT

**By Terry Boer
President**

Our patient's story touched Aaron and April so much they wanted to help our organization. So instead of simply sending a check, Aaron planned a surprise birthday party for April.

The invitations stated that in lieu of a birthday present; please donate to Wings of Mercy. Aaron even had an ice sculpture made for April with the Wings of Mercy name and logo on it!

All I can say is WOW. Not only did Aaron and April raise over a thousand dollars that night but they introduced another 100 people to our organization. Dan Horne and I, along with our wives, were invited to the birthday party. It was incredible to once again see such generosity. What a great way to have a celebration. And yes, April was totally surprised!

In the coming months we have a number of fundraisers. These events also help us meet our budget. They range from pancake breakfasts to golf outings (see entire list inside the newsletter). We would be honored if you could attend. However, if you want to get creative and host your own event, we'd love that too. As you will see in the rest of the newsletter, the need is high so whatever you can do will be greatly appreciated. On behalf of our patients THANK YOU!
Let's continue to give Wings to those in need.

FROM THE RIGHT SEAT

**By Dan Horne
Vice President, Operations**

As you will see in this issue the need for flights continues to grow. The cost of fuel continues to escalate as well. We are extremely grateful for the generous group of donors who understand the critical ministry we perform.

We continue to strive to be good stewards by keeping our overhead low and by being as efficient as possible. We are proud of the fact that 82 cents out of every dollar given goes directly for fuel.

Visit our website www.wingsofmercy.org for more information!