

# Wings of Mercy

CELEBRATING OVER 3,500 MISSIONS SINCE 1991

## FROM THE LEFT SEAT

By Terry Boer  
President

## FROM THE RIGHT SEAT

By Dan Horne  
Vice President, Operations



If you are like me, you're probably sick of hearing about the bad economy. Unfortunately, it is still with us so we continue to deal with it. Not surprising, this economy created some challenges for Wings of Mercy this year. Our flight needs increased while our donations decreased. This combination forced us, for the first time ever, to use money from our endowment fund. Obviously it is not an ideal situation. Fortunately, we are blessed to have an Endowment Fund to weather such a storm. However, we can't rely solely on that. We need to do everything in our power to keep our organization going so we never turn down a person in need.

This year Wings of Mercy worked hard to overcome these challenges. Earlier this year we moved into new office space which reduced our rent by 60%. We also changed our staffing level from two full time employees to one full time and one part time. And finally to control our biggest expense, fuel reimbursement, we negotiated fuel prices at each airport for every FBO.

On the revenue side, we implemented some new ways to make donations. First, we added a link to our website allowing donors to make contributions using a credit card. It is an easy process.

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The subject of fuel reimbursement has been a hot topic. I wanted to give a summary of the issue and an update on where we stand. When Wings of Mercy was founded, 19 years ago, we solicited and received permission from our local FSDO office to reimburse aircraft owners for fuel consumed while conducting charitable flights for Wings of Mercy.

In November of 2008, the FAA issued a written opinion that the practice of reimbursing for fuel was only allowed in cases where the volunteer pilot organization showed that it operated at higher safety standards than the basics required in Part 91 of the FARs.

While Wings of Mercy had specific permission from the FAA to reimburse for fuel costs, and our guidelines do require safety standards that far exceed the minimums in Part 91, this general prohibition in 2008 raised concern. Specifically, as to whether or not the new interpretation superseded the specific permission we received 19 years ago.

The board of directors took the position that we wanted to petition the FAA to provide us with a formal, and written exemption from the 2008 position taken by the FAA. In other words, we wanted to see both arms of the FAA on the same page regarding this issue.

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# Welcome to the *New Normal*

By Pilot Jeff Ostrander

Sabrina's eyes are bright this morning. She does not quite smile, but looks me over, turns her head a bit to track my movement across the room. Three years ago – had I deserved such an honor – she might have skipped over to give me a hug. Not now. Sabrina does not skip.

It is different with Jacob, another child I know. He bursts into the room, into your heart, with a radiant smile and arms open wide. Jacob skips and, if you're lucky, Jacob delivers a fierce little-boy hug, but Jacob does not hear. It is different, too, with Reilly who can do anything that other ten-year-old girls do except that, on a bad day, Reilly cannot breathe.

Well, back to work. Pete and I have come to Holland in an airplane on this stormy morning to take Sabrina and her parents on a journey. I first met Sabrina a few months ago when she needed to come home from a hospital in Minneapolis. It is always the same on the first trip; you meet this person, compare them to what you think is normal,

What is normal? try to understand  
what it is that they

have lost. It was the same way with Jacob and Reilly.

Have they found a way to live within this New

Normal, or are they just hanging on until the gale passes? After a few trips through this cycle you begin to wonder, what *is* normal?

Imagine this: You open your eyes and light appears. You think a certain thought and your hand moves smoothly to your face. Without trying, you detect sound waves, decode them into a message, compose a response and send back a sound of your own. You cannot explain why any of this works, but it does, and after a while you come to think of these abilities, if you think of them at all, not as gifts but as personal possessions. They form part of the mysterious Normal, the foundation upon which we stand and rarely look beneath – until something changes.

It changed dramatically for Sabrina who, at three years old, seemed a normal little girl. Now, three years later, her arms and legs hang limp. She thinks the thought, but nothing moves. She hears the message and composes a response, but she cannot make the sound come out. It was the same way with Jacob and Reilly.

A while ago, something began to crack in my own family's foundation. My mother began to forget small things, to repeat herself. Not long after, she could not find her way home in the car and once set



# Welcome to the *New Normal*

By Pilot Jeff Ostrander

off, on foot, to look for my father in a distant city. Now, aside from the occasional quip that echoes her forgotten nature, my mother sinks further and further into a new normal.

So Pete and I spend much of the day in an airplane, getting Sabrina and her parents back to the hospital. They are excited with her progress; her eyes really are brighter and the cock of her pretty little head more alert than they have seen in a long while. They think it is the feeding tube, of all things, that has helped. I shake my head. Imagine that; thankful for a feeding tube.

Or stranger still, imagine this; that it had not occurred to me until this moment to marvel that my body somehow transforms even a bag of vending machine potato chips into power which fuels thought and motion and a multitude of supporting systems that I cannot begin to understand. Sabrina is thankful for a clumsy tube. I am unthankful for an elegant system which – because it is so elegant and reliable – I forget is there. Unthankful, sometimes, that a precious little boy wants me, of all people, to go with him for a bike ride.

I wish it were different with me, that I did not have these disabilities. But I am learning from

Sabrina, from my Father and my son, from Jacob and Reilly and their loving families that a rich life is not about being normal. It's about being thankful to go for a bike ride – a bike ride that in no way advances my personal objectives or reduces my insecurity about the future. Big ideas usually come down to small choices. A little more work or this bike ride with my son?

A day at the office or a trip with Sabrina? Sometimes, it is choosing what is really more important. Sometimes, it is trusting that He who gives us life and breath will somehow enable us to pay the bills. Always, it is remembering that what I make through my own effort is so absurdly small when compared to what I have been given. and their loving families that a rich life is not about being normal. It's about being thankful.

For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

*1 Corinthians 4:7*

# Flight Log – April 2010

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3298	2-Apr	VERN ELIASON	JIM MISENHEIMER	MADISON, WI TO LUDINGTON, MI
3299	6-Apr	DAN HORNE	CRAIG BIRCH	HOLLAND, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3300	5-Apr	PETER MULLINER	PATRICK TURK	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3301	6-Apr	GARY SAGE	PETER MULLINER	ST PAUL, MN TO EAST TAWAS, MI
3302	8-Apr	JEFF OSTRANDER	BRYAN GIEM	ST PAUL, MN TO HOLLAND, MI
3303	9-Apr	CRAIG BIRCH	DANIEL MANTIONE	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO PONTIAC, MI
3304	9-Apr	CRAIG BIRCH	DANIEL MANTIONE	PONTIAC, MI TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3305	9-Apr	JIM MCGUIRE	CAROL DEHNBOSTEL	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3306	10-Apr	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	LUDINGTON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3307	12-Apr	ERIK ROEMER	JUSTIN GODCHAUX	HARBOR SPRINGS, MI TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3308	12-Apr	ERIK ROEMER	JUSTIN GODCHAUX	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO HARBOR SPRINGS, MI
3309	14-Apr	MIKE MILLER	CRAIG BIRCH	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO MADISON, WI
3310	14-Apr	MIKE MILLER	CRAIG BIRCH	MADISON, WI TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3311	14-Apr	JOHN VAN BAREN	DAVID CHRISTINE	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3312	16-Apr	JEFF OSTRANDER	JUSTIN HEADWORTH	LANSING, MI TO HOUGHTON, MI
3313	16-Apr	MIKE MILLER	CRAIG BIRCH	MUSKEGON, MI TO RALEIGH DURHAM, NC
3314	16-Apr	MIKE MILLER	CRAIG BIRCH	RALEIGH DURHAM, NC TO MUSKEGON, MI
3315	19-Apr	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARCUS PLESSNER	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3316	19-Apr	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARCUS PLESSNER	ANN ARBOR, MI TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3317	20-Apr	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MI
3318	20-Apr	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	MUSKEGON, MI TO MADISON, WI
3319	20-Apr	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	MADISON, WI TO MUSKEGON, MI
3320	20-Apr	JEFF OSTRANDER	BRYAN GIEM	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3321	20-Apr	GARY SAGE	PAUL SEGARD	SPRINGFIELD, IL TO ROCHESTER, MN
3322	22-Apr	JOHN OLSON	LINDA WALKER	ROCHESTER, MN TO SPRINGFIELD, IL
3323	22-Apr	VERN ELIASON	JIM MEISENHEIMER	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3324	23-Apr	JOHN HUGHES	RANDY MCCLURE	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO PONTIAC, MI
3325	23-Apr	JOHN HUGHES	RANDY MCCLURE	PONTIAC, MI TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3326	23-Apr	JERRY SCHMIDT	ROD TINNEY	ANN ARBOR, MI TO HOUGHTON, MI
3327	25-Apr	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3328	27-Apr	KEVIN DINGMAN	MICHAEL KING	KALAMAZOO, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN

# Flight Log – May 2010

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3329	2-May	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3330	2-May	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3331	2-May	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3332	5-May	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3333	5-May	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	MUSKEGON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3334	5-May	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	ANN ARBOR, MI TO MUSKEGON, MI
3335	5-May	TERRY THIELE	ANDY LAWRENCE	HARBOR SPRINGS, MI TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3336	5-May	JOHN WORKMAN	CRAIG BIRCH	MUSKEGON, MI TO BRANDON, MS
3337	5-May	JOHN WORKMAN	CRAIG BIRCH	BRANDON, MS TO DETROIT, MI
3338	8-May	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3339	8-May	JUSTIN GODCHAUX	ERIK ROEMER	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO PONTIAC, MI
3340	7-May	JUSTIN GODCHAUX	ERIK ROEMER	PONTIAC, MI TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3341	6-May	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	LUDINGTON, MI TO MADISON, WI

# Flight Log – May 2010

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3342	6-May	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	MUSKEGON, MI TO MADISON, WI
3343	6-May	TERRY THIELE	ANDY LAWRENCE	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO HARBOR SPRINGS, MI
3344	7-May	JEFF OSTRANDER	CHAD WALES	ROCHESTER, MN TO HOLLAND, MI
3345	9-May	MIKE MILLER	CHAD WALES	LUDINGTON, MI TO MADISON, WI
3346	11-May	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3347	12-May	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3348	12-May	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	ROCHESTER, MN TO KALAMAZOO, MI
3349	12-May	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO MADISON, WI
3350	12-May	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	MADISON WI TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3351	12-May	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	MADISON WI TO LUDINGTON, MI
3352	6-May	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	MUSKEGON, MI TO MADISON, WI
3353	6-May	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	MUSKEGON, MI TO MADISON, WI
3354	14-May	RYAN VEENSTRA	RAY CHESTER	HOLLAND, MI TO BALTIMORE, MD
3355	16-May	CRAIG BIRCH	CHAD WALES	KALAMAZOO, MI TO BALTIMORE, MD
3356	18-May	ALBERT SICKINGER	RANDY KITZMAN	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3357	18-May	ALBERT SICKINGER	RANDY KITZMAN	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3358	25-May	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	LUDINGTON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3359	25-May	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	LUDINGTON, MI TO MADISON, WI
3360	25-May	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	MADISON, WI TO LUDINGTON, MI
3361	26-May	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	ROCHESTER, MN TO LUDINGTON, MI
3362	28-May	VERN ELIASON	ROB SEIDL	BALTIMORE, MD TO HOLLAND, MI

# Flight Log – June 2010

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3363	1-Jun	JOEL ZIEVE	RICK CREPAS	KALKASKA, MI TO PONTIAC, MI
3364	1-Jun	JOEL ZIEVE	RICK CREPAS	PONTIAC, MI TO KALKASKA, MI
3365	1-Jun	MIKE MILLER	CRAIG BIRCH	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3366	3-Jun	RYAN VEENSTRA	BILL KLOTZ	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3367	4-Jun	CARL WALKER	CRAIG BIRCH	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3368	7-Jun	RICK TERZO	LINDA WALKER	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3369	8-Jun	JERRY SCHMIDT	GEORGE SCHOENE	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3370	8-Jun	MIKE MILLER	CRAIG BIRCH	ROCHESTER, MN TO MARQUETTE, MI
3371	9-Jun	JERRY SCHMIDT	GEORGE SCHOENE	ROCHESTER, MN TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3372	9-Jun	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	HOLLAND, MI TO MADISON, WI
3373	11-Jun	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	ANN ARBOR, MI TO HOUGHTON, MI
3374	13-Jun	RICK TERZO	LINDA WALKER	HOLLAND, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3375	9-Jun	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	MADISON, WI TO HOLLAND MI
3376	13-Jun	JERRY SCHMIDT	ROD CORTRIGHT	HARBOR SPRINGS, MI TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3377	15-Jun	JEFF OSTRANDER	PATRICK TURK	ESCANABA, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3378	15-Jun	KEVIN DINGMAN	MICHAEL KING	HOLLAND, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3379	16-Jun	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	ANN ARBOR, MI TO ESCANABA, MI
3380	16-Jun	RUSS MCNAMARA	RANDY KITZMAN	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3381	16-Jun	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	ROCHESTER, MN TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3382	17-Jun	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	ROCHESTER, MN TO HOLLAND, MI
3383	18-Jun	JERRY SCHMIDT	ROD TINNEY	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO HARBOR SPRINGS, MI
3384	19-Jun	RUSS MCNAMARA	RANDY KITZMAN	ROCHESTER, MN TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI

## Flight Log – June 2010 continued

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3386	20-Jun	BILL KLUNGLE	CHRIS GUSTAF	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3387	24-Jun	ERIK ROEMER	JUSTIN GODCHAUX	KALKASKA, MI TO PONTIAC, MI
3388	24-Jun	ERIK ROEMER	JUSTIN GODCHAUX	PONTIAC, MI TO KALKASKA, MI
3389	25-Jun	JOHN WORKMAN	BILL KLUNGLE	ROCHESTER, MN TO HOLLAND, MI

## Flight Log – July 2010

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3390	7-Jul	MIKE MILLER	CRAIG BIRCH	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO MADISON, WI
3391	7-Jul	MIKE MILLER	CRAIG BIRCH	MADISON, WI TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3392	9-Jul	ED BROWN	JEFF PETT	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO PONTIAC, MI
3393	9-Jul	ED BROWN	JEFF PETT	PONTIAC, MI TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3394	12-Jul	VERN ELIASON	JIM MEISENHEIMER	HOLLAND, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3395	10-Jul	VERN ELIASON	ROB SEIDL	MADISON, WI TO MUSKEGON, MI
3396	13-Jul	JEFF OSTRANDER	PETE NEAL	HOLLAND, MI TO ST. PAUL, MN
3397	17-Jul	JOHN OLSON	RICK TERZO	ST. PAUL, MN TO HOLLAND, MI
3398	19-Jul	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3399	19-Jul	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	ROCHESTER, MN TO HOLLAND, MI
3400	22-Jul	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3401	22-Jul	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3402	25-Jul	GARY SAGE	PAUL SEGARD	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3403	27-Jul	JOHN WORKMAN	DAN HORNE	MUSKEGON, MI TO COLUMBIA, SC
3404	28-Jul	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	ANN ARBOR, MI TO HOUGHTON, MI

## Flight Log – August 2010

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3405	1-Aug	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3406	1-Aug	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	HOLLAND, MI TO RALEIGH DURHAM, NC
3407	1-Aug	JERRY SCHMIDT	ROD TINNEY	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3408	2-Aug	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	RALEIGH DURHAM, NC TO HOLLAND, MI
3409	4-Aug	MIKE MILLER	CRAIG BIRCH	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3410	4-Aug	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO MADISON, WI
3411	4-Aug	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	MADISON, WI TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3412	6-Aug	JERRY SCHMIDT	ROD CORTRIGHT	ROCHESTER, MN TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3413	6-Aug	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	ANN ARBOR, MI TO HOUGHTON, MI
3414	9-Aug	ALBERT SICKINGER	RUSS MCNAMARA	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3415	9-Aug	JERRY SCHMIDT	ROBERT HEGEL	KALKASKA, MI TO PONTIAC, MI
3416	9-Aug	JERRY SCHMIDT	ROBERT HEGEL	PONTIAC, MI TO KALKASKA, MI
3417	13-Aug	CRAIG BIRCH	CHRIS PERKINS	KALKASKA, MI TO PONTIAC, MI
3418	13-Aug	CRAIG BIRCH	CHRIS PERKINS	PONTIAC, MI TO KALKASKA, MI
3419	15-Aug	JEFF UEKERT	JACK WARD	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3420	15-Aug	JEFF UEKERT	JACK WARD	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3421	16-Aug	CARL WALKER	GAYLE SONEFIELD	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO CLEVELAND, OH
3422	18-Aug	PETER TOBIN	STEPHANIE CRUZ	CLEVELAND, OH TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3423	19-Aug	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	MUSKEGON, MI TO RALEIGH DURHAM, NC
3424	20-Aug	ALBERT SICKINGER	MARK EVANS	RALEIGH DURHAM, NC TO MUSKEGON, MI
3425	20-Aug	JERRY SCHMIDT	ROBERT TAYLOR	ROCHESTER, MN TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI

## Flight Log – August 2010

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3426	22-Aug	CHRIS FAIRCLOTH	DAVE JOHNSON	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3427	29-Aug	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3428	31-Aug	RUSS MCNAMARA	RANDY KITZMAN	TRAVERSE CITY, M TO MUSKEGON MI
3429	31-Aug	RUSS MCNAMARA	RANDY KITZMAN	TRAVERSE CITY MI, MUSKEGON, MI
3430	31-Aug	MIKE MILLER	CRAIG BIRCH	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO MADISON, WI
3431	31-Aug	MIKE MILLER	CRAIG BIRCH	MADISON, WI TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3432	31-Aug	CARL WALKER	MARCUS PLESSNER	PELLSTON, MI TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI

## Flight Log – September 2010

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3433	1-Sep	CRAIG BIRCH	CHAD WALES	KALKASKA, MI TO PONTIAC, MI
3434	1-Sep	CRAIG BIRCH	CHAD WALES	PONTIAC, MI TO KALKASKA, MI
3435	2-Sep	CARL WALKER	GAYLE SONEFIELD	ROCHESTER, MN TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3436	2-Sep	JERRY SCHMIDT	ROD TAYLOR	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO PELLSTON, MI
3437	2-Sep	JERRY SCHMIDT	ROD TAYLOR	ANN ARBOR , MI TO HOUGHTON, MI
3438	1-Sep	RUSS MCNAMARA	JOHN HARBOTTLE	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3439	1-Sep	RUSS MCNAMARA	JOHN HARBOTTLE	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3440	3-Sep	CARL WALKER	GAYLE SONEFIELD	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3441	12-Sep	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	GRAND RAPIDS ,MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3442	12-Sep	NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3443	14-Sep	MIKE MILLER	CRAIG BIRCH	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3444	16-Sep	KEVIN DINGMAN	MICHAEL KING	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3445	20-Sep	SEAN RIVARD	JOSEPHINE REDMAN	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3446	22-Sep	RUSS MCNAMARA	RANDY KITZMAN	ROCHESTER, MN TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3447	26-Sep	GARY SAGE	PETE NEAL	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3448	27-Sep	ROBERT HAASE	MATT BOUCHER	MUSKEGON, MI TO HOUSTON, TX
3449	28-Sep	CHRIS FAIRCLOTH	JUSTIN GODCHAUX	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3450	28-Sep	MIKE MILLER	CHAD WALES	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN

### *Wings of Mercy Gratefully Acknowledges Gifts, in Memory of:*

Edith Gustafson Miller

Eileen-Jo Thornburg

Harvard Nagelkirk

James Brooks

Kirk Doll

Keith Gascho

Marc Dobrowitsky

# Flight Log – October 2010

Mission #	Date	Pilot	Co-Pilot	Route
3451	3-Oct	GARY SAGE	PETE NEAL	SPRINGFIELD, IL TO ROCHESTER, MI
3452	4-Oct	MIKE MILLER	CHAD WALES	MUSKEGON, MI TO MADISON, WI
3453	4-Oct	MIKE MILLER	CHAD WALES	MUSKEGON, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3454	5-Oct	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	MADISON, WI TO MUSKEGON, MI
3455	5-Oct	RICK TERZO	JOHN OLSON	ROCHESTER, MN TO SPRINGFIELD, IL
3456	6-Oct	PETER TOBIN	DEAN SPRAKE- JONES	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3457	10-Oct	RANDY PUGH	BRAD PUGH	PELLSTON, MI TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3458	11-Oct	FRED HONORE	HUGH EISEN	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO PELLSTON, MI
3459	11-Oct	MIKE MILLER	CHAD WALES	GRAND RAPIDS, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3460	11-Oct	JERRY SCHMIDT	ROB TAYLOR	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3461	14-Oct	JOHN OLSON	RICK TERZO	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO ROCHESTER, MN
3462	15-Oct	JERRY SCHMIDT	ROD TINNEY	ANN ARBOR, MI TO HOUGHTON, MI
3463	16-Oct	MIKE MILLER	CHAD WALES	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3464	16-Oct	MIKE MILLER	CHAD WALES	ROCHESTER, MN TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI
3465	17-Oct	KEVIN DINGMAN	MICHAEL KING	MUSKEGON, MI TO BALTIMORE, MD
3466	17-Oct	KEVIN DINGMAN	MICHAEL KING	BALTIMORE, MD TO COLDWATER, MI
3467	17-Oct	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	HOUGHTON, MI TO ANN ARBOR, MI
3468	18-Oct	ROBERT HAASE	ROBERT BOWDEN	HOUSTON, TX TO MUSKEGON, MI
3469	18-Oct	KIM GARY	JOHN SORENSEN	OCTONAGAN, MI TO TRAVERSE CITY, MI
3470	19-Oct	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	ANN ARBOR, MI TO HOUGHTON, MI
3471	20-Oct	CARL WALKER	PAUL ELZINGA	TRAVERSE CITY, MI TO OCTONOGAN, MI
3472	29-Oct	PETER TOBIN	JAMES FELLERS	ROCHESTER, MN TO MUSKEGON, MI
3473	30-Oct	JOHN WORKMAN	BILL KLUNGLE	YOUNGSTOWN, OH TO ANN ARBOR, MI

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## FROM THE LEFT SEAT

By Terry Boer  
President

## FROM THE RIGHT SEAT

By Dan Horne  
Vice President, Operations

Simply go to our web page at [www.wingsofmercy.org](http://www.wingsofmercy.org) and click on “How Do I Contribute?” then scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on “Donate”. Secondly, we have signed up with GoodSearch.com. Many of you purchase item on the internet. By using GoodSearch.com, you can still purchase those same items but this time Good Search will contribute a percentage of the price to the organization of your choice. For example, I recently purchased an item from Best Buy. I started at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), typed in Best Buy and then selected Wings of Mercy for the contribution. There was no additional cost for the item I purchased and yet Wings of Mercy received a donation. So please consider this as the Christmas buying season approaches.

Wings of Mercy will continue to find ways to “beat” this economy. Any way you can help will be greatly appreciated. I can’t thank you enough for your past support. Let’s continue to work together to “Give Wings to Those in Need”.

*Have a Blessed Christmas and a great 2011.*

We worked with the FAA for almost a year and a half to get the formal approval we were seeking. I am very happy to report that Wings of Mercy is the first volunteer pilot organization in the country to obtain a formal and written exemption from the 2008 interpretation!

In determining whether we meet the higher level of safety standard the FAA scrutinized our guidelines and practices. Our guidelines were accepted with the requirement that we make only a few changes. Most of which are minor.

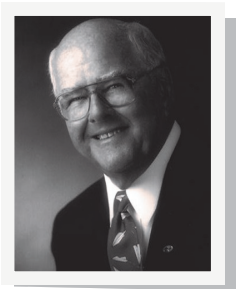
We will be implementing the changes and rolling out new guidelines over the next month. Stay tuned.

*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year - 2011*

# Wings Of Mercy Chapters

## West Michigan

Peter J VandenBosch , Founder



Special thanks must be given to a special group of people for the successes in fundraising in the year 2010.

- Rex Vanderlinde - CareAffaire Muskegon at the Executive Air Hangar, Muskegon Airport, June 5.
- Fred Honore - Annual Hansen Collision Golf Outing, Meadows Golf Club in Allendale, June 9
- Tret Geurink - Annual Pig Roast at the Holland Fish and Game Club, July 20.
- John Workman, and Leo and Geri Denslow — Fish Fry and Onion Rings at the House of Chan, prepared by the staff of Doo Drop Inn, Muskegon, August 16. Thank you also to Joe Chan for the donation of his restaurant.
- Kent County Department of Aeronautics Gerald R Ford . Airport Annual Golf Outing at Thornapple Pointe Golf Club, Grand Rapids, August 27.
- Mary Robinson, Randy Kitzman and Mark Evans CareAffaire Traverse City at the Traverse City Airport, Cherry Capital Aviation hangar, September 11.

We also continue to thank all of you contributors without whom Wings of Mercy, Inc. would not exist. We are now in our 20th year. This year will be our greatest in terms of missions flown. Thank you all again,

BLESSINGS TO YOU AND YOURS THIS  
THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS SEASON.

## Minnesota

Glenn Young, Flight Director

Wings of Mercy / Minnesota is the newest and remains the smallest of the three Wing's of Mercy organizations - but we're doing our best to continue growing and serving people in need in Minnesota, North & South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and wherever we are needed. Generally our destinations are to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, or to the U of M hospitals in St. Paul, MN.

We have accomplished 931 missions to date, with an average of +/-5 trips per month.

Economic conditions have made it difficult to maintain current aircraft, and to recruit new aircraft and pilots, but we have been able to hold our ground and, as always, will hold out hope for improved economic conditions.

We currently have 4 twins in our ranks, a BE58 Baron with our stretcher, a PA34 Seneca, an Aerostar, and a PA31P Pressurized Navajo (which also makes occasional trips for Wings of Mercy West Michigan).

I occasionally receive requests for Italy, the Mediterranean area, and Germany. Until we find a sponsor with a Global Express, G-V, or comparable aircraft, destinations like this are simply beyond our means. If you know of a company or an individual with these types of resources available, please send them my way!

# Wings Of Mercy Chapters

## East Michigan

Chuck Binder, Secretary

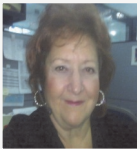
2010 is shaping up as another busy year for East Michigan as we have just crossed 35 times around the world for our recipients. A total of 1345 Missions have been completed, spanning almost 871,000 miles.

We have flown 112 missions this year covering over 67,000 mi or 2.6 times around the world. Nine missions are being coordinated for the next few weeks.

July saw Wings East Michigan supported in a very successful fund raiser charity softball game put on by the Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association. Thanks to volunteer Tim Draeger and many others who provided invaluable assistance. A slideshow of the event can be seen at [http://www.wingseastmi.org/Red\\_Wings/Red\\_Wings\\_home.html](http://www.wingseastmi.org/Red_Wings/Red_Wings_home.html).

## West Michigan

Sharon Huminsky, Flight Director



People always ask me how they can support Wings of Mercy. We now have a new way that is in place thanks to Kathleen Workman.

Kathleen took great care in purchasing “Wings Wear” for all to buy. There are a variety of items to choose from with new items being added throughout the year. We do have the brochure online at



[www.wingsofmercy.org](http://www.wingsofmercy.org) just in time for the Holidays. There is the standard blue logo to choose from along with this new pilots logo. All of the proceeds from the sales go directly to

 Wings of Mercy.

## West Michigan

Grace Spelde, Flight Director



One of the unexpected duties that I have as a flight director for Wings of Mercy is asking people how much they weigh. It is very important for a pilot to have accurate weight and balance calculations to insure safe flight. “And what is your current weight?” ...I ask as nonchalantly as I know how. The voice on the other end has to give me a number and if the caller is female, we laugh about how awkward the situation is and move on to the next question.

The tables were turned on me recently when I had the opportunity to go on a Wings of Mercy flight myself. I was excited about getting to fly with one of our veteran pilots until it dawned on me that I was going to have to tell him how much I weigh. My husband does not know how much I weigh. It was then that I learned a very valuable lesson. By the time most patients turn to Wings of Mercy for help, they have been humbled in a myriad of ways the least of which is telling me how much they weigh. In humility, I am committed to protecting their privacy and their dignity any way I can. Getting a little taste of what it is like to be at the mercy of Wings can only make me a better flight director.

I did tell my pilot my weight, prefacing it with the fact that I am 5’9” and have “big bones.” And with the holidays upon us I have the following blessing for anyone who wants a weight they can claim without qualm...

*May your stuffing be tasty*

*May your turkey be plump*

*May your potatoes and gravy have nary a lump*

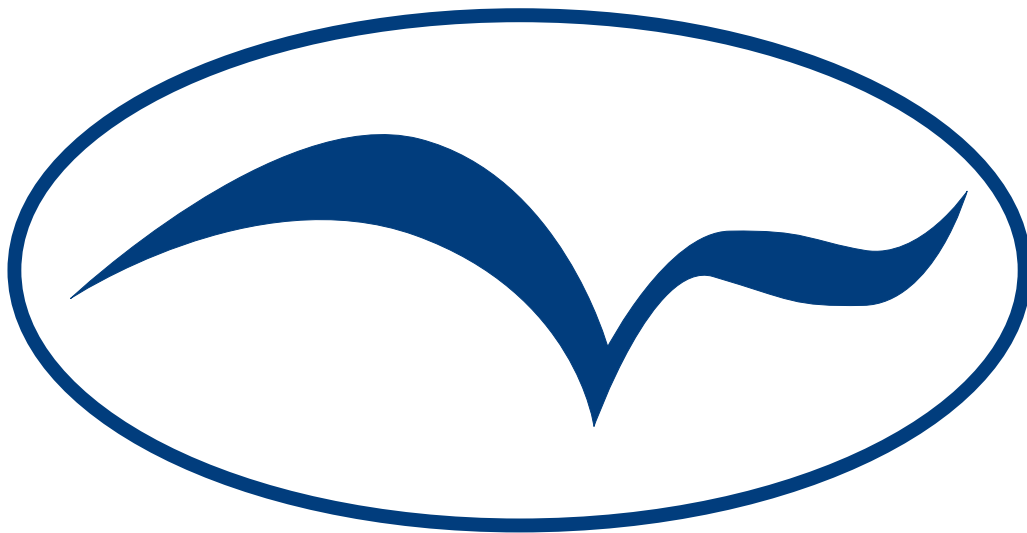
*May your yams be delicious and your pies take the prize*

*And may your Thanksgiving Dinner stay off Your thighs*



*Over 3,500 Missions Flown Since 1991*

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**WINGS of MERCY®**

Visit our website [www.wingsofmercy.org](http://www.wingsofmercy.org) for more information!