

Angel Flight Patient Dancing to Recovery

“What have I got to lose?” said the man who had never flown and vowed he never would.

For David, a cancer patient from Georgetown, Kentucky, flying with Angel Flight came to mean the difference between life and death.

The 41-year-old was enjoying his marriage of three years to Pam and his work as a commercial and industrial painter when he began experiencing pain and weight loss.

On May 24, 2007, his doctor delivered the grim news: David had stage four colorectal cancer; worse, it had metastasized to the liver.

“Even if everything goes perfectly with chemo, we give you two years.”

Six rounds of chemotherapy later, David was in “horrible pain” and couldn’t function, Pam said.

She sprang into action on the Internet, researching aggressive treatment programs, and found the Goshen Center for Cancer Care in Goshen, Indiana. There, an innovative procedure called SIR-Spheres microspheres has shown good effect in destroying tumors in the liver.

The microspheres contain a radioactive element called yttrium-90 that selectively targets the tumors while sparing healthy tissue.

But how would they get to treatment? “David was on disability and had lost his income,” Pam explained. “The trip was 340 miles by car. With fuel being so expensive, I didn’t know what we were going to do.”



David says his wife, Pam, “and the good Lord keep me going.”

Through the American Cancer Society website, she discovered Angel Flight. “We could only give three days’ notice but they were still able to arrange a flight.” But David balked, saying he wanted no part of flying. Pam insisted that he “let these people help, and he agreed.”

So far, the couple has taken five Angel Flights to Goshen. “The pilots are amazing people, inspirational and gracious,” Pam said.

Results from the treatment are promising, with a PET scan indicating that all the tumors except one—which has shrunk—are inactive. David said that when he got the news, he “danced [his] way out of the hospital.”

He’s scheduled to take an Angel Flight back to Goshen in late April where he will get another PET scan to check on the status of the one remaining lesion.

“We thank God for Angel Flight every night,” Pam said.

MISSION REPORT

Fiscal Year To Date

Missions Coordinated

◆ **2,815**

Missions Completed

◆ **1,212**

Total Volunteer Pilots

◆ **1,506**

Climbing on Course

Perfect Storm, Lobbying Keep Pilot Scrambling



Steve Craven

Editor's note: With this issue we welcome Steve Craven aboard the Angel Flyer. Steve is a long-time Angel Flight pilot and board member. His column, "Climbing on Course," will be featured in each issue. Enjoy his view from the cockpit.

Hello, Fellow Pilots.

Like me, I'm sure you're glad to see spring on the horizon. This was a difficult winter for me, as flying, weather and business worked only too well together. Wind and turbulence kept me grounded, as well as business commitments when I was anxious to take flight. I sold my tire business last year, and loose ends have been a major distraction. I'm looking forward to good weather and a clear mind.

Somehow I have managed to create for myself a kind of perfect storm. In the month of April I have my annual, insurance renewal, medical and biannual

all due. I am scrambling, to say the least, but very grateful to be able to fly and own a plane and use it to help others.

We (Ed Boyer, Lee Duckworth, Jim Smith) and myself have been very active over the last few months working to promote and lobby for positive effects on our volunteer efforts.

The General Aviation Manufacturers Association has been helpful and generous in providing legislative assistance for the Volunteer Pilot Organization Protection Act and the effort to convince the FAA to allow partial fuel reimbursement for Angel Flight missions. Progress has been slow but we are optimistic and will never give up.

Please contact GAMA and thank Pete Bunce and Jamie Hunter for their continued efforts at www.gama.aero or call 202-393-1500.

Thanks again for your sacrificial efforts to help those who face medical/financial crises.

May God bless you all.

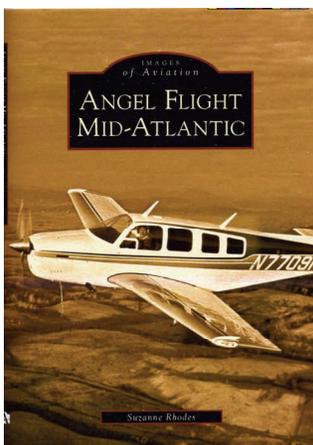
Steve

Angel Flight History Now in Second Printing

Suzanne Rhodes' new book on the history of Angel Flight is now in its second printing through Arcadia Publishing.

Rhodes has been Angel Flight's director of public affairs for nearly five years.

Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic begins with a brief history of aeromedical operations in America from World War I. Fast forward to the 1970s and we meet Mercy Medical Airlift (MMA) founder Ed Boyer and three other pilots who bought a Bonanza A36 in 1977 for public benefit flying.



From service as a shuttle for religious and humanitarian leaders to its present use in Angel Flight operations, the Bonanza has been the organization's workhorse and is thus featured on the book's cover.

The history, told primarily through photographs and captions, features volunteer pilots, patients, and the spectrum of other programs developed over the years to make sure needy patients have access to medical care.

The book sells for \$19.99, with the author's proceeds going to MMA.

To order, call 888-313-2665 or visit ArcadiaPublishing.com on the Web. ♦

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