

Angel Flight Part of Child Patient's Miracle



Dogs are man's best friend and a little girl's too. Sydney is six years old and loves her dog Rooney, a certified seizure alert dog that goes everywhere with her.

Sydney needs the constant attention and comfort that Rooney gives her because she suffers from a rare condition called Dravet's Syndrome. Fewer than 500 children in the world are affected.

Dravet's Syndrome begins during the first years of life and produces every type of seizure. It causes mental and progressive delays that make some children non-verbal. Many become severely mentally retarded before puberty.

Sydney is on the mild side of retardation and frequently has myoclonic seizures, which happen very quickly. During this type of seizure, a child forcefully throws his or her head back every two to five seconds. Sydney also has ataxia, which creates poor balance and muscle tone. It is critical that she have some type of support around her at all times to prevent her from falling, and she can never be left alone.

Angel Flight has transported Sydney and her family, including Rooney, about 10 times. The family lives in Erlanger, Kentucky. Dina, Sydney's mom, says each flight is "more pleasant than the last." They are scheduled to fly again in August when the little girl will meet Dr. Charlotte Dravet, the doctor for whom the syndrome is named.

Angel Flight has even taken Dina to a support group meeting of other moms in her situation. She said before the trip, she thought her family was the only one

going through the same challenges.

HopeForSydney.com is Dina's website that tells about Dravet's Syndrome and the experience of raising Sydney and her sister Sadie, who has apraxia. Apraxia prevents Sadie from speaking. "Living on faith... looking for a miracle" is the motto of HopeForSydney, and Angel Flight has assisted with that miracle. ♦

Climbing on Course

Patient Pics Sought



Steve Craven

Hello Fellow Pilots,

Hooray! Summer is almost here. I can't wait to touch down at MQI (Dare Co., North Carolina) and stick my feet in the warm sand.

Recently, I've had to quickly ramp up my online skills to effectively perform as an AFMA Community

Representative. I purchased an Apple I-Phone primarily for phone and email, but have enjoyed locating and adding GA-related web sites to its two-site screens.

Mac McClellan in the June issue of *Flying* recommends FltPlan.com for flight planning and flight information. Unlike DUAT, FltPlan offers historic wind data along your route and has the ability to accept flight plan files 'way in advance.

Ed Boyer and I recently attended the 25th anniversary of the National Organization of Rare Disorders (NORD). Many of us have flown patients to NIH or other research facilities for clinical trials made
(see 'Patient,' page 2)

Senior Volunteer Wins Top Governor's Award

By Emily Kneipp, Student Intern

Laughing is his secret to living well. He manages to keep smiles on patients' faces, as well as on his own, through his dynamic sense of humor. Roy Brun celebrated his 87th birthday on February 25, and he keeps as busy now as he did before retirement from Smith Douglass Co.

This spring, Roy was awarded the highest accolade for volunteer work. On April 24 he received the 2008 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Award in the senior category.

"They made a big deal of it," Roy said. "They put the trophy on display at Westminster-Canterbury [retirement community in Virginia Beach where Roy lives] the week after I got it and it's still there."

Recipients for the award must exemplify specific characteristics including "engaging in the creation, mobilization of volunteers, groups, and resources that are involved in projects benefiting the greater community," according to vaservice.org. Gov. Timothy M. Kaine presented the award.

The Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service award wasn't Roy's first. He also won the 2005 Jefferson Award for outstanding achievement in public service, and



Receiving Gov. Kaine's highest senior award is 'a big deal' indeed for volunteer Roy Brun and those he serves.

has earned many other honors as well.

Roy serves Hampton Roads' residents by devoting four days a week to helping Angel Flight. He has been volunteering with the organization since 1997 after he heard a presentation at Westminster-Canterbury.

"When Angel Flight came up with volunteers to fly patients for treatments, that impressed me," Roy said.

He set up a volunteer program by recruiting his neighbors to take calls for Angel Flight at Westminster Canterbury from patients needing help with air transport options

Now, Roy and about five other WC residents make follow-up calls to patients who have traveled with Angel Flight.

Lee's Friends is another organization Roy volunteers for.

Since 1985, he has driven cancer patients in "the best Ford ever made" to doctors' appointments, radiation, chemo, and other appointments every Monday.

When transporting patients for Lee's Friends, he never asks for a cent and tells the patients when they ask what they owe him, "You don't owe me anything.

"I try to operate on the golden rule. Do unto others as you have them do unto you," Roy said. ♦

Patients (from p. 1)

possible through NORD efforts. We attended a reception featuring an impressive display of photographs of patients whose quality of life had been improved.

We would like to be able to do the same. Please take digital photos of your patients and email to Suzanne Rhodes at suzanne@mercymedicalairlift.org. Of course, we must have permission (okay on release form) and be discreet and respectful. We need head/waist-up shots as well as those taken next to aircraft. Please include patient's first name if possible. The photos will be helpful with legislation, fundraising, and grant requests.

Questions? Contact Steve@SteveCraven.net or Suzanne.

One last note: our dear friends at GAMA—Pete Bunce and Jamie Hunter—have managed to get our proposal on partial fuel reimbursements to the highest levels of the FAA. It is now pending legal review. Please show your support by emailing them @ GAMA.AERO, or call 202-393-1500.

Thanks again for your continued sacrificial efforts.

God bless you,

Steve

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AngelFlightMidAtlantic.org>[CR](#)**>**[Resources](#)**>**[Handbook](#)****

[Also click to see new PSA on AFMA and Airlift Hope home pages \(if you want a hard copy to take to your local TV station, call Mary Ellen Wernimont @757-318-9174\).](#)