

The National Aeronautics Association and the Air Care Alliance



Public Benefit Flying Awards **Teamwork Award** Program Supplement

NAA Fall Awards Dinner
Crystal Gateway Marriott
December 6, 2021

The Public Benefit Flying Teamwork Award:



In 2020 continuing into 2021 the devastating COVID-19 pandemic wreaked fear and havoc across the globe. Volunteer pilot groups immediately sought ways to help.

Soon, they began flying pandemic-related relief supplies, test kits, and then vaccines out to remote communities to ensure rapid delivery. Hundreds of volunteers from public benefit flying and other groups created a large relief effort providing critical aid to communities large and small throughout the nation.

Many cooperated by linking flights to cover distances one plane or group could not fly, or by working together to coordinate flights.

For these efforts the National Aeronautics Association and the Air Care Alliance are pleased to present the Public Benefit Flying Teamwork Award.

While we may never know the names of all the groups and all the volunteers who pitched in, this supplement is intended to provide a brief overview of the accomplishments of participating organizations and pilots. These are just some of the groups and their reports.



Summary of Relief Efforts Conducted by Volunteer Pilots and Their Public Benefit Flying Groups During the COVID-19 Pandemic



AERObridge

In 2020, AERObridge organized flights for COVID-19 relief efforts around the United States. Our volunteer pilots flew a combined 38,000 lbs of PPE masks, shields, and hand sanitizer during that year.

Additionally, COVID had deteriorated the economic plight of families in Los Cabos, Mexico, forcing a flood of dogs to be abandoned. Baja Dogs La Paz, Inc. had already placed the dogs with forever homes in Washington. AERObridge was requested to assist with the transportation as commercial means were unavailable due to COVID restrictions. AERObridge and Pilots N Paws organized missions for 20 aircraft that flew 23 legs covering over twenty-three hundred miles for the stranded dogs.

Angel Flight Central

Angel Flight Central flew PPE in collaboration with Masks for Docs and flew medical volunteers with COVID Care Force around the country to various reservations.

Angel Flight East

Angel Flight East provided close to 100 different rural health care facilities with donated PPE supplies including face shields, hand sanitizer, surgical gowns and gloves, and homemade face masks. We successfully scheduled 300 flights to deliver 200,000+ pieces of personal protective equipment. Most recently, we received a donation of 15,000 face shields from Hardwire LLC, located in Pocomoke City, MD.

Angel Flight Northeast

During COVID, patient flights flown were 3,600. We never stopped flying patients during the COVID outbreak. In addition to patient flights, we flew 5,000 COVID test kits from medical centers in the Northeast to mid western hospitals for testing, as well as flying 10,000 pounds of medicine, food and clothing to Native American tribes in the western and southwestern US. We also flew RN's to NYC for work in NYC hospitals.

Angel Flight Soars, Inc.

In the wake of COVID-19, Angel Flight Soars immediately furthered relationships with healthcare systems throughout our service area to fly COVID-19 test specimens to their proper lab testing facility. Our work enabled patients and their families to receive test results in 8 hours - opposed to waiting a week or longer for ground transportation. It also enabled us to maintain safety protocols to continue flying patients that were in desperate need, such as one of our "live call" transplant patients. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have coordinated 804 flights for COVID-19 relief.

Through our work with COVID-19, we had a record-number of volunteer pilots join our fleet of angels, and recognition across multiple major media outlets. This included our Vice-Chairman of the Board and volunteer pilot, Larry Jordan, being a finalist for the NASCAR Foundation's Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award.

Angel Flight South Central

Angel Flight South Central helped Texas Tech University deliver face shields and intubation chambers to parts of West Texas. Angel Flight also helped the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Bank fly blood samples to Houston three times a week when commercial flights started being cancelled.

Angel Flight West

During the course of the pandemic, Angel Flight West's volunteer pilots have flown 501 cargo missions to deliver more than 40 tons of equipment, PPE, food, and other supplies to hospitals and communities across the Western states. We worked with partners that include With Love From Strangers, the Colorado Hospital Association, Colorado Aviation Business Association, CORE, COPE, Stop the Bug, Project C.U.R.E., Hualapai Coalition, Operation Pegasus, Farmlink, and the University of Arizona. AFW also arranged 165 commercial flights for frontline medical personnel traveling to hard-hit communities, using tickets donated by Alaska Airlines and Southwest Airlines.

Boeing Employees Flying Association/Washington State Hospital Association

During the initial stages of the pandemic, it became very apparent that PPE was in short supply. Manufacturers were ramping up, but small towns didn't have the buying power of big cities, so the small orders were being set aside. This was a "perfect storm" for small towns all over the state. Not only was COVID-19 wreaking havoc but the front line doctors and nurses didn't have the PPE they needed to fight back. The Washington State Hospital Association saw the need and stepped up. Through personal connections and dogged perseverance, the WSHA managed to secure an order of 1,000,000+ PPE items for their member hospitals. The problem was how to get the PPE out to their members? Pilots from the Boeing Employees Flying Association in Renton, WA stepped up. With no logistical experience, WSHA and BEFA volunteer pilots organized, tracked and delivered over 600,000 PPE items to rural hospitals all over the State of Washington.

CalDART (California Disaster Airlift Response Team)

In the Spring of 2020, CalDART flew ventilators from San Diego to Sacramento to assist with emergency deployments. Additionally, donated face masks were flown from Palo Alto, CA to Walla Walla, WA. Pilot Brian Dear and his son, Sebastian, flew a load of donated face shields to a community in need as requested by their city's emergency management center.

On 9/23/2020, CalDART put together a 1-day airlift of 23 planes flying 4,873 lbs of KN-95 masks, steel trundle beds, hand sanitizer, and a variety of other items to fire fighters and impacted communities near Eugene, Oregon in the midst of historically severe wildfires. Direct Relief of Santa Barbara supplied the operation, and Reach Out World Wide managed the distribution in Oregon.

In October of 2020, CalDART pilot John Sawatzky, with co-pilot Douglas Fitzgerald, flew 250 face shields and 300 face masks from Palo Alto Airport to Byron Airport (C83). CalDART pilot John McGowan, flew an additional seven boxes of face shields and 18lbs of face masks roundtrip from San Martin Airport to Reid Hillview Airport.

During February of 2021, CalDART flew donated PPE and medical gowns from Direct Relief in Santa Barbara to the Yurok Indian Tribe on the Klamath River near the Crescent City Airport.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

Volunteer pilots of Civil Air Patrol operate the world's seventh-largest air force. As a force for good, CAP pilots respond to mission requests from local, state, and federal agencies to serve America's communities and save lives.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CAP's volunteer aircrews delivered test kits, expedited test samples for processing, delivered essential personal protective equipment, relocated ventilators, transported blood donations, and delivered vials of vaccine to remote locations as part of Operation Warp Speed in the organization's largest mass mobilization of personnel and aircraft since World War II.

Civil Air Patrol is proud to be a Total Force partner and the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, and we thank all fellow volunteer pilots who dedicate their time, talent, and energy to support other nonprofits for public benefit as part of the Air Care Alliance.

Corporate Angel Network

Corporate Angel Network (CAN) rose to the challenges of COVID-19 by creating innovative ways to continue serving patients. With the dedicated help of over 500 participants in the aviation community, CAN created out-of-the-box solutions to continue to support its mission of providing safe transportation to cancer patients.

Emergency Volunteer Air Corps (EVAC)

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic EVAC leadership collaborated with Air Care Alliance leaders and those of several other organizations to collect information and medical guidance for use by all volunteer pilot groups to ensure safe operations - when possible - related to the groups' normal operations as well as for COVID-specific relief flights. ACA provided the guidance in bulletins and webinars during 2020-21.

Pilots from EVAC and partner organizations such as CalDART (California Disaster Airlift Response Teams) and other area DART and EVAC DART operations in Washington State, Oregon, Idaho, and California initially flew many thousands of items of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) from central collection points out to rural communities and tribal medical facilities. And as a part of scheduled and impromptu preparedness exercises also organized food drives and delivered by air large quantities of food to such communities, including on coastal islands and in locations where U.S. communities were no longer easily accessible by roads because of USA-Canada border closings.

Through all of this, other partner organizations provided additional logistical help such as by delivering relief items to the central collection points where they were transshipped by our related volunteer pilots and groups, and by helping with weighing and loading cargo, setting up resilient lines of communication, and providing other vital services.

There are too many groups, state and county emergency management agencies, NGO's, and others to provide a complete list here but they included the Civil Air Patrol, Angel Flight West, the Boeing Employee's Flight Association, AeroBridge, Pilots n Paws, various amateur radio associations, the National Tribal Emergency Management Council, Empact NW, staff and FBOs for multiple airports, and many others. Many participate in an overall plan called the West Coast General Aviation Response Plan (WCGARP).

Ultimately items probably approaching a million in number were transported by General Aviation pilots for COVID relief efforts in the region, including food for the needy. These accomplishments illustrate the immense results possible when many groups work together to serve those in need during emergency situations.

LifeLine Pilots

LifeLine Pilots assisted Angel Flight East in transporting PPE during 2020 & 2021. Volunteer pilots, flying for LifeLine Pilots, flew 36 flight legs, transporting needed protective equipment to rural areas throughout the Midwest.

LightHawk

LightHawk and its volunteer pilots continued vital conservation work during the pandemic by flying solo missions. This work included creating new techniques for using mounted cameras to record flights and match video to GPS coordinates for accurate monitoring of conditions on the ground. This helped organizations who were limited in their operations projects due to COVID-19 restrictions.

LightHawk volunteer pilots also continued efforts to transport endangered species for improving breeding genetics and for release into the wild. Wildlife organizations have traditionally relied on commercial flights for moving animals. During the pandemic, restrictions limited the ability to move animals via commercial flights. LightHawk flights can be coordinated to be as quick and stress-free as possible, helping ensure an animal's survival and improve their breeding odds.

The new practices developed by LightHawk and its volunteer pilots will improve conservation efforts today and into the future.

Pilots For Patients

Pilots for Patients flew packages of COVID-19 tests, linking with Angel Flight Soars from Monroe, LA to a lab in Denton TX. We flew every weekend for 12 weekends. The COVID tests were picked up in Meridian, MS by Angel Flight Soars and relayed to MLU where Pilot for Patients delivered to a courier for pick-up in Denton.

Pilots N Paws

Pilots N Paws' COVID-19 response was a call to action nationally. Pilots N Paws experienced an influx in flight requests in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Work from home created a climate where more people could afford to care for a pet on a regular basis. PNP experienced a resulting surge in flight requests as more people opened their homes to rescue animals. Sadly the pandemic's death toll also created a new need for flights for pets that lost their owners to COVID-19. As family and friends scrambled to rescue pets that were made homeless due to death and severe illness, pilots stepped up to the plate to ease this burden by helping to bring them to new homes.

Turtles Fly Too, Inc

Our Turtle Fliers accomplished a number of missions, our largest to date, transporting endangered species including the whale rescue teams and equipment where needed. From the beginning of the pandemic, TF2 added SOP guidelines. We feel our procedures not only protected our pilots but also the endangered species.



The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit membership organization devoted to fostering opportunities to participate fully in aviation activities and to promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States. NAA is the caretaker of some of the most important aviation awards in the world and certifies all national aviation records set in the United States.

For information, visit www.naa.aero



The Air Care Alliance is a nonprofit public service organization supporting the work of dozens of volunteer-based charitable organizations whose members fly to help others. ACA is devoted to fostering, enhancing, and promoting public benefit flying in the United States and other countries.

At the onset of the pandemic, ACA cultivated communication and collaboration among its member groups nationwide. With the guidance of medical experts and public health authorities, ACA developed and distributed COVID-19 best practices for volunteer pilot operations so that groups could operate safely and responsibly. Additionally, ACA acted as a clearinghouse for referring those with pandemic response needs to organizations that could be of assistance.

For information, visit www.aircarealliance.org

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