



# Wings Flyer

Spring 2013



## Patients

*Whatever it takes...*

How you are helping 7 year old Christopher get the best treatment available for his fight against cancer.

## Partners



*Upcoming events...*

Mark your calendars for a summer of Wings of Mercy fun.



## Pilots

*Giving Wings to Those  
in Need*

[www.wingsofmercy.org](http://www.wingsofmercy.org)

## Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	Terry Boer
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bill Klungle
<i>Secretary</i>	Fred Honore

### *Members*

Rob Becker  
Rex Vanderlinde  
Rick Fiddler  
Peter J. VandenBosch  
*Founder/President Emeritus*

## Office Staff

Senior Flight Director Sharon Huminsky  
Flight Director Grace Spelde

## Our Mission

Wings of Mercy is a faith based, non-profit, volunteer pilot organization dedicated to connecting general aviation pilots with low income patients in need of transportation to distant medical facilities.



100 South Pine Street, Suite 393  
Zeeland, MI 49464

Phone: 616.396.1077 Fax: 616.748.6093  
Toll Free: 888.786.3729

[www.wingsofmercy.org](http://www.wingsofmercy.org)

## From The Left Seat

## President Terry Boer

**F**or many years now, the founder of Wings of Mercy, Peter VandenBosch, has said, *"Wings of Mercy is surrounded by the greatest group of givers I have ever seen"*. It is so true. Because of the outstanding support of our pilots, staff, volunteers, and financial supporters, Wings of Mercy has been able to help thousands of patients since 1991. We can't say thank you enough.



**I**n the past, I have reported on some wonderful "givers," and today I would like to take the opportunity to tell you about another. Late last year I received a call from the *Muskegon Women Who Care*. This is a group of women who meet quarterly to discuss local charities and offer support. Each member makes a one hundred dollar donation. Up to four organizations are presented at each meeting with one selected to receive the donation. Of course we were happy to learn that Wings of Mercy would be one of the four charities presented at their November meeting. What we did not know was that the Muskegon Women Who Care have 270 members. Wings was chosen at this meeting and received all of the one hundred dollar checks. The total came to \$27,000! What an impact this group has on its local community. It is great to see the new and creative ways people use to provide much needed support to organizations such as ours.

**A**s you may know, Wings of Mercy is funded solely by contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, and other non-profit organizations. Although we receive no federal, state, or local government funding, drastic cuts in these areas have crippled the non-profits who do. As private funders are asked to make up the difference, the overall availability of charitable contributions has diminished.



What has not diminished is the need for our services. Since our last newsletter Wings of Mercy has completed 130 flights and helped 44 different patients get the treatment they need. Your contributions are what make it possible. Whether you share our mission with your giving circle, attend one of our summer events, visit our website and donate on line, or remember us in your estate planning, through your donation you are helping people get desperately needed healthcare that would otherwise be inaccessible.

All of your gifts are so important. You prove day after day that you truly are the greatest group of givers. Thank you for giving wings to those in need.

God Bless,

Terry Boer

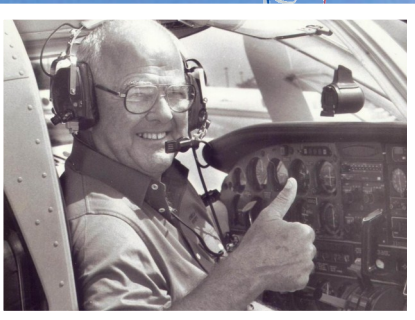
Happy  
90th  
Birthday

Peter  
VandenBosch

Wings of Mercy is now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year of "Giving wings to those in need."

We have completed more than 6,700 missions.

You, the financial givers, you the selfless pilots and plane owners, and you the gracious volunteers are making this possible. Thank you, thank you and thank you!!



Blessings to you and yours,  
Peter VandenBosch



CHARITY

# Golf

OUTING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH, 2013

THE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

ALLENDALE, MI

If you would like to attend the outing, please fax or email your information to Sarah Fuhs: [sfuhs@hansencollision.com](mailto:sfuhs@hansencollision.com)

or call 616-608-8321

Please specify the number of golfers, names, and company.



WINGS OF MERCY

## 10TH ANNUAL PIG ROAST



WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

5 to 7:30 p.m.

HOLLAND FISH AND GAME CLUB

10840 CHICAGO DRIVE

ZEELAND, MI

# WINGS OF MERCY

## MUSKEGON CAREAFFAIRE

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 8:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON

EXECUTIVE AIR TRANSPORT  
107 SINCLAIR MUSKEGON COUNTY AIRPORT



### Pancake Breakfast

Provided by Muskegon Host Lions Club



### Run For Wings

5k Run/Walk [www.runforwings.org](http://www.runforwings.org)  
for registration information



### Classic Cars, Vintage Aircraft

Airplane and Helicopter rides available



Tickets \$6/person or \$25 for the whole family!



Morgan Stanley



## pilots

PIC	SIC	Aircraft	Number of Flights
BILL KLUNGLE	MARK LINDQUIST	KING AIR	2
BRETT MEARES	TERRY TIBBETS	MITSUBISHI MU 2	7
BRETT MEARES	ALAN KOZARSKY	MITSUBISHI MU 2	2
BRIAN SLAGTER	PAUL ELZINGA	BARON 58	1
DAVE SEIGERS	ANN MEENGs	DROVE	2
DAVID PARMALEE	MARK SCHMIDT	SARATOGA	4
DOUG BLAIR	TOM WILKOWSKI	BARON 55	1
GARY SAGE	PAUL SEGARD	CESSNA 421	1
GARY SAGE	JASON MORFORD	CESSNA 421	1
GARY SAGE	PAUL ELZINGA	CESSNA 421	2
GARY SAGE	ALEX ANDEREGG	CESSNA 421	1
GARY SAGE	JEFF OSTRANDER	CESSNA 421	1
GARY VANDERVEEN	PAUL ELZINGA	CITATION 550	2
GEORGE SCHRAFT	CHIP CLARK	CESSNA 310	13
GEORGE SCHRAFT	RON MEGESI	CESSNA 310	6
GEORGE SCHRAFT	PAUL LEHMAN	CESSNA 310	1
GEORGE SCHRAFT	BRAD ZIEMER	CESSNA 310	5
GIL COLLVER	TIM BRUTSCHE	TWIN COMMANDER	4
GIL COLLVER	JIM BURNHAM	TWIN COMMANDER	1
GIL COLLVER	BRIAN PRITCHARD	TWIN COMMANDER	1
JERRY SCHMIDT	MAX ENGLEMAN	CHEROKEE 6	4
JERRY SCHMIDT	GEORGE SCHOENE	CHEROKEE 6	1
JERRY SCHMIDT	ROD TINNEY	CHEROKEE 6	1



November 2012 - April 2013

PIC	SIC	Aircraft	Number of Flights
JIM TREBILCOCK	FRED HONHART	CESSNA 210	2
JOHN LAWS	CYNTHIA BARCLAE	BARON 58	2
JOHN OLSON	RICK TERZO	SENECA II	1
JOHN WERNER	DOUG BLAIR	BARON 55	1
JOHN WERNER	JASON BLAIR	BARON 55	3
JOHN WORKMAN	ALEX ANDEREGG	CESSNA 414	1
JOHN WORKMAN	BILL KLUNGLE	CESSNA 414	4
KEVIN DINGMAN	MICHAEL KING	BEECHCRAFT DUKE	2
KEVIN MALONE	RANDY CHAPMAN	PA46 MALIBU	1
KEVIN MALONE	FRANK PETTY	PA46 MALIBU	2
MIKE MILLER	ANN KOTHAWALA	TBM 850	2
NICK JILEK	GARY MILLER	MERLIN B	6
PETER SANTANGELO	RON BLACK	CESSNA 421	3
PETER TOBIN	CLIFF SUMMERS	COLUMBIA 350	2
RANDY PUGH	BRAD PUGH	COLUMBIA 400	2
RON MCGRATH	DAVID JOSEPH	BARON 55	1
RUSS MCNAMARA	RANDY KITZMAN	SENECA II	1
RUSS MCNAMARA	JOHN HARBOTTLE	SENECA II	2
RYAN VEENSTRA	RAY CHESTER	TBM 850	4
RYAN VEENSTRA	BILL KLOTZ	TBM 850	1
SCOTT SEDAM	KEVIN GILBERT	AERO COMMANDER	2
SCOTT SEDAM	THOMAS KLOTZ	AERO COMMANDER	1
TOM WILKOWSKI	JOHN WERNER	BARON 55	1
VERN ELIASON	ROB SEIDYL	AZTEC	2

# WINGS OF MERCY

## HOLLAND CAREAFFAIRE

Saturday, August 24 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon

**Tulip City Air Service**  
**West Michigan Regional Airport**



### Pancake Breakfast

Provided by Holland Lions Club



### Young Eagles

Pre-register at [www.youngeagles.org](http://www.youngeagles.org)



### Silent Auction

Airplane and Helicopter Rides



**Tickets \$6/person or \$25 for the whole family!**

CONTACT US FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WINGS OF MERCY PHONE: 616.396.1077

Email: [grace@wingsofmercy.org](mailto:grace@wingsofmercy.org)

# Wings for the Cure

Christopher Grimes



The Grimes  
Family



**M**y son, Christopher Grimes III, is a patient of Dr. Giselle Sholler at the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, MI.

Christopher was diagnosed with stage IV Neuroblastoma in 2009. After many rounds of chemotherapy, a tumor resection, multiple surgeries, 2 stem cell transplants, 20 rounds of radiation and 6 months of painful antibody therapy, Christopher was finally declared cancer free.

Unfortunately, after 22 months in remission, Christopher relapsed in October of 2012. Our family has flown or driven the long 18 hour trek from Vermont to Michigan many times, sometimes three times in a single month. Our disposable income ran out long ago, but we do whatever it takes to get our son the best treatment available to have a chance at beating this disease.

Thank you again for the wonderful things you are doing to lighten the load for families who so badly need assistance.

Kristin Grimes—Christopher's Mom

## You Saved My Life, Literally

By Lee Ann Vigliotti

**M**y name is Lee Ann Vigliotti and when I was diagnosed with multiple myeloma AND amyloidosis in February of 2011, my biggest concern was "How am I ever going to get back and forth to the Mayo Clinic for treatment?" My husband and I drove from the upper peninsula of Michigan to Rochester, Minnesota. It was a 12-14 hour drive depending on how many times we had to stop so we could stretch or for me to be sick). We had to stay for three days just for testing and a consult. Then another 12-14 hour drive back. The amount of money that it took just for gas was amazing. Then add food and lodging and we were really struggling. The Mayo Clinic called us about two weeks later and said that we had to return for further testing. This second trip buried us for the rest of the month. It was also a challenge physically. I was becoming more and more ill. When we made this trip, we knew that I wouldn't be able to do it again. And yet I had to get there and flying was out of the question financially.

**O**ne day as I was looking up information about one of my diseases, I saw an option I could choose about financial help for people diagnosed with rare diseases. THAT'S how I discovered the Wings of Mercy organization. When I made my very first phone call to them, I knew that I was in good hands. Sharon and Grace were very understanding and assured me that everything would be worked out and that they would be able to get us there. Within two days I received a phone call from Sharon telling me that she had a pilot and co-pilot that volunteered to fly us to Minnesota. This was the beginning of an extremely long and pleasant relationship between my family and the Wings of Mercy family!



The pilots that we have flown with are amazing people. Somehow they managed to make us feel at ease. I was even able to sleep during most of the flights. I felt safe enough to doze off. My husband was a bit nervous because he wasn't used to flying in a small plane. The pilots and co-pilots explained what the instrument panels were all about and everything they were doing; to the point that he is no longer a "nervous" flyer! When they weren't talking about the plane, some would talk about music (they discovered that my husband was a musician and a music teacher) or their children or what they liked to do on the weekends. The one thing that all of these pilots seemed to have in common was their passion for what they did for the Wings of Mercy program. You truly knew it too by the way they treated us. They all have the biggest hearts that I've ever experienced. Some of them had cookies to share or snacks. Some had the softest pillows and blankets you ever wanted to feel!!! Others had words of comfort and strength. I would like to thank Ed, John, John W., Tom, Rick, George, Chip, Randy, Brad, Kevin, Jerry, Mike, and David for the five star treatment. Those are just a few of the pilots that we have had the honor to meet. I have a difficult time with my memory so if I have forgotten you, please forgive me. I will NEVER forget your faces or the kindness that you have shown us. Your families must be very proud of what you do. I know that I am very proud to know you all.

The two women that I have dealt with on the phone (Sharon and Grace) have voices that are so warm and filled with such confidence that they make me feel like we are sisters. We certainly talk as if we are!! Thank you to all the people

that work behind the scenes, that no one gets to meet or talk to. To all of you involved in making this program available; thank you, thank you, thank you. I really believe that you are our wingless angels and that it was meant for us to meet people like you just to reaffirm our belief in God and all things that are good! You saved my life, literally. As these diseases are going to be a lifelong battle I expect that we will be seeing all of you again!!

God bless. You are all in our prayers.



Lee Ann and husband Larry on a recent flight to Rochester, MN.

*Special thanks to Kristin Grimes and Lee Ann Vigliotti for sharing their stories. We invite you to join us in our mission to provide free flights for patients and renewed hope for families struggling with the devastating impact of life threatening diseases.*

For information on how to become a **Wings of Mercy Pilot**, or to make a **donation** online, please visit our website: [www.wingsofmercy.org](http://www.wingsofmercy.org)

**Connect with us on Facebook!**  
Wings of Mercy, Inc.





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(616) 396-1077

(888) 786-3729

**WINGS OF MERCY**  
**TRAVERSE CITY CAREAFFAIRE**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 7:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.**

**CHERRY CAPITAL AVIATION**

**On Airport Access Road across  
from the Coast Guard Base**

**Pancakes with the Pilots**

**Tickets \$6/person or \$25 for the whole family!**

WINGS OF MERCY GRATEFULLY  
ACKNOWLEDGES GIFTS  
IN MEMORY OF:

WILLIAM  
OLDENBROEK  
CHRISTINE MARY  
DOYLE  
EMMA DIENNO  
KENNETH TYLER  
TOD ANDERSON  
HENRY JASTER  
ELMO HAHN  
MURIEL MANDODY

JOHN GREINER  
JUSTIN WELCH  
ANDY TILLMAN  
ASHER HUMINSKY  
ROBERT START  
CAROL ANN  
HAUSE  
GEORGE DAVIS  
SHEILA BLOCK