

Western Tennessee and the Mississippi Valley

# **Pilots for Patients**

A quarterly publication of Pilots for Patients Fall 2010 Vol. 3, Issue 1

# The Giving Spirit

The word <u>giving</u> can have many definitions but my personal favorite is...... *Presenting voluntarily without expectation of something in return.* For Pilots for Patients, this definition and the quote "It is better to give than to receive" is demonstrated time and time again. You have read or heard about the 3 Ps that make up the Pilots for Patients family... Pilots, Patients, and Patrons. Each gives in their own way, each equally important in making us such a wonderful organization.

Patients give in several ways. They give us the opportunity to help our Louisiana neighbors, allowing us to use our time, talents and skills to provide a much needed service. Without patients to serve, there would be no need for an organization like ours. They also give us their trust during their medical challenge....a rare occurrence in these skeptical times.

Pilots give their time and talents to fly our patients to much needed, and in some cases, life saving medical treatment. Many of our patients would not be able to get to their treatment if they did not have our transportation assistance. Our pilots are truly angels in the air and many have told me they receive such a blessing by helping others. Every mission can be life changing for the patients and our pilots.

Patrons give their support in a number of ways, not always financially. Some spread the word about the service we provide by writing articles for the newspaper or talk about us on TV or radio. Others tell our story at local club meetings or other get togethers. Occasionally, Pilots for Patients is given an award, recognizing our service and contribution to others. All these are important but equally important is the financial support our organization receives. Those big checks are great but so are the \$5.00 bills tucked in a card thanking us for helping someone. Regardless of the type of support received from a patron, we know their hearts have been touched by what we do.

In addition to the 3 Ps mentioned above, Pilots for Patients would also like to acknowledge another group that plays a big part in our success....Volunteers. Each of our pilots is a volunteer who gives his time and covers the expense of each mission they fly. Their supportive and understanding family members sometimes fly along on a mission or "hold down the fort" while they are away on a patient mission. Employers allow them time off to fly a mission. Airport staff and others also support us by offering fuel discounts and courtesy cars. Others help out by manning our booth at aviation events and fundraisers. The Houston Ground Angels and Pilots, another patient-based organization, partners with our group by providing ground angel services once our patients land or are ready to go home. I could go on and on but Pilots for Patients is blessed with so many different, giving people and organizations that help us provide our services to patients who need them. This support is very much appreciated.

We are about to enter into the "giving season". Search your heart for ways you can help Pilots for Patients or any other compassion driven organization. The giving can be big or small as long as it comes from your heart. Think of the next couple of months as a practice period to get into the habit of giving and helping others. The giving spirit doesn't have to end on December 31. Please make an effort to make a difference in someone's life all year long. I know you will be blessed. by Beth Stone

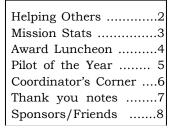
# Back Home



Pilot Terrell Sharplin(r) Patient Billy Husted and wife Vicki

The mission of **Pilots for Patients** is to provide free air transportation to those patients needing diagnosis and treatments at medical facilities not available to them locally. Our goal is to eliminate the burden of travel allowing the patient to concentrate on getting well.

# What's Inside





Philip Thomas & friend at the Dyersburg BBQ



# Leadership Team

# **Corporate Officers**

Philip M. Thomas President

Wayne Petrus Vice President

Lawrence M. Lehmann Secretary

> Wayne Petrus Treasurer

### **Board of Directors**

Philip M. Thomas Wayne Petrus Lawrence M. Lehmann Sharon P. Thomas H.M. Butler Richard Worthington Sal Miletello IV

Honorary Board Members Hester Hill Richard Hill

## **Mission Coordination**

Beth Stone

### **Area Coordinators**

River Region – Louisiana Jim & Linda Riviere

> **Editors** Beth M. Stone Sharon P. Thomas

Online Donations can be made on our website at: <u>www.pilotsforpatients.org</u> PayPal or Credit Card

Thank You for supporting Pilots for Patients !!!

# Milestone Mission – 700 !!!

Since the last edition of this newsletter, our 700<sup>th</sup> mission has been flown. On October 20<sup>th</sup> Monroe area pilot Michael Clay flew patient Dealva Auttonberry (center) and her daughter Ginger Clampit from Monroe to Houston for her treatment. Thank you to Michael and to all the pilots in the Pilots for Patients family for making a difference in the lives of others.



# PRESENTATIONS HELPING OTHERS

The Community Cancer Fund held their 26<sup>th</sup> annual BBQ event on Friday, October 1, 2010 in Dyersburg, TN. This very giving community gives from the heart. Pilots for Patients is a recipient of part of the proceeds from this and other local events. Several people from the PFP family attended this great time of food, fellowship. and fun. (Photos on page 7)





Board member Sal Miletello, from Shreveport, was a recent recipient of the 2010 Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Louisiana Angel Award. Sal is the founder and chairman of the board of Fully Devoted Developer of Children (FDDOC) Winner's Circle, Inc. This organization provides after-school tutoring in math and reading as well as enrichment opportunities for academically at-risk and socioeconomically disadvantaged youth. Congratulations Sal.



In addition to flying patients for Pilots for Patients, several of our pilots also use their flying skills and aircraft to help others by participating in many other compassion-driven activities. Pilot Andy Barham (Rayville, LA) helped transport doctors and medical equipment earlier in the year to Haiti. New Orleans based pilot Michael Harris has flown several relief missions to Haiti as well. Dr. Ralph Abraham (Mangham, LA) recently spent two weeks in Afghanistan treating patients. Dr. William Runyon from Fort Worth, TX



Pilot Andy Barham, friends and supplies preparing for takeoff to Haiti

has flown several medical missions to various locations assisting those in need. We are very proud of these pilots and any others in our PFP family who are making a difference in the lives of others here and in other countries too.

# ---- TOP TEN IN 2010 ----

First	Last	2010	Total			
Andy	Barham	26	70			
Donald	Imhoff	25	25			
Philip	Thomas	19	105			
Philip	Coyne	16	22			
Mac	McKenzie	13	32			
Wayne	Petrus	13	50			
Keith	Odom	11	56			
Dan	Chase	10	16			
Guy	Williams	9	09			
William	Runyon	7	28			
Christopher	Trahan	7	07			
(tie for 10 <sup>th</sup> spot)						

# **Ground Missions**

First	Last	2010	Total
Thomas	Dansby	2	2
Nancy	Worthington	2	2
HM	Butler	1	7
Don	Imhoff	1	1
Lori	Dunn	0	2
Mike	Hartt	0	2
Tracy	Hilburn	0	1
Wade	Hosea	0	1
Bo	Hunter	0	1
Larry	Lehmann	0	1
Morris	Mintz	0	1
Wayne	Petrus	0	1
Jan	Rugg	0	17
Teri	Sims	0	1
Philip	Thomas	0	3

# Pilot Mission Count – 1/14/2008 – 9/30/2010

First	Last	Total	First	Last	Total
Ralph	Abraham	07	Bo	Hunter	19
Edward	Angel	01	Donald	Imhoff	25
Warner	Angelle II	01	Marty	King	04
Everett	Baird	05	Dale	Lambert	03
Andy	Barham	70	Larry	Lehmann	23
Edwards	Barham	04	Mark	Lobell	01
Jason	Barrette	01	Glenn	McGovern	04
Robert	Bash	01	Mac	McKenzie	32
Mike	Blakeney	17	William	McMahan	01
Ryan	Blakeney	01	Morris	Mintz	08
Bill	Buck	02	Brooks	Monypeny	03
Dan	Chase	16	Joe	Neathamer	07
Darryl	Christen	01	Robert	Nelson	01
Richard	Cloud	13	Keith	Odom	56
Ed	Collins	05	Daniel	Oppenheim	01
Philip	Coyne	22	Wayne	Petrus	50
Charles	Crochet	01	Pilot	PFP	07
Quincy	Dalton	03	William	Runyon	28
Thomas	Dansby	03	John	Rutledge	04
Dennis	Daray	01	Phillip	Schaitel	01
Carlton	Dufrechou	02	Terrell	Sharplin	01
Robert	Eisenstadt	02	Riaz	Siddiqi	09
Robert	Gafford	01	Travis	Smith	04
John	Gaumnitz	01	Steve	Smith	03
Bruce	Goodbee	01	Philip	Thomas	105
Donald	Goodman	01	Christopher	Trahan	07
Craig	Gregory	01	Monte	Warne	01
Abraham	Hakim	01	Robert	Watters	01
Michael	Harris	03	Clyde	White	12
Pilot	HGA	14	Doug	White	06
Wade	Hosea	06	Guy	Williams	09
Ben	Hulsey	01	Richard	Worthington	10

# 2008/2009/2010 Pilots for Patients Missions

### 23 22 20 <sup>21</sup> 9 <sup>10</sup> Feb Mar Jul Oct Dec Jan Apr May Jun Aug Sep Nov

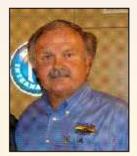
# PILOT OF THE YEAR TOP 11 FOR 2010



# 2010 Pilot of the Year Andy Barham - Rayville, LA



Don Imhoff Baton Rouge



Philip Thomas Monroe



Philip Coyne Baton Rouge



Mac MaKenzie Monroe



Guy Williams New Orleans



Keith Odom Monroe



Dan Chase Monroe



Wayne Petrus

Monroe

Bill Runyon Ft. Worth, TX



Christopher Trahan Lake Charles

Congratulations to our Pilot of the Year, our Top 11, and to all the pilots that fly and help in other ways to make Pilots for Patients such a wonderful organization.

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Dr. Ralph Abraham is available to give any PFP pilot that has flown 1 mission per year his/her medical exam free of charge. Contact the PFP office to learn more.

# Just a Reminder

+ Once you have accepted a mission, please refer to the Mission Checklist on the back of your ID badge and contact the office if you have any questions

**H** Make sure we have up to date copies of your insurance coverage on file at the office. Please fax to the office at 318 388 4924.

+ Please fax or email the Hobbs time and miles as soon after you complete a mission as possible

+ Please take pictures (if the patient is comfortable with this) and send to the PFP office.

# Coordinator's Corner

It is hard to believe this year is almost over. It has been an eventful one for Pilots for Patients. Our 500<sup>th</sup>, 600<sup>th</sup>, and 700<sup>th</sup> missions were flown and 20 new pilots have joined our organization. Several fundraisers were held to help us with our mission and various recognition awards were received. Word of the service we provide has been spread throughout the state of Louisiana.

I have been your mission coordinator since January 1<sup>st</sup> and have really enjoyed this past year very much. It has been great reconnecting with pilots I knew from my old Angel Flight days and getting to know new pilots here at PFP. I am amazed at the compassion, dedication and giving nature of everyone in the PFP family. In these challenging times, it is comforting to know there are so many good people in this world really making a difference.

I want to thank everyone for making 2010 such a wonderful year for PFP and for me. I wish you all the blessings this holiday season brings and a Happy, Prosperous New Year in 2011. Beth Stone

# 4th Quarter Birthdays

October Warner Angelle II David Powell Erle Barham Darryl Christen Andy Barham November Chuck Crochet Clvde White Joe Neathamer Russell Leach Michael Harris Philip Thomas Robert Gafford Ken Woodward Terrell Sharplin Daniel Oppenheim Ben Hulsev December Daniel Broderick Robert Einstadt Donald Imhoff Mike Blakeney Dennis Daray

> **Non Pilot** Tamara Byrd

# Thank you notes

# Dyer County 26th Annual Community Cancer Fund BBQ



Patiently waiting in line for ribs, pork butts, and sandwiches..yum



All these people were waiting in line to see our own Wayne Petrus...oh and to buy some of the 10,000 lbs of frozen sausage donated by Jimmy Dean.



Board member Hester Hill and PFP President Philip Thomas



Pilots for Patients information tent, sharing what we do with the Dyersburg community.





Busy chopping for those delicious pork sandwiches



Four of the hardest working ladies at the BBQ (l. to r.) Tara Matheny, Barbara Gatlin, Debra Roberson, Janie Gregson

Just wanted to say thanks again for what Pilots for Patients has been able to do for our family. My dad is a HUGE LSU fan, & on the flight home on Thursday, Mr. Barham was dropping someone off in Hammond so he flew over Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge on the way there - big thrill for my dad. William Adcock (son of patient James Adcock)

PRAISE THE LORD! Thanks so much Beth for all you do! Thanks to our pilot Travis Smith who flew us to Houston on Thursday, waited and flew us back! God is so good! If you are looking for an organization to help out I can not say enough wonderful things about Pilots for Patients! They are ALWAYS there! Susan Young (patient Sara Grace Young's mother)

The flight to Houston was wonderful. Doug and Andy were great and the plane......well, it was amazing. What a treat. My Ground Angel was equally as nice. Patient Shelley Thomas

Words could never express my thankfulness and appreciation to you all for your kindness, time and dedication to such a great cause. My Mom and I have had the opportunity to fly with PFP on two occasions. On our last flight, along with Pilot Mike Clay, we became the 700th mission. This was truly an honor to my Mom and myself. Transporting your loved one to a medical facility during a serious illness can be an extremely stressful experience. Thanks to Pilots for Patients they have made our trips comfortable, convenient and also free of charge. This is a blessing right out of heaven. It has been a silver lining around our Mom's illness. Thanks to Wayne Petrus, the pilot on our first trip to MD Anderson. It was my Moms first time to fly and thanks to Wayne she was extremely comfortable and at ease. Pilots for Patients consists of very experienced pilots who have dedicated their time and finances to helping others. It is an extreme honor for me to be associated with this organization. Philip, the Awards Banquet was wonderful. To all who were involved, outstanding job! We are looking forward to next year. Thanks also to Beth for coordinating all of our flights. She works diligently to see our flights are scheduled in a timely manner at the convenience of the patient. Once again my heart felt thanks to Pilots for Patients. May God's blessings be with you all! Ginger Clampit (daughter of patient Dealva Auttonberry)



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If you or your organization would like to host a fly-in, fundraiser or other event please contact the Pilots for Patients office. Phone: 318 322 5112 or email: pfp@pilotsforpatients.org



# **MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE TODAY**