



Flight Donation Program

AeroAngel's Mission

AeroAngel helps really sick kids travel to distant, life-saving medical care on private jets at no cost to their families. AeroAngel fills an unmet need to serve those children who face serious medical issues that preclude their safely flying on a commercial airline flight but who do not need to fly by air ambulance for care.

As Children's Hospitals increasingly specialize in rare diseases and treatments, there is a growing need for long-distance transportation so that children can safely access care. Currently, there is no other nonprofit in the country dedicated to providing free, long-distance flights on private jets for children with serious medical issues traveling for life-saving care.

AeroAngel's Unique Model

In addition to operating its own jet, AeroAngel relies upon donations of flights from private jet owners, charter operators, and corporations. AeroAngel receives requests from Children's Hospitals, its website, and directly from families in need. A family's request for a flight is vetted to ensure that there is a true need for the flight, and the child can safely fly on a private jet. After a flight is accepted, AeroAngel reaches out to its network of owners and operators for assistance with the flight. AeroAngel handles all of the logistics, including providing pilots and mission assistants, if necessary.

AeroAngel coordinates the flight schedule with the family so that all a flight donor needs to do is schedule the aircraft.

Operational and Program Integrity

One of AeroAngel's core values is to provide the highest level of safety and service to the children we fly. We are dedicated to a culture of safety. We use only volunteer professional pilots to fly our flights and work with industry-leading safety providers to enhance the safety of our operations.

We recognize the significant financial commitment that our donors and supporters make to support our mission. That is why we carefully vet flight requests to ensure that our passengers truly need a private flight and have no other safe travel option. In other words, we do not provide flights for passengers who could safely travel on a commercial airline flight, use an air ambulance, purchase a charter flight, or drive a reasonable distance. Each of our passengers signs a liability release prior to a flight.

AeroAngel's operations are overseen by a Board of Directors with expertise in aviation, law, and medical care. We have a commitment to complete financial transparency.

How can you help?

1. **[Become a Flight Donor](#)** Simply notify us that you would like to consider donating a flight(s). There is no obligation to accept any particular flight request presented. When a potential flight may be a particular match (geographical/common route), AeroAngel will notify your designated contact for consideration. If you decide to donate a flight, AeroAngel will take care of all logistical details.
2. **[Fuel AeroAngel's Jet and Vision](#)** When short-notice flight requests are received or a donated flight is not available, AeroAngel provides flights on its Learjet that was recently donated. The flight operation costs to operate this jet with a crew of volunteer professional pilots is substantial. Beyond these costs, AeroAngel is working to fund one or more newer jets that could be dispatched to provide flights across the country.
3. **[Donate a Charter Flight](#)** The donation of a charter flight (or time on a fractional program such as NetJets or Flexjet) can provide an invaluable option for a child in need of a last-minute or long-distance flight. Having the ability to employ a charter flight also ensures that a backup flight can be available in the event of a mechanical or scheduling glitch that would otherwise mean cancelling a critical flight.

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Frequently Asked Questions

How do I join AeroAngel's program? Simply email AeroAngel's President, Mark Pestal, at mark@aeroangel.org and let him know of your interest. We make participation in our program as easy as possible.

How is AeroAngel different than other air charities? AeroAngel's mission is to provide critical, life-saving flights for passengers (primarily children) with no other safe travel options to access critical medical care. AeroAngel is the only air charity in the country that coordinates flights around a passenger's medical appointments, even if on short notice, and with aircraft capable of flying in most weather conditions. We provide flights for children with all serious medical conditions. Our flights are all flown in jet aircraft by a crew of volunteer professional pilots. We accept flights for passengers needing to travel long distances, needing a medical escort, or supplemental oxygen.

Can I deduct the cost of the donated flight? AeroAngel is recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt entity under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. We can provide a tax receipt for the fair market value of the donated flight.

How does AeroAngel ensure that passengers are medically safe to fly? In vetting a passenger for a flight, we communicate with a primary care provider as well as consult outside medical professionals trusted by AeroAngel to help inform decisions about whether to accept a flight request. (In most cases, we require that a medical professional approve a requested flight.) We require that passengers be able to board the aircraft with minimal assistance (*i.e.* only ambulatory passengers are accepted).

Does AeroAngel charge a family for a flight? AeroAngel does not charge for its flights and does not accept donations from passengers. AeroAngel operates most of its flights pursuant to Part 91 of the Federal Aviation Regulations.

Does AeroAngel provide reimbursement of expenses such as fuel? In some cases, AeroAngel can pay for the costs of fuel. We can accept donations of fuel from FBOs and fuel suppliers. We work with FBOs to provide fuel discounts for our flights and for aircraft handling fees to be waived.

Can I offer empty seats on a scheduled flight carrying other passengers? Yes. We work with families to coordinate their travel to fit the a previously scheduled flight.

If necessary due to space limitations, AeroAngel will ask that only one parent accompany a child on the flight.

Do AeroAngel passengers require special medical equipment to be on board?

Aircraft provided for AeroAngel flights do not need any special medical equipment to be on board. In some cases, a child may require medical equipment, such as an oxygen concentrator, that is supplied by the family or medical facility.

Can the donation of a flight on my aircraft be kept anonymous? Yes. We strictly honor such requests and limit the dissemination of information about a flight to comply with a donor's need for anonymity.

About AeroAngel's Founder AeroAngel was founded in 2010 by Mark Pestal, a professional pilot and attorney with expertise in aviation law. In stewarding AeroAngel, Mark has combined a passion for flying with a heart to serve seriously ill children and their families. Recently, Mark retired from his position as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Denver, Colorado, in order to volunteer fulltime to expand AeroAngel's nationwide service mission. AeroAngel is an all-volunteer nonprofit with over 95 percent of donations supporting its unique flight program.

For additional information about AeroAngel, please visit our website www.aeroangel.org and Facebook for posts about our flights, [AeroAngel FB Group](#).

Thank you for your interest in Giving Hope Wings!

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