



Pilots For KidsSM

O R G A N I Z A T I O N

Helping Hospitalized Children Since 1983

www.pilotsforkids.org

N e w s l e t t e r

March 2008



Santa, Captain Baldy and a group of PFK volunteers bring smiles to the faces of patients and families at the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, MI. PFK members around the country shared similar experiences throughout the holiday season. Congrats to everyone for a job well done!

“100% of our donations go to the kids”

visit us at: pilotsforkids.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Dear Members,

Thank you all for a great effort in 2007. We cant thank our volunteers enough for the impact that they have had on our organization.. Their work keeps our costs to a minimum and is a direct benefit to the children that we are trying to help.

We would like to highlight and extend our sincere appreciation to two volunteers for their exceptional work in 2007. Thank you Brian Flannigan for hosting and greatly improving our website. Also, many thanks to Captain Dolores Pavletic for her assistance and expertise with our web host transition. In addition, welcome and thanks to Kathie Schroeder. Kathie has graciously offered her talents and time to create our newsletter. Thank you Kathie because we know this a very time consuming effort.

Last but not least, thanks to all our members and supporters. In particular, thanks to the BICSI Cares organization for their generous donation of \$24,000.00 to Pilots For Kids.

Thanks for your dedication and support!

Sincerely,

Ed Faath



Captain Baldy and a group of helpers visit the Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune, NJ to help spread holiday cheer.

Captain Rod Biggs was able to coordinate 30 volunteers, including Captain Baldy, to help with the PFK visit to the Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune, NJ. This visit was special for Captain Biggs as it included his son, Nolan, who was previously treated at this facility. It is always special to be able to “give back” to a group that has been so meaningful to your family and Captain Biggs was happy to be able to do so.

CITY: Point Pleasant, NJ

PILOT GROUP:

COORDINATOR: Rodney Biggs

Of his visit to the Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune, NJ, coordinator, Rod Biggs writes...

I want to thank each of you who either participated in the visit this past year and/or donated. We were able to visit twenty-one children, five in ICU. We had planned to visit another hospital but, fortunately, all of those children were released for the holiday. In addition, we were able to raise almost \$1500 this year.

This was a great year since it was our son, Nolan's first chance to join in the visit. I've been doing this since 1999. Previous years he had either a school play or was sick. He is the reason all of this started in our area, so it was neat to have him join us this year.

Rod Biggs & family

**THANK
YOU**

Dear Mr. Faath,

Earlier this week my daughter and I were at Children's hospital in Dallas. My daughter, who is nine years old, has cancer and was there to receive a chemo treatment. She has been sick for a year and going to the clinic is always difficult for her. She knows she has to, but waiting for hours, getting stuck and receiving the chemo that she knows makes her feel bad makes the trip to the clinic difficult. On Tuesday when we were there, members from your organization were there to hand out surprises for the kids. I wanted to let you know how much that meant to us. Your organization made a trying day much easier. Thank you very much.

Colleen McColloch

Claire's mom

Subject: Thank You

From: Julie Remington

My daughter, Savannah, has Cystic Fibrosis and has spent just about every December, including this one right now, in the hospital. Even though she is now 14 yrs.old, she still enjoys folks stopping by for a visit.

Savannah is admitted currently at St. John's Medical Center in Tulsa, OK. Please do share my comments. As a parent of a chronically ill child I see the importance of visitors at the hospital.....Julie Remington

www.caringbridge.org/ok/savannah

Savannah's web page

CITY: MCO

PILOT GROUP: Southwest, UPS, Chautauqua, ABX, NetJets, Jet Blue, FreedomAir, Delta

COORDINATOR: Mark Plussa (SWA)

Pilots from the from MCO area visited Arnold Palmer Hospital, Florida Children's Hospital, and The Russell Home for Atypical Children during their past holiday season. Coordinator Mark Plussa and pilots from several airlines distributed toys and games to the children at those hospitals. Capt. Plussa's pilots also made a monetary donation to The Russell Home. You may recall that PFK made a \$15,000 donation to The Russell Home last year. The MCO pilots also visited a local children's home and provided dinner and gift cards to those young residents.

James S. Russell from The Russell Home penned the following message to show their appreciation.

Merry Christmas!

We have a list of folks we know, all written in a book, and every year at Christmas time we go and take a look, and then we realize that these names are a part, not of the book they are written in, but of our very heart.

So never think our Christmas Greetings are just a mere routine of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between, for when we send a letter that is addressed to you it's because you're on that list of folks we're indebted to.

For you are but a part of the many folks we meet and you happen to be one of those we prefer not to forget, and whether we've known you for many years or few in some way you have had a part in shaping things we do.

Every year when Christmas comes we realize anew the biggest gift life can give is meeting folks like you. May the spirit of Christmas that forever and ever endures leave it's richest blessings in the hearts of you and yours.

--Children of The Russell Home



Captains Tony Gee, Atif Fareed, Jose Gutierrez and Bill Spinelli (above) were joined by a number of other PFK volunteers as they spread holiday cheer to patients at two Orlando area hospitals as well as The Russell Home.

CITY: LAX

PILOT GROUP: Delta

COORDINATOR: Marty Harrington

The LAX pilot group of Martin Harrington, Rand & Louise Arenstein, Ken Adams, Eliot Shulman, Ken Kuethen, Larry Karp and station manager, Sheree Weber visited the City of Hope Hospital. They handed out over twenty Christmas presents to patients. Sheree brought flowers from Hawaii for the hospital coordinator, Toni Irwin, and the ward nurses. The visit was a great success. One mom commented that her daughter hadn't smiled like that in over a week. Marty confirmed everyone's feelings, "That single smile makes everything we do worthwhile!"



Captain Bob Lawlor (above) and other Charlotte PFK volunteers had plenty of help as they held a party and distributed holiday gifts to the patients at the new Levine Children's Hospital.

CITY: CLT

PILOT GROUP: Various

COORDINATOR: Bob Lawlor

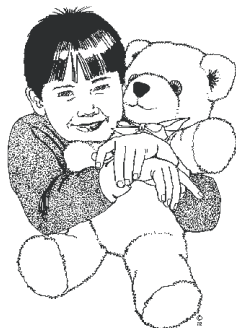
The Charlotte, NC chapter of Pilots For Kids had another great event this past year. Our volunteers gave gifts and toys to over 75 children at the new Levine Children's Hospital. In addition we had the Mascot from the local Harris-Teeter grocery chain, Harry The Dragon, as well as Santa and a few elves. A party was held on the main floor for the children. For those who could not attend, Santa and Harry visited their rooms where possible. A good time was had by all.

CITY: JAX**PILOT GROUP:** UAL, Astar/DHL, ABX, NWA, DAL**COORDINATOR:** Pam Mitchell-Almand

In the photo, front row from left Rick Phelps, Jeanette Newman, Jeff Sallmen, Sid Malonson, Rob Bartlett; back row, from left Sharon O'Malley, Santa (Steve Sullivan), Pam Mitchell-Almand, Bob Lowenthal and Kevin Havixbeck shared fun, food, gifts and laughter with families at Hubbard House in Jacksonville.

This year was a little different for the Jacksonville, Florida, contingent of Pilots For Kids! Instead of hospital visits this year, we threw a Christmas party for families and kids at Hubbard House, a local shelter for victims of domestic violence. We hosted 20 families with about 45 kids from infants to teens for a few hours of fun, food, gifts, and laughter.

We had 8 pilots and 2 flight attendants participating and other crew members who donated money, gifts, and Christmas cookies. (I'm finally getting contact names and emails for pilots of other airlines than Northwest in the local area so participation was great this year! If anyone knows pilots around Jacksonville, please send me their email addresses for next year!)



What a great time we had! The original plan was to have small groups of kids in each age group come down for separate parties, but all the families came down at the same time so chaos reigned, but everyone had fun! We outfitted each child in a plush Santa hat (leftover from last year!) and Northwest wings (free!), and Santa (Northwest pilot Steve Sullivan) gave each child a gift and a pilot bear. We took Polaroids of each child with Santa and then helped the kids pick a gift for Mom, wrap it, and make a Christmas card out of their Santa photos. It was fun to see the intense concentration and pride with which each child chose a gift and decorated the cards for their moms!

Then everyone gathered in the party room for pizza, juice boxes and Christmas cookies, and Christmas carols and "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer" were truly "shouted out with glee"! Airplane cards were passed out and as they left, each child was given a stocking filled with candy, wristbands, kazoos, airline pins, candy canes, and those sticky, slimy, rubbery creepy-crawlies only a kid can love! Each also got a book donated by the Jacksonville Jaguars football team. What a Christmas!

These children so need to be treated with love and respect by adults, and especially male adults, and all our pilot and flight attendant volunteers were super! The kids loved the uniforms and the flying stuff and each child got individual attention from Santa and his flight crew.

The Hubbard House staff told me over and over again how excited and happy these kids were for a week after that party! We were not able to get photos of the kids because of security reasons and, in fact, the pilots were only given directions to the facility the day of the event and were asked to sign a request to keep the location confidential. Hubbard House is a protected, secure facility and kids even go to Hubbard House's accredited school inside the shelter to help keep their location safe from their abusers.

These children are not sick or in the hospital, but they are abused and frightened and away from their homes under horrible circumstances. It made Christmas special for all of us to be able to give them a break from fear and uncertainty and have some fun, laughter, love and pizza!

Another THANK YOU

Please let me start by introducing myself. My name is Liza Gould and I am the Mother of a very special 6 year old little girl named Bree Seidel. On December 18th 2007, four of your aviators made a trip to Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown Pennsylvania. My daughter, who has cystic fibros, had surgery that day to place a medi-port in her chest. As of today, over 34 days of the past 12 months she has been in the hospital and needed a total of 3 months of IV antibiotics in the past 12 months, and she is now receiving IV anitbiotics at home. She does 12 breathing treatments per day, 2 hours on a therapy vest, and another mucus clearing device to try and keep her lungs clear. Bree takes over 20 medications per day and swallows 35 pills each day. She is amazing and never complains about any of it. Those 4 very special aviators made her day when they came visit her. Rich Leeman, Scott Carlson, Joseph Contanza and Jeff Buchman presented her with stuffed animals, coloring books, and crayons. Bree and I were both very thankful that your organization exists. After they left Bree's room she said she needed to give them a gift in return, and something for them to remember her by. She wanted to give them one of her Christmas pictures. So Bree ran out of the room with the picture in hand and gave it to these four men. All I can say is the hallway was filled with smiles and love. I want to thank you and everyone involved in the Pilots for Kids organization for making Bree and other children who are hospitalized smile and forget about what they are going through for a bit of time. It takes some very special people to do what you do. So once again thank you and those four wonderful men for bringing a smile to Bree's face.

Sincerely,
Liza Gould

CITY: HOU

PILOT GROUP: Continental and ExpressJet

COORDINATOR: Ofelia Carrasco



Continental and ExpressJet crew members were joined by Santa in their visit to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

Continental and ExpressJet pilots spent time spreading holiday cheer on December 3rd at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. Santa was able to take time from his busy schedule and help deliver several cart loads of PFK plush bears to the children. A wonderful time was had by all.

CITY: DTW

PILOT GROUP: Various

COORDINATOR: Jim Breaugh

Detroit "Pilots for Kids" members visited over 200 kids in visits to Mott's Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor and Barnum Rehabilitation Center of Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Along with the pilots, we had Captain Baldy accompany us to both hospitals. He brought with him a special gift that he left behind to help them during their hospital stay. Captain Baldy brought his 14" mentor, an exact replica of himself. The kids all wanted a picture with themselves, Captain Baldy and their new best friend, the Captain Baldy doll. He was a big hit. We would like to thank all those who donated their time or money to enable us to bring smiles to the children and their families during a trying time for them during this holiday season.



A Detroit visitation was made complete when Captain Baldy was joined by Santa and Mrs. Claus.

CITY: IND**PILOT GROUP:** FedEx, Various**COORDINATOR:** Ming Lowe

It's hard to believe, but this was our ninth year visiting children on behalf of Pilots for Kids. So much has changed in nearly a decade in my own life, and likely in yours. Yet, the needs of children—especially this time of year—are always here. Our PFK participants agree that the work of Pilots for Kids has become a bright spot in the holiday season. Many who have accompanied us have expressed how it causes them to count their blessings and that they often get back more than they put into the visits.

This year the Indianapolis group visited two locations of St. Mary's School, the St. Vincent Payton Manning Children's Hospital and the Clarian North Hospital in Carmel.



Over 50 PFK volunteers from seven different airlines helped Captain Wayne Morrison spread holiday cheer to three Dallas area hospitals.

CITY: DAL**PILOT GROUP:** Various (7 airlines)**COORDINATOR:** Wayne Morrison

Retired Southwest Captain Wayne Morrison was able to coordinate a very successful PFK event this year with over fifty pilots from seven different airlines participating in the visits to three hospitals. Gifts were distributed to 450-500 children in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The first visit was to Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth on Dec. 3rd, followed by a visit to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas on Dec. 4th and finally the Dallas Children's Medical Center in Dallas on Dec. 11th. Everyone had a great time and came away with a very good feeling and commitment to seeing even more kids next year!

CITY: GRR**PILOT GROUP:** American Eagle, Southwest, Northwest, United**COORDINATOR:** Greg Chase

On December 17th, over twenty PFK volunteers and their families gave comfort and joy to over 120 sick children and their families at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, MI. The day's activities included cookie decorating, craft making, visits with Santa and Captain Baldy, along with pizza and floats. Children who were unable to attend the party were treated to visits in their rooms by Santa, Captain Baldy and crew members. All the children and their siblings left the party with gifts from PFK, a stuffed animal donated by the employees of MMPC Vascular Surgery and a wonderful moment of just being a kid at Christmas.

With the help of all the volunteers and the child life staff of Spectrum Health, the day was a great success. Although the volunteers felt that they had received the greatest gift of all--the happy faces of the children and their families!



Captain Jean Thompson and other Delta and Continental pilots shared gifts and holiday cheer with patients at Brennard's Children's Hospital at Wake Forest University.

CITY: North Carolina**PILOT GROUP:** Delta, Continental**COORDINATOR:** Jean Thompson

A group of PFK volunteers from Delta and Continental Airlines, coordinated by Captain Jean Thompson, presented gifts to patients at Brennard's Children's Hospital at Wake Forest University and at Wilmington Hospital's Children's Unit. The smiling faces of the participants show how much they enjoyed this tradition of spreading holiday cheer to hospitalized children.

CITY: Compton, CA**PILOT GROUP:** ExpressJet (Ontario-based Crews)**COORDINATOR:** Dylan & Mikhael Madello

The PFK group in Huntington Beach, CA hosted a pizza and holiday party for the kids at the Compton Welfare Rights Women's and Children's Shelter in Compton, CA on December 20th. The group chose the shelter because it was a place where they could "make a difference." There were sixteen homeless children living with their mothers at the shelter. Because of the small size of the group, PFK volunteers were able to give each child an individual gift. PFK donations were used to purchase gifts from each child's "wish list" along with PFK teddy bears, pizza and soda. The kids sang Christmas carols, danced to a video of "Soldier Boy" on television and tried on the pilot's hats. Volunteers noted that the most rewarding part of the visit was seeing the smiles on the faces of the children as they eagerly opened their gifts. The families and staff at the facility were very appreciative of the time and effort of the volunteers.



Adi Greenberg, Jim Palmer, Julie Hudson and Troy Arnold visit young patients at Sunrise Children's Hospital in Las Vegas.

CITY: LAS**PILOT GROUP:** NWA, Air Wisconsin**COORDINATOR:** Gary Dolson

The Las Vegas chapter of PFK had another fantastic year bringing smiles and gifts to over 220 children, about 40 from the Sunrise Children's Hospital and 180 children from Head Start which serves Classroom on Wheels (COW). The COW buses help underprivileged children get a Head Start on life.

We delivered dolls, toy planes, coloring books, diaries, purses, nerf basketballs hoops, nerf footballs, wings, teddy bears and Capt. Baldy dolls with a lot of excitement and joy from our helpers. NWA pilots Julie Hudson, Jim Palmer, Adi Greenberg and Air Wisconsin pilot Troy Arnold, actually had as much fun giving the gifts as the children did receiving them!

This year was really special in the fact that we had a female pilot, Julie Hudson; she was a big hit with the young girls at the hospital.

Top Left: Hatless PFK volunteers, Dylan and Mikhael Madello and Chris Roth, from Huntington Beach CA, shared their hats when they brought gifts to the holiday pizza party at the Compton Welfare Rights Women's and Children's Shelter.

Lower Left: ExpressJet PFK volunteers helped brighten the day for these homeless families by sponsoring a pizza party and sharing gifts.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!**Buy PFK Merchandise**

We have sweatshirts, polos, T-s, ball caps, travel mugs and luggage tags.

Visit us at "The Store" at pilotsforkids.org & pick out some of our unique items...Great for gift giving too!

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The ideal garment for any season.

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Pilots For Kids items, including: sweatshirts, polos, T-s, ball caps, travel mugs and luggage tags are available.

Visit *The Store* at **Pilots For Kids.org**
or contact Bob Cirka at:
PFKMerchandise@pilotsforkids.org



T-shirts \$10.00



Ball caps \$7.50 & \$10.00



Travel Mugs \$9.00

Pilots For Kids welcomes the following new members:

Joseph Hyde	Pinnacle Airlines
Rick Jansma	US Airways
John Bergeson	US Airways
Jon Greuel	Northwest Airlines
Jack Faver	Atlantic Southeast
Paul Holte	Continental Airlines
Jeffrey Sallmen	Astar Air Cargo
Sabrina Floco	Express Jet
Daniel Willems	America West Airlines
Todd Williams	Delta Airlines
Scott Floco	Delta Airlines
Gibson Stranahan	Express Jet
Trevor Arnold	Air Wisconsin
Maria Beaver	ExpressJet Airlines
Edmund Brunnock	JetBlue Airways
Steve Jangelis	Delta Airlines
Kirsten Korkus	American Eagle
Dave Modder	American Eagle
David Mohr	JetBlue Airways
Randy Choos	ABX Air
Brandon Vondrak	Air Wisconsin
John Antolos	Mesa Airlines
George Baker	JetBlue Airways
Ryan McClintock	Pinnacle Airlines
Richard Leeman	Continental Airlines
Michael Hay	Northwest Airlines
Jim Toohey	Southwest Airlines
David Torres	JetBlue Airways
Stephen Welborn	Mesa Airlines
Lisa Welborn	Delta Airlines
Steven Flesch	Atlantic Southeast
Doug Murray	FedEX
Maggie Koller	514th Ops group USAFR
David House	Southwest Airlines
Jeff Mitchell	United Airlines
Bryan Arcuri	Freedom Airlines
Christopher Fuson	Comair
Brian Weir	JetBlue Airways
Mikhael Madello	
Dylan Madello	
Brian Heron	Continental
Brian Covin	
Marcus Pajak	
Robert Funk	
John and Kelly Burt	
Jeremy Duke	Student Pilot
Daniel Sindt	Student Pilot
Meagan Kaiser	Student Pilot

***Want to spread the word about us?
Give your newsletter to a fellow pilot!***

More
**THANK
YOU'S**

Just a note of thanks from the hospital for the visit of the pilots and the toys they brought to the children. It was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Joan Reif, Manager of Volunteers
Inova Loudoun Hospital, Leesburg, VA*

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for the wonderful experience that was shared with our children and your staff from Northwest Airlines. Gary Dolson is truly an exceptional person. Gary showed concern, love and compassion for our children, and their faces lit up the moment they saw him. Gary was able to bring an Air Traffic Controller along with him who helped our children understand the job of an airline pilot all the more.

Once again, thank you so very much for the wonderful job that you do with our community and for affording us the opportunity to be a part of the experience.
Martha Villegas, Family Advocate
Community Development Institute Head Start
Clark County, Nevada

Thank you and the "Pilots for Kids" organization for making the holidays brighter for so many children waiting for permanent homes. The kids had a great time at the party playing games, making craft items and eating pizza. They especially enjoyed the visit from Santa who brought them each a "Pilots for Kids" bird, pin and gift card. Thanks to you, your organization and all you do for our children.

*With Overwhelming Gratitude,
Joseph Crumm, Elizabeth Phelps and Jane Snell
Children's Home Society of Florida*

Address Change: If you have a change of address please e-mail our data base manager, Bill Spinelli, at: database@pilotsforkids.org

Web access: If you are a current PFK member, your username and password are: Username: **pfk** Password: **1983**

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Membership Our organization is funded entirely by membership dues. Membership dues allow us to spend **100%** of our collected donations on the children. Annual membership dues are \$15.00.

Pilots For Kids members include airline crewmembers, corporate, military, private, and aviation enthusiasts.

See membership form on back cover

Newsletter The Pilots For Kids Newsletter is published in March and November. E-mail articles to dkschroeder@tampabay.rr.com

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PFK Mascot, Capt. Baldy

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Pilots For Kids SM
Organization

P.O. Box 620052

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"Helping hospitalized children since 1983"

Become a Pilots For Kids member, today!



Complete the attached membership form and return it with your tax deductible \$15 annual dues which will help fund the organization.

By becoming a member, you will receive a membership card, lapel pin, flight bag decal, luggage tag, our Pilots For Kids newsletter and most importantly, an opportunity to help hospitalized children.



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Please return your membership application along with your annual dues of \$15.00 to:

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Make checks payable to: *Pilots For Kids*

Your information is considered confidential and is never sold or shared.

