



**LIFELINE PILOTS**  
*the shortest distance between home and hope*

# MISSION MOMENTS



## Under Our Wing

TYLER LISTON  
OUTREACH AND MISSION COORDINATOR



After a decade of retail management, I made the decision to switch careers and start my journey into the nonprofit sector. Not that there's anything wrong with retail, mind you. I loved the face-to-face customer interactions and the problem-solving aspects of the job, but there was just something missing. I wanted to do actual good in the world. I wanted to do something I could show my kids and feel proud of, instead of just selling someone a book or a toilet.

Let me tell you, folks... I had no idea what I was getting myself into.



In the last three months with LifeLine Pilots, I have seen and felt every emotion under the sun.

There have been astronomical highs and soul-crushing lows. We are invested in customer/passenger outcomes like nothing I've ever experienced before. It's inspiring, and terrifying, at the same time.

When I was unable to help someone in my previous job, they might be a little disappointed. They might even holler at me a little bit about how upset they are that the book they wanted was out of stock. If I am unable to help someone in *this* job, though, they might not receive the life-saving medical treatments they need.

In other words, the stakes are high.

Luckily, here at LifeLine Pilots we have the strong leadership and collaborative atmosphere in place to help.

Take Cassie, for example. Cassie lives in Tennessee and must fly to MD Anderson in Houston every couple of weeks for her breast cancer treatments.

We normally don't cover anything south of Tennessee, but with the help of a few of our amazing pilots like Bob B. and other volunteer pilot organizations like Angel Flight South Central and Pilots for Patients, we've been able to help her get the treatment she needs. She has been beyond grateful, and helping her ranks as one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had.

Jim and Lori are in the same boat as Cassie: they're sick and they need help. They are two passengers who fly from South Dakota to the Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Zion, IL.

I never thought in a million years that we would be able to fly them back and forth multiple times a month like we have, but with our selfless group of pilots and our "help everyone" approach to Mission work, we've been able to give them both that gift of hope.

Lindsey, Ann, the Board, and I are poised and ready to help more people, but we need your help to do so.

The biggest barrier we face is a lack of knowledge about us and what we offer.

*"By the time I get to Houston, I'm utterly exhausted.*

*This was such a good experience.*

*I'm nearly in tears writing this. This company is amazing.*

*Thank you for all that you do." - Cassie*



For instance, another volunteer pilot organization conducted a study that said that only 5% of the people who could use our services know that we exist. This means that they put themselves through grueling drives, or they forego a treatment they need, simply because they don't know that we are here for them.

You can help us by spreading the word to people you know, sharing our posts on social media, donating to help expand our reach, or volunteering your time to aid us in our outreach efforts.



With your help, LifeLine Pilots can grow exponentially in 2022, turning *the shortest distance between home and hope* into reality for more people than ever before. Thank you all for everything you do for us and for our passengers. We here at LifeLine Pilots appreciate you more than you could ever imagine.




# From the Desk of the Executive Director

LINDSEY KERR

**LifeLine Pilots needs YOUR help sharing our mission!**

**Click the links below to help share the LifeLine Pilots mission with pilots, people who need our help, or to your network of friends and family! By sharing, you could make a life-saving impact on others.**


SHARE WITH PILOTS



Click here for a custom message to share with other pilots.

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SHARE WITH PASSENGERS



Click here for a custom message to share with people who could use our free service.

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SHARE WITH FRIENDS

Instagram

Click here to follow LifeLine Pilots on Instagram and engage with our Mission Moments.

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**"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;  
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH." –  
HELEN KELLER**

## **WELCOME TO THE TEAM!**

**NEW COMMAND PILOTS**

**Ron Fox**

**Charles Binzel**

**Steve Lukehart**

**Josh Broton**

**Sean Niklas**

**Lincoln Merani**

**Lee Rosenbaum**

**Blake Allred**



# PILOT'S CORNER



## Command Pilot Dr. W. Tad Foster

Written by Ann Rude  
Grant and Mission Coordinator

**Dr. W. Tad Foster has been flying with LifeLine Pilots since 2009.**

**If the mission is going through Indiana, his name will usually be on it. As with most things aviation, his path to pilothood was not as the crow flies...**

Six weeks after high school graduation, Foster joined the Air Force with a goal of becoming an officer. He focused on nuclear missile systems instruction though, not piloting. After his service, he shifted to education and Foster became a high school teacher. He volunteered with the Illinois Air National Guard during this time, but between raising a family and pursuing higher education something had to give. He gave it up after a year.

During his year of National Guard service Foster said he was offered an opportunity to train as an electronics weapons officer on board the F-4 Phantom.



"I turned them down," he regrets. "Today I often kick myself for that decision."

In 2005, while serving as dean of the College of Technology for Indiana State University, Foster was enlisted to consult about the Professional Pilot program – the largest undergraduate school at the college then.

One lesson later, he was hooked.

A lifelong learner, Foster said, "The flight instruction environment was too rich in intense and demanding opportunities, that I had to investigate this learning process and try new techniques."

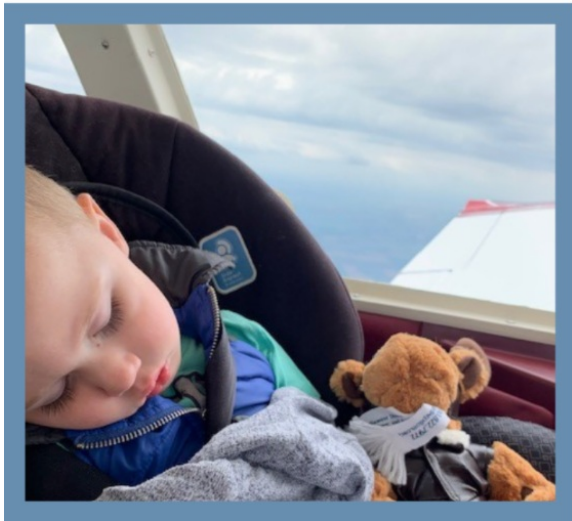


Foster is now a CFI-I with almost 3,000 hours. He owns a 1940 Piper J-4 Cub Coupe which he restored to excellent condition. For LifeLine Pilots' flights, he partners with a man who owns several planes. This gentleman encourages Foster to fly frequently. Foster says, "He told me to fly as often as I would like. Helping me help others gives him and his wife the opportunity to give back to aviation."

Foster is ardent about serving and giving to others. In addition to his full-time work as a college professor and researcher, he is an ordained minister who made 40 trips to Ukraine as a missionary. When he saw the LifeLine Pilots's booth at an event called Sun and Fun, "I immediately signed up," he said. "It was the perfect opportunity to combine two passions."

Foster has flown more than 60 missions with LifeLine Pilots, but his third mission might be his most eventful.

"I flew up to Rockford, IL, to pick up a 12-year-old boy and his father. The boy had a brain tumor and was going to Bloomington, IN, for radiation. As we left Rockford, I pointed out a thunderstorm in the distance," he said. "I explained that it was moving much slower than we were - nothing to worry about. But after passing Bloomington, IL, those clouds seemed much closer.



I called air traffic control asking about conditions ahead. They said it was to the South of our destination, but to be safe, I diverted to Greater Putnam County Airport, my home base, where my car was parked."

The plane had just been pushed into the hangar when rain began to fall.

Foster drove the passengers from Greencastle, IN, to Bloomington, IN, 37 miles away.



His most humorous trip involved a two-year-old. The little boy needed to get from Peoria, IL, to Cincinnati, OH. The child was excited while in the FBO, but when the actual boarding began, he changed his mind.

"Then the mother installed the car seat right behind me," he remarked. "From the time he got wrestled into the airplane until about 15 minutes into the flight, he kicked my seat. Firmly and continually."

Foster was about to say something when he noticed the boy was sound asleep. All was well until the descent into Lunken Airport.

"You guessed it. The kicking began again and continued until they took him out of the seat. The uneventful trip home was much enjoyed!"

"Flying for LifeLine Pilots is important to me. It gives me a sense of doing something important with the skills and opportunities God has given me. I look forward to my next mission. Blue skies everyone!" Foster concluded.

Tad Foster is a great asset and good friend to all of us at LifeLine Pilots. We are grateful and happy to have him as part of the team.





# Thank You Donors!



LifeLine Pilots receives no government funding, instead we rely on the generous donations of individuals, businesses, foundations, and trusts. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following organizations for their generous donations towards our mission:

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