



LIFELINE PILOTS

the shortest distance between home and hope

Impact Report

Fiscal Year 2024

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



A Letter from our Executive Director

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the extraordinary community that surrounds LifeLine Pilots.

LifeLine Pilots exists for a simple but powerful reason: no one should be denied medical care because transportation is out of reach. Every flight we arrange represents more than miles traveled, it represents a lifeline for a patient, a family, and hope for the future.

This year, because of our dedicated volunteer pilots, donors, partners, and advocates, we flew 1,098 flights, an 18% increase from the previous year. But the true impact is found in the lives behind them, children traveling for lifesaving treatment, adults fighting chronic illness, and families spared the financial and emotional burden of long-distance medical travel.

LifeLine Pilots remains financially sound and mission-focused. This year, we strengthened our operational systems, improved volunteer coordination, and expanded our outreach, ensuring we are not only meeting today's needs, but positioning the organization for long-term sustainability.

As we look to the future, we anticipate that the need for transportation support will grow, and families will increasingly rely on our assistance as they navigate barriers to accessing medical care. Together, we will ensure LifeLine Pilots has the resources to be agile, responsive, and ready, no matter where or when the call to help comes.

Thank you for being part of the LifeLine Pilots mission. I am honored to serve alongside you.

With Heartfelt Gratitude,

Lindsey Kerr
Executive Director



“LifeLine Pilots has saved us! With jobs and a 5-year-old at home, saving about 265 hours in a minivan is a big deal for a working family. The pilot's kindness, generosity, and ability to put us at ease made us feel safe every step of the way.”

— Ryan, father of 2-year old passenger Reece



About LifeLine Pilots

Our Mission

To coordinate free air transportation, through volunteer pilots, for passengers with medical or humanitarian needs far from home.

Our Vision

A world where every person has equal access to transportation for healthcare and humanitarian needs.

Our History

Founded in 1981 by Wanda Whitsitt of Champaign, IL, LifeLine Pilots began as a small group of pilots who envisioned using their unique skills to help others. The pilots transported blood, tissue, and organs to medical centers before eventually flying passengers experiencing barriers to accessing medical care to non-emergency appointments.

Over the past 45 years, LifeLine Pilots has completed more than 12,000 flights. Today, more than 300 volunteer pilots help us serve ten Midwestern states.



In Loving Memory

Wanda Whitsitt, Founder of LifeLine Pilots
December 13, 1931 - June 4, 2023



Your Donations at Work

Because of the generosity and dedication of our volunteer pilots, donors, and supporters, this past year has been one of remarkable impact.

LifeLine Pilots flew 1,098 missions, an 18% increase from the previous year, bringing hope, healing, and critical access to those who needed it most.



45
years of service



12,190
flights since 1981



10
states served

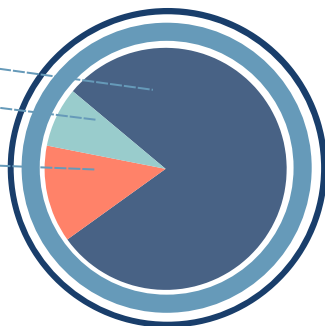


thousands
of lives impacted

Revenue

- Donated Pilot & Aircraft Services 79%
- Individual Donations 8%
- Grants 13%

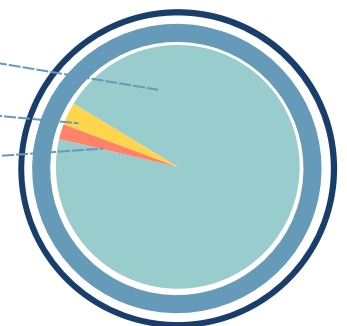
TOTAL REVENUE:
\$2,590,792



Expenses

- Program Services (Flights & Outreach) 95%
- Fundraising 3%
- Management & General 2%

TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$2,571,878



“If you think your needs are too complex or think arranging flights might be too much work, I would absolutely recommend you reconsider. You don’t have to do this alone. LifeLine Pilots puts so much care into transportation and handles the details for you.”

– Mackenzie, mother of infant passenger Chase



Passengers

Reece's Story

Born healthy, baby Reece suddenly developed life-threatening complications that kept her in the NICU for months. After finally receiving a diagnosis, her family faced a long road—one that required specialized care hundreds of miles from home.

At nearly six months old, Reece was able to go home for the first time, but she still needed procedures every two weeks. When her parents learned about LifeLine Pilots, their multi-day drives became 90-minute flights, allowing them to focus on her care rather than the strain of travel.

Now two years old, Reece happily boards the airplane, snacks in hand, as volunteer pilots help her family access the expert treatment she needs with far less stress.



Karen's Story

With a third cancer diagnosis and treatment 700 miles round-trip from home, Karen knew she'd need some help. When she discovered LifeLine Pilots, she found more than just transportation; it became her lifeline to accessing care.

Karen has taken more than 30 flights in less than a year from home to hope for a healthy future. This number alone shows just how essential these flights are for Karen and so many other passengers. Free flights with LifeLine Pilots have relieved so much coordination and financial stress, which greatly contributes to her healing.



“Thank you again to LifeLine Pilots for providing safe travels to my infusion. Regardless [if it's] a 4-seater or a private Cessna, all of these pilots are so kind. I always knew there were angels with wings in our skies, some come with legs as well.”

— Brandi, LifeLine Pilots passenger



Volunteer Pilots

The generosity of our volunteer pilots makes the mission of LifeLine Pilots a reality. These passionate individuals donate their time and resources to those with transportation needs, resulting in over 6,000,000 miles flown since 1981. Our volunteer pilots serve as a link between patients and life-changing care.



371

volunteer pilots



6.9M

lifetime miles flown



\$20M

lifetime in-kind donations

“I don’t know what some of our passengers would do if they didn’t have us flying them. It would be cost-prohibitive to fly commercially, and to drive, you’d wear out a car in a year.”

– *Bob, volunteer pilot*



“I love flying for LifeLine Pilots because it blends three of my strongest values: aviation, service, and purpose. The patients help me with life perspective and a sense of purpose. Spending time with them, sharing stories, and offering encouragement matters.”

– *Eddie, volunteer pilot*

“A friend told us about LifeLine Pilots. I needed brain surgery and would not have made it if it had not been for LifeLine Pilots!”

– *Darilee, LifeLine Pilots passenger*



Looking Ahead

Each LifeLine Pilots flight request represents a story of someone navigating their medical journey with the uncertainty of how they will reach the care they need.

For 45 years, our commitment has been helping patients during stressful times. Providing free flights allows patients to focus on hope and healing instead of the financial and physical toll of commercial travel or long round-trip drives.



This next chapter is one of growth and unwavering commitment. Your support and partnership make it possible for LifeLine Pilots to:

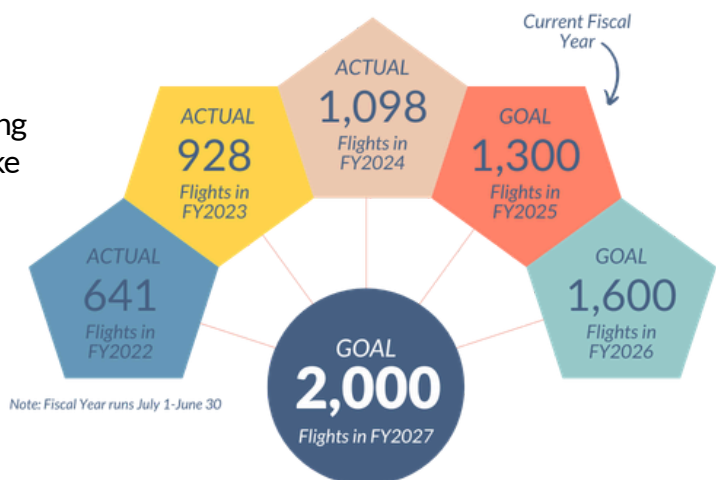
- Fly more passengers than ever
- Increase awareness so families can find us when they need us
- Expand our volunteer base of pilots
- Grow sustainably to support the increasing number of flights

At LifeLine Pilots, outreach isn't just about visibility; it's about compassion. That's why we are expanding our outreach into underserved communities. We want patients, families, and medical providers to know they are not alone, and that safe, reliable transportation is available when they need it most. By sharing this message more broadly and intentionally, we are reaching people earlier, before missed appointments, delayed treatment, or impossible choices take hold.

With your generosity, this work becomes possible. Together, we are ensuring that when someone reaches out in need, the answer is always one of hope, dignity, and a clear path forward.

Flights of Hope

Strategic Goals 2022-2027



“Everyone is so professional and so helpful. They take away so much stress, and when you take away stress, you can heal. We don't have the finances to cover everything we need, and this helps a lot.”

— Karen, LifeLine Pilots passenger

Contact Us

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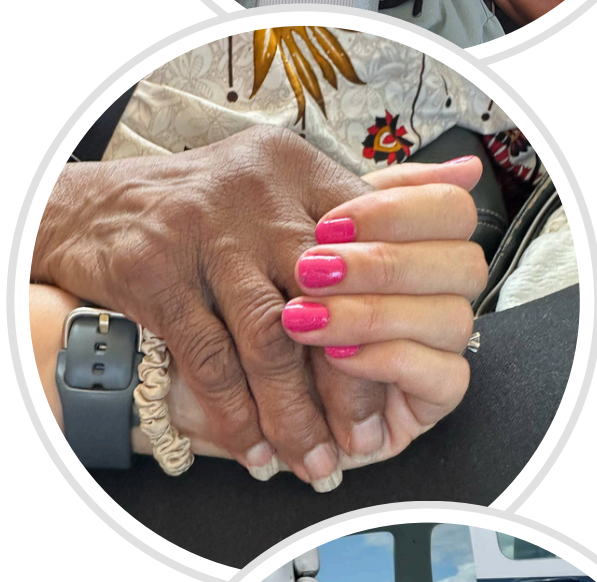
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