

*PROUDLY CELEBRATING 32 YEARS!*

Pilots For Kids Organization



# Pilots For Kids<sup>SM</sup>

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

*Helping Hospitalized Children Since 1983*

Newsletter

March 2015



Guam



Strength in Numbers



DEN



DFW



LAS



MKE



CMH



RDU

*PFK is celebrating 32 years of bringing pilots and their families together to brighten the lives of hospitalized children and others in need. What seems like a daunting task is actually one that has touched the lives of each of the thousands of pilots involved in the organization.*

*Talk to the coordinators...They all have wonderful stories to share.*

## SAVE THE DATE

**PFK Dallas/Fort Worth Golf Tournament**

**Monday, May 18, 2015**

**(details on page 10)**

**PFK Orlando Golf Tournament**

**Saturday, October 24, 2015**

**(details on page 11)**

**“100% of our donations go to the kids”**

**visit us at: [pilotsforkids.org](http://pilotsforkids.org)**

*President's Corner...*

Dear Members,

Thank you for your membership support and for increasing our membership.

Because we don't advertise, the growth of our organization has always been dependent on your informing others about us. Your effort has helped our organization to steadily grow.

Besides talking to people about us, another opportunity to inform others is to give your recently read newsletter to someone who might be interested us. You may also leave our newsletter in a pilot lounge for others to read. If you need more issues, just let us know and we will ship them to you.

This "grass roots" effort obviously requires a lot of dedication and teamwork. Fortunately for us, we have no shortage of motivated and talented members who believe in our effort.

Your support is always appreciated!

My best,  
*Ed Faath*  
President, P.F.K.



**CITY:** GUM/Guam  
**COORDINATOR:** Chuck & Ivy Heberle  
**PARTICIPANTS:** United

Coordinators, Chuck and Ivy Heberle, were joined by an enthusiastic group of PFK volunteers this year as they made holiday visits in Guam.

In addition to their hospital visits, PFK volunteers provided gifts to the members of the "Island Girl Power" group, a division of the Ayuda Foundation Southern Clubhouse that works to encourage positive role models, inspire community pride and empower young ladies to succeed.

As always, a wonderful time was had by everyone involved and the group looks forward to next year's visits.



Above and left, the dedicated group of PFK volunteers from United Airlines delivered gifts and helped to brighten the holidays for youngsters in Guam.



*Above, PFK volunteers again visited children at WakeMed Children's Hospital. It's easy to see that the volunteers enjoyed the visits as much as the young patients.*

**CITY:** RDU/Raleigh/Durham, NC  
**COORDINATOR:** Ken Worsham  
**PARTICIPANTS:** Delta

The RDU area pilots made their 6th annual visit to WakeMed Children's Hospital. PFK volunteers were able to visit with over 40 kids in the pediatric and pediatric intensive care units. The children received toys, stuffed animals and a Christmas cupcake.

In attendance were Ken Robson, Dan Wheeler, Jeff Crosswaite, Cameron Radford, Doug Hall, Dave Oliniski, Charlie Powley, Matt Donoghue, Ken Worsham and flight attendant Dana Kessler

A special thanks to Child Life Specialist Susan Davis for having PFK back again. Volunteers had a great time and can't wait to do it again.



**CITY:** MKE/Milwaukee, WI  
**COORDINATOR:** Frank Vondrak  
**PARTICIPANTS:** Corporate and Midwest Airlines

In 2014, the Milwaukee area Pilots for Kids group continued their support of the Walker's Point Teen Homeless Shelter and the Sojourner Truth House which provides a secure environment from violence for women and children.

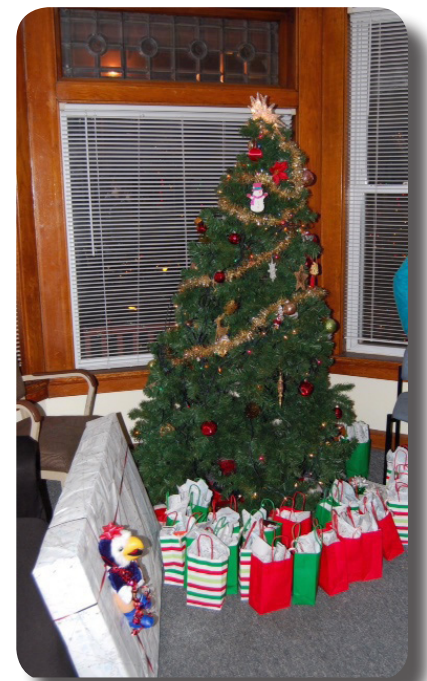
On December 10th, volunteers visited both locations. The first event was at Walker's Point where each teen received a gift bag with candy and a \$25 Target gift card. This year the house was in need a new TV and a replacement Wii. PFK was able to provide them with both. The group spent over an hour talking with the teens as well as several teen volunteers. It was outstanding to witness the maturity and dedication of the volunteers and the gratitude of the teens.

The second event at the Sojourner Truth House, again allowed volunteers the opportunity to deliver 25 pillow pets to the children and the mothers. The volunteers and families were grateful and appreciative of the time and gifts.

Volunteers look forward to continuing to work with both organizations in the years to come.

*Left, PFK volunteers from MKE visited with teens at Walker's Point where they delivered gift bags and gift cards to appreciative recipients.*

*Among the gifts delivered, right, was a new TV and Wii gaming system for the facility.*



# Pilots For Kids Organization

**CITY:** HOU/Houston, TX

**COORDINATOR:** Bill Bella

**PARTICIPANTS:** United, United Express

The Houston Pilots For Kids volunteers were joined by Santa (Captain Bill Bella- Houston Pilots For Kids Coordinator) and Houston Rockets Mascot, Clutch the Bear, on December 16 for their visit to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

“This was the first time that we had 2 characters joining the Houston Pilots For Kids group. In order to visit more children, we split into 2 groups of pilots accompanied by Santa in one group and Clutch the Bear in the other. This year we wanted to spread the most Holiday Cheer”, said Bill.

13 United and United Express pilots visited approximately 200 children. The Houston Pilots For Kids group has been visiting Texas Children's Hospital for the past 20 years.

“During this hospital visit, we were met by numerous Spanish speaking children. Fortunately we had 3 pilots who spoke fluent Spanish. We have a very dedicated group of pilots that have been lifting the spirits of children and their families for many years”, said Bill.

The volunteers spent their visit talking about each child's interests, hobbies, music, sports and where they live. The pilot group tried to inspire the children to think positively and encourage them to pursue their education and goals.

Every year the pilots bring a small gift to each child as a memory of their visit. This year they gave rubber United Airplane Stress relievers and United inflatable airplanes that were specially made for the Houston Pilots For Kids.

PFK's support is always greatly appreciated by the children, their families and the hospital staff.

*Right, a large group of PFK volunteers spread cheer throughout Texas Children's Hospital as they visited patients and delivered gifts to approximately 200 children.*



Pilots For Kids Organization

DFW  
2014



**CITY:** DFW/ Dallas, TX

**COORDINATOR:** John Elsey

**PARTICIPANTS:** American, Southwest, United, Delta and Express Jet

A large group of dedicated PFK volunteers met again this year to spread cheer to hospitalized youngsters throughout the DFW area. Check out the photos of their special experiences.



Above and right, volunteers in DFW visited children at four local hospitals. The smiling faces tell their story!

# Pilots For Kids Organization

**CITY:** ANC/Anchorage, AK

**COORDINATOR:** Blaine & Kim Meeds

**PARTICIPANTS:** FedEx

It was another successful year for PFK in ANC. Over 25 uniformed FedEx pilots, spouses, family members and Santa made visits to Providence and Alaska Native Hospitals on December 17th. They also delivered wrapped gifts to the local Clare House, an emergency homeless shelter for women and children.

Volunteers distributed over 200 wrapped gifts, parent gift bags and candy along with huge amounts of holiday cheer. The group visited the largest number of patients they have seen. PFK volunteers were also joined by a local singing quartet that entertained everyone throughout the visits. All in all, a great time was had by all and they look forward to next year!



*Above, DFW volunteers sharing holiday joy!*

*Below and left, ANC volunteers distributed over 200 gifts as they visited two hospitals and a local emergency shelter.*



**CITY:** CMH/Columbus, OH

**COORDINATOR:** Paulette Gilbert

**PARTICIPANTS:** NetJets

Few things warm the heart like distributing gifts to children in need. Last Tuesday, NJASAP pilots loaded four vans with gifts for transport to the Dowd Education Center as part of the Columbus Pilot For Kids (P4K) event. Located just west of downtown off Broad Street, the Center offers stability to at-risk and homeless children by providing academically focused after-school and summer programs that follow the Columbus City Schools curriculum. Additionally, the Center offers meals, enrichment activities, and recreation to enhance social skills and health.

More than a dozen pilots gathered to distribute gifts to the children, who were given the opportunity to make one Christmas wish. Thanks to the selfless efforts of Paulette Gilbert, every child was all smiles – with the exception of one small boy who had his heart set on a puppy. The P4K gifts were supplemented by a gift bag prepared specifically for each child that contained an outfit, socks, shoes and small toiletries. This gift was made possible as part of a grant awarded to the Center.

“Spending time with the children at the Dowd Center was a gift in and of itself,” NJASAP President Pedro Leroux said. “During a two-hour time period, we were privileged to distribute approximately 100 gifts to 60 children, and it was a pleasure to have Rep. Joyce Beatty join us in this celebration.” Leroux added he was struck by Director of Development Donna Powell’s comment that people often ask what homeless children look like. “I tell them,” she said, “to look at your own child in the mirror” and that could easily be the face of a homeless child.

The 2014 Columbus Pilots For Kids gift distribution was the first such event in central Ohio in several years. “We will continue to look for ways to help area children,” Gilbert said, adding the need for assistance never wanes throughout the year.

*Right, NetJets pilots in CMH spread holiday cheer at the Dowd Education Center. This was a first-year event for this enthusiastic PFK group, but they look forward to many more.*



*Above, Adi Greenberg and Gary Dolson visit with a young patient at UMC Children’s Hospital in LAS.*

**CITY:** LAS/Las Vegas, NV

**COORDINATOR:** Gary Dolson

**PARTICIPANTS:** Delta

On December 4th, PFK volunteers from LAS visited hospitalized children at UMC Children’s Hospital. They shared wonderful gifts and spread holiday cheer as they visited with the young patients throughout the unit. The group distributed Disney-themed stuffed animals and books to the young patients.

Coordinator, Gary Dolson, noted that this was a double win for the hospital...The stuffed animals were purchased at Kohls Department Store through a program where Kohls donates the money from these items to UMC Children’s Hospital. This allowed the patients to receive the gifts AND the hospital to receive the money. Kudos to Gary for finding this great program!



Pilots For Kids Organization

**CITY:** IND/Indianapolis, IN

**COORDINATOR:** Dan Ferracciolo

**PARTICIPANTS:** Delta, Southwest, FedEx, USAir, JetBlue, Republic Airways Holdings, Air Wisconsin and USAF

“Your kids and my kids were (or will be) read to between 1400 and 1700 hours before first grade. Kids like Kent, however, who we met at St. Mary’s Child Care Center this year, are read to an average of 25 hours during the same time frame. That’s not a typo. Five hours a year. Kent started attending St. Mary’s when he was four, he has moved 11 times, and he lives in poverty. Children growing up in poverty are 1.5 to 2 years behind their peers starting in school because they lack fundamental learning experiences like having a book read to them. Reading to a kid can literally change their life. We read to Kent, and 200 more kids just like him this year. Maybe we helped change some lives.”

-Dan Ferracciolo, IND PFK Coordinator



Above and right, PFK volunteers in IND were joined by Wizard of Oz characters as they visited IND area hospitals, bringing cheer to hundreds of local children. Congrats to this dedicated group of pilots as they continue their annual tradition.



**CITY:** IND/Indianapolis, IN

**COORDINATOR:** Dan Ferracciolo

**PARTICIPANTS:** Delta, Southwest, FedEx, USAir, JetBlue, Republic Airways Holdings, Air Wisconsin and USAF

We kicked off our 2014 visitation season on Dec. 2nd at the Gillate (Ft. Benjamin Harrison) campus of St. Mary's Child Care Center in Indianapolis. Eight Indy PFK members entertained 116 pre-school aged kids (100% of whom live in poverty) in five classrooms during both the AM and PM sessions of the school day. We regaled them with stories (most of which were true), read airplane books, entertained questions, offered "flying" lessons around the room and provided gifts to every kid in attendance. Each child received a Disney theme playtime tin which contains a story-book, color activity book, stickers, a poster and a picture frame. They also received a large C-172 instrument panel poster, airplane coloring books, crayons and a foam glider.

Next, on Dec. 4th, 13 Indy PFK members visited 29 hospitalized kids at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. The group was accompanied by three child life specialists as they conducted traditional room to room visits on both in-patient floors and the PICU of the hospital during a very busy time. Patient ages ranged from newborn to young adult. And, thanks to the lovely and gracious Mrs. Capt. Dan, volunteers provided every one with an age and gender appropriate gift (thanks to a patient census received one or two days in advance of our visit). Pilots like to give everyone an airplane gift of some kind. *"Everybody loves planes, everyone loves aviation, pilots are cool. We all know that, right? As it turns out, newborns and their families appreciate a Sherpa Lamb blanket more than a plane toy...go figure."* Blankets, large stuffed animals (Olaf was a huge hit), Captain Baldy's, plane posters, PFK hats, PFK lanyards, PFK wrist bands, busy books, craft kits, lego sets, Etch-O-Sketches, deluxe book sets and iTunes or target gift cards were also included. It was all available, and volunteers got to facilitate a smile or two as they provided gifts and, maybe, a much needed distraction.

On Dec. 5th, PFK did it again. This time, at IU Riley North in Carmel, 10 Indy PFK members visited 20

kids in traditional room to room visits on the in-patient floor, rehab, oncology clinic and PICU. The group even engaged a couple of "targets of opportunity": kids just walking through the lobby or waiting for lab results.

Two more PFK visits rounded out the remainder of the holiday season. On Dec. 9th, Indy PFK member Dave Urbanowski coordinated the second St. Mary's visit of the season at the Thompson (downtown) campus. Six Indy PFK members entertained 85 pre-school aged kids. They read airplane stories, provided gifts, "flight school", and maybe some inspiration too.

On Dec 19th, Riley Children's Hospital (downtown) received a visit. As always, Indy PFK member Mike Meskis coordinated our annual visit to Riley Children's Hospital. Mike was joined by 15 other Indy PFK members who provided gift bags for 80 hospitalized children. This year, due to new flu mitigation protocols, the gift bags were distributed to nurse stations throughout the hospital and from there to the kids. The kids who were allowed to come to the Child Center were joined by PFK members and the cast from "The Wizard of Oz" in the Child Life Theater. There they watched the premier of "Chloe Strong": an inspirational story about Chloe Alexander, a 5th grader from Sullivan Indiana, who has been diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare (200 diagnoses per year) form of brain and spinal cord cancer. Chloe was there in person too, providing inspiration to the kids, and more than one pilot. Powerful stuff!

"I continue to be humbled and inspired by the amazing generosity that you display with your time and with your donations. Thank you for making this all possible." -Dan



# Pilots for Kids - Dallas

## 13th Annual Golf Tournament

### Monday, May 18th, 2015



800 Golf Club Drive  
Lantana, TX 76226



### Schedule:

10:00 a.m. Registration

11:00 a.m. Lunch

12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

### *Sponsorships*

***\$250 per Player***

Register by contacting Paul Brown,

Tournament Coordinator

Email: [pilotsforkids@yahoo.com](mailto:pilotsforkids@yahoo.com)

Phone: (214) 725-7842



**7:00am - Registration**

**8:00am - Shotgun Start**

Awards Lunch Buffet & Silent Auction

**Auction items include:**

- Roundtrip Airline Tickets • Theme Park Passes
- Weekend Hotel Getaways • Flight Simulator Experiences

**Player Entry Fee: \$125**

Group Sponsorships available.

**To register, please contact  
Tournament Coordinator, Ed Faath**

[efaath@earthlink.net](mailto:efaath@earthlink.net) • 407-791-3790

**Proceeds will benefit hospitalized children in three Orlando area hospitals,  
the Russell Home for Atypical Children, and Base Camp, for children fighting cancer.**



**REGISTRATION:  
Ed Faath  
(407) 791-3790**



*Welcome New DFK Members*

Edward Abraham	American Airlines	Benjamin Harvey	Republic Airlines
Oscar Ahuactzin	Expressjet Airlines	Tyler Hawkins	ExpressJet Airlines
Aaron Andren	unk.	Austin Helm	ExpressJet Airlines
John Ashley	Delta Airlines	Michelle Hingst	Alaska Airlines
Ivan Ati	PSA Airlines	Doug Hingst	Alaska Airlines
Jacob Auterson	Shuttle America	Jennifer Holmes	Netjets
Crystal Barrois	Delta Air Lines	Sean Howarth	SkyWest Airlines
Joseph Barrois	United Airlines	Adam Hunter	Republic Airlines
Daniel Bates	Delta Air Lines	Raymond Jang	Air National Guard
Alexander Bitoff	United Airlines	Robert Jolley	United Airlines
Will Blackburn	ExpressJet Airlines Inc.	Sami Khan	Netjets Aviation Inc.
Jamie Blattner	Endeavor Air	Thomas Kolp	FedEx Express
Kevin Blendermann	Air Wisconsin	Mike Kuczynski	Air Wisconsin
Rusty Bliss	Mountain Air Cargo	Pattie Kupperman	Alaska Airlines
Teague Bodley	American Airlines	Traceford LaRose	Endeavor Air
Matthew Bolhouse	Envoy Air	Cory Lee	Alaska
Matthew Bolton	ExpressJet Airlines	Paul Leonardi	USAirways
Rex Boyd	United Airlines	Jacquelyn Marty	Alaska Airlines
Mark Breaux	ExpressJet Airlines	Michael Maymon	ExpressJet Airlines
Ryan Brown	ExpressJet Airlines	David Maynarich	Endeavor Air
Jennifer Byrne	American Airlines	Ron McCowan	ExpressJet Airlines
John Cadle	American Eagle (Envoy)	Scott McGurk	Republic Airlines
Jason Calodney	NetJets	Russ McWilliams	American Airlines
Josh Carroll	Mesa Airlines	Sean Minear	Endeavor Airlines
John Coco	Expressjet Airlines	Paul Moehle	Envoy Air
Daniel Cody	Southwest Airlines	Lynnette Mote	United Airlines
Paula Colegrave	Envoy Air Inc	Bryan Murchison	Envoy Airlines
Jonathon Copland	IFL Group	Robert Murray	Republic Airways
Emilio Corsetti	American Airlines	Laurence Murray	Alaska Airlines Inc.
Eric Danwin	Republic Airlines & IL ANG	Ted Muskett Jr.	NetJets Aviation
Shannon Davis	US Airways	Paul Nolan	American Eagle
Michael Dezart	ExpressJet Airlines	Kam Nouri	Virgin America
Kevin Dobson	JetBlue	Jose Javier Nunez	ExpressJet Airlines
Matthew Donoghue	Envoy Airlines	Robert Orlando	Envoy Air
Kelly Dozier	American Airlines	Hannah Peavy	ExpressJet Airlines
Matthew Dugan	Expressjet Airlines	George Pennington	Alaska Airlines
James English	Republic Airways	Tony Piso	NetJets
Michael Erickson	Republic Airways	Jason Plaisance	Envoy Air
Robert Ferguson	NetJets, Inc.	Kenneth Porter	Trans States Airlines
Kim Fieldstad	Delta Airlines	Charlie Powley	Delta Airlines
John Fierro	Envoy Airlines	Sarah Preedy	Delta Air Lines
Jason Floyd	Envoy Air	Travis Prime	Envoy Air
Dominik Gora	Shuttle America Airlines	Leonard Provencher	Air Wisconsin
Kurt Grenning	ExpressJet Air Lines	Lisa R Pullia	American Airlines
Aaron Guffey	ExpressJet Airlines	Charles Pynch	Republic Airways
Jesse Hallenbeck	Horizon Air	Van Rametta	Retired
		Joshua Randolph	NetJets Aviation
		Brian Robinson	SkyWest Airlines

Michael Robinson	American Airlines
Mike Robinson	American Airlines
Matthew Romano	Air Wisconsin
Christopher Rush	Southwest
Hector Sanchez	Copa Airlines
Justin Schlechter	Delta Air Lines
Ross Schumacher	Sun Country Airlines
Shannon Scott	Atlas Air
Christopher Secor	Endeavor Air
Victoria Sharp Wanda	Talley Schebel CPA PA
Jon Sheehan	Chautauqua Airlines
Darryl Sheets	Delta
David Smith	American
Eddie Sousa	NetJets
Adam Stokes	Envoy Air
Michael Stout	Jet Blue
Chris Suhs	Air Wisconsin Airlines
Janos Szenohradzki	SkyWest Airlines
Philip Taylor	ExpressJet Airlines
Will Thomas	Endeavor Air
Jim Thomas	American Airlines
Travis Thompson	ExpressJet Airlines
James Tomlinson	Republic Airways
Mark Trankina	Delta Air Lines
Anthony Turchioe	Spirit Airlines
Todd Upson	Air Wisconsin
Jason Vandergriff	Envoy Airlines
Kamal Vanscoy	Endeavor Air
Sean Vaughan	Envoy Air
John Vollmer	Expressjet
Patrick Vonderhaar	United Airlines
Dan Wheeler	Delta Airlines
Matt Whittingham	ExpressJet Airlines
Troy Wilcox	Republic Airlines
Jason Wilson	NETJETS
Mark Wingert	American
Troy Winter	NetJets
Jeff Wolf	Endeavor Air, Inc.



*Left and bottom right, DEN PFK volunteers visited 5 youth shelters again this year, spreading cheer to youngsters who are victims of neglect, abuse, poverty and other serious situations.*



## ***WHO ARE THOSE GUYS?***

**Please allow me to introduce three Orlando businessmen, (L to R, above) Pete Feduchak, Bill Oakley, and Bill Dooley.**

**If you ask these three gentlemen to describe themselves using one word, they would likely respond, in unison, with the word “trouble.” The truth is, their sense of humor is only exceeded by their generosity and desire to help children in need.**

**Their partnership with PFK began three years ago with a phone call from a neighbor and PFK member Ryan Giampietro. Ryan called to inform us that these gentlemen wanted to give us toys for our local hospital visits. Ryan explained that every year they host a Christmas party at an upscale local restaurant for friends and business associates. The only requirement to attend is to bring a nice toy. Everything else, including food and drink, would be paid for by these gentlemen. Fortunately for us, Toys For Tots rejected their generous offer due to time constraints. Since the words “yes” and “flexible” are always in our vocabulary, we were glad to accept their generous offer. Every year since, these gentlemen have filled up two large pickups full of toys as a result of their big-hearted effort.**

**Thank you Pete, Bill, and Bill for your incredible generosity, and for partnering with us to help local hospitalized children. You are truly exceptional!**

# Pilots For Kids Organization



**CITY:** MIA/Miami, FL

**COORDINATOR:** Daniel Molina

**PARTICIPANTS:** United, ExpressJet, American Eagle, Republic and FedEx

PFK volunteers in MIA held another great event this year at San Juan Bosco Catholic Church in Miami. The event was held Saturday, December 6th, from 1-4 pm. The volunteers were joined by Santa Claus, two elves, SpiderMan, a clown and two girls who painted the children's faces. Seventy children and their parents attended; the youngsters received over 200 toys as gifts from Santa. PFK volunteers also served food and raffled bicycles and baskets of food, as well as used furniture and clothing. A great time was had by all!



**CITY:** ORD/Chicago, IL

**COORDINATOR:** Kathi Hurst

**PARTICIPANTS:** FedEx, United, ExpressJet, American and American Eagle

ORD volunteers helped to cheer youngsters at three area hospitals. They visited Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Mt. Sinai Hospital in Chicago and Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. At Rush, they were able to participate in the Rush Road Home Program that is designed to treat Veterans with PTSD, traumatic brain injury and sexual traumas. Because the VA is not funded to assist the children of service members undergoing treatment, PFK volunteers were able to support the children and their Christmas needs. As always, volunteers enjoyed the ability to brighten the holidays for others.



Above, PFK volunteers from MIA held their annual holiday event for 70 youngsters and their families. Santa, SpiderMan, a clown and several elves were able to join in the fun. Right, ORD volunteers brightened the holidays at 3 locations.



# Pilots For Kids Organization

**CITY:** GRR/Grand Rapids, MI

**COORDINATORS:** Greg Chase

**PARTICIPANTS:** American, Delta and United

With the help of their families, co-workers, and flight attendants, the pilots of American, Delta, and United, again hosted two holiday events during the 2014 season.

Our first event was at DeVos Children's Hospital on December 4th. Santa entertained, along with his elf helpers, with lunch, gifts, t-shirts, and plenty of holiday cheer. Children and family members enjoyed activities that included cookie frosting, games, and holiday crafts. Several youngsters and their parents enjoyed themselves so much, that they stayed the whole afternoon, a welcome respite from their tough days of treatment at the hospital.

The second event was at Gilda's Club in Grand Rapids. Here the children were treated to a dinner of pasta and pizza, along with root beer floats. After dinner, Santa made an appearance, accompanied by great fanfare from volunteers and guests alike. The children were treated to an enjoyable evening of gifts, t-shirts, crafts and games.

Once again these dedicated volunteers hosted two very successful PFK events in GRR. They attribute their success primarily to two things. First of all is the great group of core volunteers in GRR. The group consists of pilot volunteers as well as flight attendants, co-workers, and family members, who continue to take time out of their busy schedules to bring holiday cheer and a smile to someones face. Volunteers also give credit to two wonderful venues, DeVos Children's Hospital and Gilda's Club, and the tremendous support from their volunteers and staff too. Coordinator, Greg Chase hears time and time again from staff members about how the PFK holiday parties are the best events of the whole year.

Greg wants to again to thank all who helped out this holiday season.

*Right, GRR pilots, co-workers, flight attendants and family members helped to make 2014 another very successful year of PFK activities in Grand Rapids.*





**CITY:** PDX/Portland, OR

**COORDINATOR:** Christine Mckinley Dunning

**PARTICIPANTS:** Delta and UPS

Dec 23rd was another successful holiday hospital visit at the Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center. Hospital Coordinator Brian Willoughby did another outstanding job of assuring that PFK volunteers stayed on schedule and the staff and families were comfortable by introducing us throughout the hospital.



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Once again there were a few special moments during this visit...

“One moment was a visit by Coordinator Willoughby and myself to the room of a young girl and her mother. We took various toys but the biggest surprise for her was not planned. We presented her with a huge, soft cuddly teddy Bear that was taller than she was. Her eyes opened wide in enchanting disbelief when we asked her if she would like to keep him for her own. As we left, she thanked us while holding on tight to her new friend. We found out later, a Teddy Bear was the only thing she had asked for in the past and, since she wasn’t expecting anything for Christmas, this was a very happy and unexpected surprise for her.”

“Another special moment occurred when I noticed one of the parents a bit emotional with a staff member as we returned for a second visit to one department. The staff member got me aside and told me the mom was overwhelmed with appreciation. Due to their circumstance (I believe there were 5 children of various ages in the family) they were not going to have Christmas. She just kept telling the staff member that “The Pilots just brought us Christmas” and as a parent there isn’t any way to say how much that meant! We were able to give her a hug before we left and share tears of joy and a smile with her!”

“Special thanks go out again to our PDX/ Vancouver volunteers this year. You are all amazing and very much appreciated! I know I repeat myself each year when I say being a volunteer for this wonderful Pilot for Kids program is “Priceless” but I can’t say it enough! Thanks again to Ed Faath, and all the volunteers that continue to bring Smiles, Hope and Happiness to so many!!!” -Christine Mckinley Dunning

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*Left, PFK volunteers in PDX brought smiles and happiness to youngsters at Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center again this year.*





Pilots For Kids Organization



**CITY:** ATL/Atlanta, GA  
**COORDINATOR:** Don Myers  
**PARTICIPANTS:** ExpressJets, NetJets and Delta

In early February, PFK volunteers turned out at Hughes Spalding Children’s Hospital in Atlanta for a special event. The waiting rooms and emergency check-in area weren’t packed but our four, huge bags of stuffed animals and handheld electronic toys were soon whittled down to almost nothing by the time we ended our visit.



“Our diverse group (Expressjet, NetJets, and Delta) was met by Ms. Sondra Brooks, the wonderful volunteer coordinator who has worked with us for a long time. We split into two clusters—with a hospital volunteer and a large wagon (full of goodies) for each group. It might seem like a simple thing to do, but walking into those rooms with a big smile means—for at least a few moments—they are thinking about something else besides what is happening in the four, close walls where they “reside” for the time being. And, perhaps, it will even last a bit longer, as was evidenced by the young boy who, for several minutes after we left, kept kissing his new bear toy. (One of the nurses reported this to me when I doubled-back on the third floor to make sure we didn’t miss anyone.)”

*Above, PFK volunteers in PDX fulfilled their holiday tradition again this year as they visited young hospital patients on December 23rd.*

*Below and right, PFK members in ATL made their holiday visit to Hughes Spalding Children’s Hospital in February. The smiles and happiness were just as welcome during this post-holiday time.*

“I’m always impressed by these folks (you!) who put on their uniforms on a day off and give of their most precious resource: time. We really do make a difference.”

For the kids...  
Don Myers



## Pilots For Kids Organization

**CITIES:** MEM/Memphis, TN and LAX/Los Angeles, CA

**COORDINATOR:** Courtney Bland, FDXMEC

**PARTICIPANTS:** FedEx

In December, FedEx pilots delivered gifts and food baskets to Hope House in Memphis—a day care center for children affected or infected by HIV/AIDS. They also stopped by the FedEx Family House with gifts and a donation. This house provides a place to stay for out-of-town families with children receiving treatment at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital in Memphis.

Far from limiting themselves to Memphis, FedEx pilots in Anchorage, Chicago, Denver, Indianapolis, and Los Angeles made similar visits to deliver gifts to schools and hospitals in those cities during the month of December.

Through the Pilots for Kids program, the FedEx pilots help families in Memphis and other cities celebrate Christmas. As part of this annual tradition, FedEx pilots contribute food, gifts, clothing, and money in support of children and families in need.

“This is the time of year when there is a lot of need in our communities. These visits provide our pilots with an excellent opportunity to reach out to the communities in which we live and affect the lives of children and families,” said Captain Scott Stratton, chairman of the FedEx Master Executive Council, a unit of the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA). “These visits remind us what the true spirit of the holiday season is and are just one more way the FedEx pilots give back to our communities.”



*Above and Right, there were plenty of smiles and happiness as PFK volunteers from FedEx spread holiday cheer to special needs children and families.*

# Pilots For Kids Organization

**CITY:** MCO/Orlando, FL

**COORDINATOR:** Anchorelle & Ludwig Van Sprang

**PARTICIPANTS:** NetJets, ABX (retired), JetBlue, UPS, USAir, Delta, SSE/US Navy, United, Southwest/AirTran ExpressJet and NWA (retired)

PFK members in MCO had a wonderful time sharing holiday gifts and good wishes at several area hospitals and made their annual donation to the Russell Home for Atypical Children in Orlando. On December 10th, PFK members met for lunch at the White Wolf Cafe before heading off to Nemours Children's Hospital and Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children. On December 12th, another group met for lunch and visited Florida Hospital for Children. Volunteers were joined by several Star Wars characters from 501st Legion as they met with some of the young patients at Nemours. 501st Legion is a worldwide Star Wars costuming organization; PFK thanks their group for joining in the fun. As always, the volunteers felt that they were especially fortunate to be able to participate in this wonderful holiday tradition!

Hi,

I found this email when looking on the Pilots for Kids DFW site and couldn't find an address specifically for the Dallas group only a nationwide one. I just wanted to express my most sincere gratitude for all your group does! My daughter, Annie, was in the hospital over the holidays and was admitted on a day your group was handing out presents and cheer in the lobby. It was her 2nd surgery this year so she was very anxious but what a huge smile she had after picking out a special treat from your pilots. Nothing means more to you as a parent than seeing your child smile during a difficult time and I just wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for putting a big smile on my daughter's face on a stressful day.

It meant the world to my husband and I, and I'm sure countless other children and parents who experienced your thoughtfulness during the holiday season.

Thank you again!

Sincerely,  
Kristen Laws

Right, PFK volunteers in MCO were joined by some popular Star Wars characters and they spread smiles and holiday cheer to youngsters at three area hospitals and the Russell Home for Atypical Children.



# P i l o t s F o r K i d s O r g a n i z a t i o n

**CITY:** FSD/Sioux Falls, SD

**COORDINATOR:** Chris Rossing

**PARTICIPANTS:** Delta

On a cold, clear day in mid-December, just a few weeks before Christmas, Delta pilots Chris Rossing and Paul Dokken, in partnership with Pilots for Kids, took time out of their schedules to spread some holiday cheer and visit the “Castle” also known as Sanford Children’s Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. With over \$800 worth of toys in tow, Chris and Paul enjoyed both visiting the kids and distributing gifts that included such items as soft plush Delta planes, Lego kits, games, puzzles, soccer balls and more to current residents of the Castle.

Having to spend time in a hospital as a kid is never fun and doing so during the holidays is even worse. But a visit from uniformed pilots handing out presents both impressed and delighted the kids and their parents alike and helped make their day a little brighter.

This is the third year a PFK event was held at Sanford Children’s Hospital in FSD and planning has already begun for another successful and rewarding event next year in December. If you are interested in helping out in FSD, please contact Chris Rossing at [vikingskipr@gmail.com](mailto:vikingskipr@gmail.com).



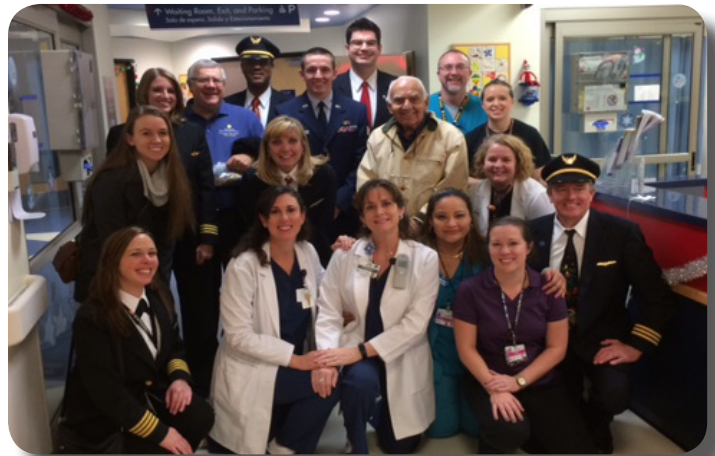
*Above and right, PFK members in Sioux Falls visited young patients at Sanford Children’s Hospital (“The Castle”) again this holiday season.*

# Pilots For Kids Organization

**CITY:** IAD/Washington, DC  
**COORDINATOR:** Julie Callens  
**PARTICIPANTS:** United, USAF

Washington DC area Pilots for Kids members had a wonderful 2014 holiday season! Thanks to many new members, the group was able to add a 4th hospital to their list! Among the hospitals visited were Loudoun Hospital, Winchester Hospital and Fairfax Hospital.

Close to 40 pilot volunteers helped make this season brighter for nearly 200 hospitalized children!!



*Left, SLC PFK volunteers again visited The Children's Center to spread holiday cheer. Look for another event in September from this group!*

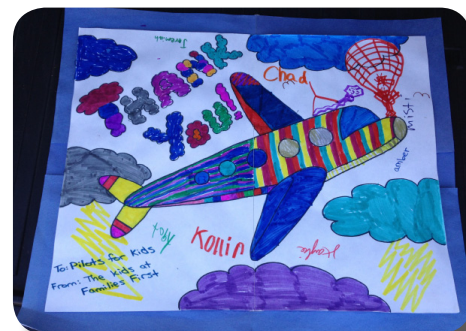
**CITY:** SLC/Salt Lake City, UT  
**COORDINATOR:** Lorrie Cunneen  
**PARTICIPANTS:** Delta

On December 17th, 9 pilots from the Salt Lake City area visited the 72 children enrolled in the program at The Children's Center. This is the third year in a row that we have been welcomed into the hearts of these children! The kids were thrilled with the toy airplanes that they received!

All who participated had big smiles and big hearts! **THANK YOU AGAIN** to ALL who donated and/or participated. A special thank you goes out to David Cunneen, for wrapping the 72 gifts for the third year in a row! *Stay tuned for a possible September event! More information to follow! We look forward to your participation!*



*Above, nearly forty PFK volunteers spread cheer to youngsters at four Washington, D.C. area hospitals.*



Pilots For Kids Organization

**CITY:** DEN/Denver, CO

**COORDINATOR:** Steve Henderson

**PARTICIPANTS:** United, FedEx, Southwest, Frontier, NetJets, American and ExpressJet

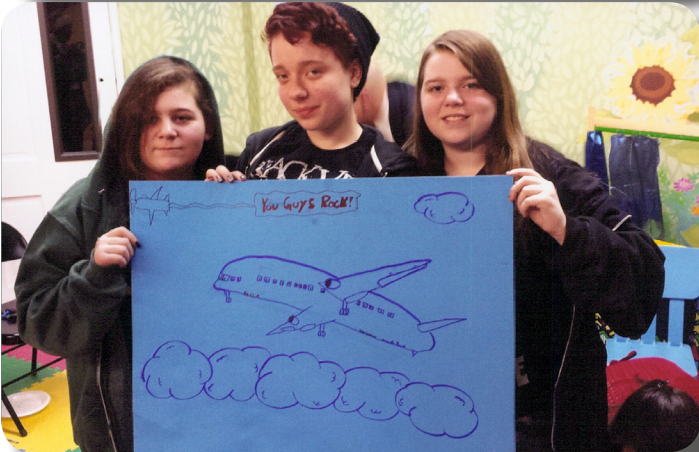
2014 was the first year in many that the Colorado Front Range PFK Warriors sponsored fewer than five shelters. One of their very long-term partners (Gemini House – serving 11-17 year olds separated due to drug/alcohol/violence issues) was shuttered due to institutional funding termination. However, the remaining four shelters were overwhelmingly grateful for the newly “concentrated” support...

This input from one child whom we have seen and loved for many years says it all, “The pilots coming to see us has always been my favorite event of the year”....say no more!

The magnitude of the following list is incredible, and demonstrates the comprehensive depth of generosity for PFK in Colorado. Everyone listed either donated significant money or gave of their precious time by attending one of the Christmas parties...if you see them out in our wonderful Aviation world/campus/community, a well-deserved shout-out is a must! Bottom line: Their sacrifices made a difference for the KIDS:

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Richard Sherlock       | Mary Sobzack                            |
| Doug P. Jones          | Dennis George                           |
| Kevin Lambeth          | Ron Evans                               |
| Tom Kreutz             | Luke Paparella                          |
| Denise & Jeff McDonald | David Claytor                           |
| Larry Buckler          | Mark Romerein                           |
| Paul Swanson           | Mark Bomber                             |
| Chris Spencer          | Keith Niemitalo                         |
| Brian Smith            | Dan Callender                           |
| Howard Fink            | Steve Knopf                             |
| Shelly Smith           | Scott, Diana, and Lauren Ginn           |
| Joe Muus               | Mark Castellani                         |
| Lizette Stuber         | Beth Janssen                            |
| Robert Favuzza         | Bebe O’Neil                             |
| Mike Everist           | Frank, Debbie, Cierra & Halley McDonald |
| Wayne Robinson         | Scott Hebert                            |
| Brian Klink            | Randy & Pam Rothe                       |
| Chris Dolson           | Jolanda Witvliet                        |
| Bruce Feinstein        | Bill & Michelle Anonsen                 |
| Ruth Sherry            | Pete Senior                             |
| Ken Penn               | Stephanie Henderson                     |
| Christy Abbruzzese     |   |

*Left, PFK volunteers spread cheer throughout the holiday season by supporting area youth shelters in DEN. Right (opposite page), special thanks to DEN and MCO PFK.*



# Pilots For Kids Organization

Rich Howard  
 Brigete Bacheller  
 Dave Wood  
 Mararet Long-Bain  
 Mark Olson  
 Pam Brandenburger  
 Rob Peterson  
 Sue Benker  
 Earl Enix  
 Jenna Doyle  
 Mark Divich  
 Terri Flynn

Debbie McEndree  
 Debra Knepper  
 Larry Buckler  
 Rick & Gayle Bebee  
 Dave Miller  
 Joel Brown  
 Mark Bosler  
 Dave Chancellor  
 Brett Peltier  
 Erin Peltier  
 Scott Lamb

\*\* Special Accolades for/to Alliant Credit Union and their "Over-the-Top" financial support



Dear Pilots,  
 Thankyou very much for coming and visiting me after my surgery at the hospital. I really appreciate you giving me the Itunes gift card and the hat. I wear that hat all the time, and it is one of the coolest hats ever. I cannot thankyou enough for visiting me it really cheered me up!

Sincerely  
 Mitchell Machock

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Sincerely  
 Mitchell Machock

**Pilots For Kids Organization, Inc.**  
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 E-mail: [President@pilotsforkids.org](mailto:President@pilotsforkids.org)

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[Pfkmerchandise@pilotsforkids.org](mailto:Pfkmerchandise@pilotsforkids.org)

**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. Articles should be submitted to Kathie Schroeder at [schroederfamily2@mac.com](mailto:schroederfamily2@mac.com)

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*PFK Mascot, Capt. Baldy SM*

**Address Change:** If you have a change of address please complete the form on the back of this newsletter & mail to:  
 Pilots For Kids, PO Box 620052  
 Orlando, FL 32862-0052.....Thanks!

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Pilots For Kids <sup>SM</sup>  
Organization

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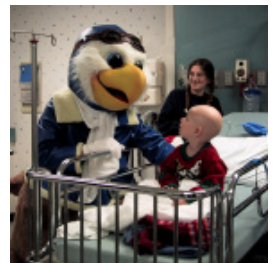
*"Helping hospitalized children since 1983"*

*Become a Pilots For Kids member, today!*



To join Pilots for Kids, complete the attached membership form and return it with your tax deductible \$15 annual dues or visit our web site ([www.pilotsforkids.org](http://www.pilotsforkids.org)) to submit your membership form and pay by credit card..

By becoming a member, you will receive special PFK gear, our Pilots For Kids newsletter and most importantly, an opportunity to help hospitalized children.



*Please check appropriate box and complete information*

**NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**       **ADDRESS CHANGE**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Airline/Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your membership application along with your annual dues of \$15.00 to:  
Pilots For Kids, P.O. Box 620052, Orlando, FL 32862-0052

Make checks payable to: *Pilots For Kids*

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

