

*PROUDLY CELEBRATING 28 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*

**Want to join in this year's holiday visits?**

**See [page 2](#) to contact the coordinator in your area!**

Newsletter

November 2011



PFK volunteers in Dallas/Fort Worth prepare to deliver an array of gifts to hospitalized children during one of five hospital visits in the DFW area in December, 2010.

## **DONATIONS ALERT:**

**Visit the PFK web site: <http://www.pilotsforkids.org/donate/> to make your donation this year. It's convenient, free and saves PFK time and money! Complete directions are in the "President's Corner" (page 2)**

**SAVE THE DATE...PFK Golf Tournament  
Monday, May 21, 2012 • Cowboys Golf Club • Grapevine, Texas**

**Also watch for the upcoming PFK Golf Tournament  
in Orlando in October, 2012**

**"100% of our donations go to the kids"**

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

President's Corner...

Dear Members, All is well with PFK as many of our coordinators prepare for our upcoming annual visits. If you know who they are, please take a moment to thank them for their continuous effort.

This year marks a change in the way we can collect donations. For the first time, we will be accepting donations via our website using credit cards. However, unlike other charities, our organization will be absorbing the fees thus insuring that 100% of our donations will still go to the kids. To make an on-line donation, go to the link http://www.pilotsforkids.org/donate/, select the city for the donation, enter the amount of the donation, and complete the form. In addition, every donor will receive an immediate e-mail receipt that they can retain for their tax records. Please spread the word, as this method will save time and simplify our accounting.

Other good news for this year was a giant donation of the very popular Pillow Pets plush toys to our organization. We are talking about a tractor trailer stuffed to the ceiling. Thanks to their most generous donation, many hospitalized children will now have something to keep them entertained as well as keep them company. We would like to sincerely thank them for their generosity.

It goes without saying that all of our improvements would not be possible without your crucial membership support. Therefore, you, as members should take credit for this year's accomplishments.

My best,

Ed Faath
President, P.F.K.

Giving from the Heart

Please contact your Area Coordinator to help with 2011 holiday visits... They look forward to hearing from you and need your help. If your city isn't listed, and you would like to volunteer, please get in touch with Ed Faath via e-mail at President@pilotsforkids.org. It's a great way to start the holiday season!

PFK Area Coordinators

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

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!

2011 Pilots for Kids Award To Captain John Elsey



Above, Captain John Elsey (AA) shows off the mylar "jet" balloons that will be distributed to hospitalized children this holiday season. Below, Captain Elsey displays the helium tank jet he built to conveniently fill balloons in DFW area hospitals.



Our 2011 PFK award goes to Captain John Elsey, the PFK Coordinator for the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Captain Elsey has been actively involved with PFK in DFW for approximately fourteen years. It is due to John's effort that we have the annual PFK golf tournament, now in its ninth year. John told us that the idea for the tournament was literally conceived in his driveway with his friends while brainstorming for fundraising ideas.



John is also responsible for the bright yellow airplane that will carry helium canisters to inflate balloons which will soon "taxi" around the halls of children's hospital wards in the Dallas area. John worked on this project continuously for nine months, ensuring that it would be ready for this year's holiday visits. Please see the enclosed article (page 6) for all the great details.

Congratulations from all of us John... And thank you for a job well done!

*Small and lovable...  
A Huge Donation!*

What is soft and cuddly, loved by all and cherished as a very special friend to sick and hospitalized children? Why "Pillow Pets," of course...and 6,240 of these adorable little creatures fills an 18-wheeler perfectly! That is the sizable donation made to Pilots for Kids by Jennifer Telfer (Pillow Pets founder), Kathy Wyant, Manou Allison and the rest of the Pillow Pets organization.

The idea to give "Pillow Pets" to young PFK recipients was first devised by DFW Coordinator, John Elsey. As a father, John knew that the lovable little pets were very much in demand. He approached Kathy Wyant and the Pillow Pets Company about the possibility of a discounted purchase of 500 Pillow Pets for this years' visits. John encouraged the Pillow Pets organization to "check out" Pilots for Kids and the good work being done. A return call let John know that Pillow Pets had decided to "partner" with PFK and donate the Pillow Pets. John was stunned to learn that they were not going to donate the original 500, but had decided to send a full semi load, 6,240 Pillow Pets, to Pilots for Kids plus pay for the shipping! The truck soon arrived in DFW, where John and other volunteers sorted through the cases of huggable animals and arranged for shipment to several locations.

A pallet of Pillow Pets recently made their way to the JFK Chief Pilots office of JetBlue Airlines for distribution to children in New York and other bases. The little guys were sent to LGB, TPA and a few locations in NYC. They made their way to children at St. Mary's Kids and the Ronald McDonald House in New York and are patiently waiting to be given to the children that will attend a "Faces of Courage" gathering in TPA. In LGB they will be given to local children during the next hospital sponsored visit.

Pillow Pets were also sent to TUS where Coordinator, John Barnett reports that they were a HUGE HIT!! The Tu Nidito organization was so appreciative that they were wondering if there were more available. Tu Nidito has a lot of children who have terminal illnesses or have suffered illnesses of their parents. The Pillow Pet arrival was absolutely perfect timing because, John was told, they brought back smiles that the organization had never seen before.



Above, John Elsey and crew with pallets of Pillow Pets recently received in DFW. Below, Kevin Carr (JFK Coordinator) and other PFK volunteers stuffed Pillow Pets into every empty space in the Mini Cooper and took them to St. Mary's Kids in Queens along with a donation.



*A heartfelt Thank You  
to Pillow Pets  
for improving the lives of  
6,240 children!  
Your kindness  
is truly appreciated.*

*In Memory of  
Captain Mark Hickson*

Pilots For Kids recently lost a long time supporter and member. Captain Mark Hickson recently passed leaving a large void with his family and friends.

Mark, was a pilot and check airman with ABX Air for over 20 years. Mark was liked by everyone he worked with, and was well known for the sense of humor that he incorporated into every aspect of work. He will be deeply missed by those who were fortunate to have known him.

We would like to express our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

**PFK Merchandise**

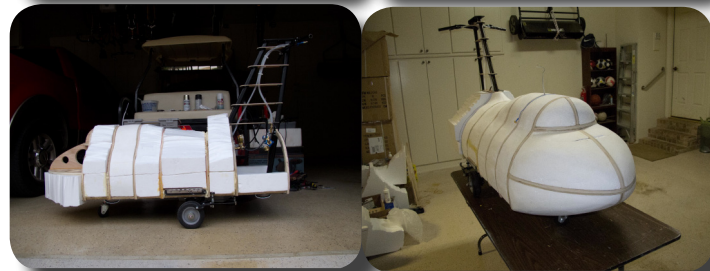
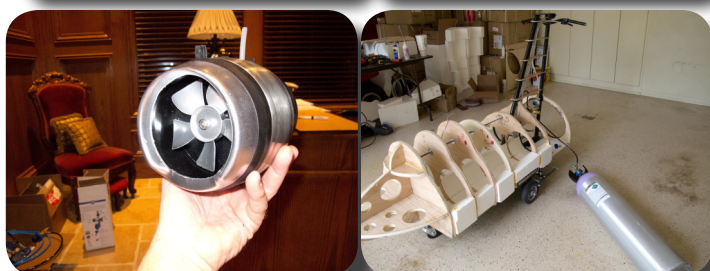
Pilots For Kids items, including sweatshirts, polos, T-shirts, ball caps, travel mugs and luggage tags, are available. You can order your PFK Merchandise by contacting Carol Stocker at 440-382-3090 or email [pfkmerchandise@pilotsforkids.org](mailto:pfkmerchandise@pilotsforkids.org). See the PFK web site for more information.



Above, Dallas PFK Coordinator, John Elsey (AA) and his wife, Kate, along with Shields Jones (SWA) and his wife, Debra, express the appreciation of the PFK group by presenting an award to Colleen Barrett, President Emeritus of Southwest Airlines. Colleen's support is sincerely appreciated!

*Thank You to a Special Lady...*

How do you thank those special people who touch your lives in extraordinary ways? That was the challenge that DFW Coordinator, John Elsey, faced when he thought about the ongoing support provided by Colleen Barrett, "President Emeritus" of Southwest Airlines. She has been donating toys directly to PFK/DFW for over a dozen years. Each November, Colleen opens up the Southwest Airlines warehouse and fills PFK trucks and trailers with an array of special gifts. Every year the gifts are different...from stuffed airplanes, to T-shirts, to arts and crafts, and a host of other items. In the early days of visits in the DFW area, Colleen's support made it possible to provide items when little was available. Each year she personally attends one of the hospital visits, generously working with other volunteers as they hand out gifts to children in need. Nine years ago, Colleen chose to personally underwrite a portion of the highly successful golf tournament in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, and each year, she is one of the top financial supporters. Colleen's office walls are adorned with accolades and awards from many, many organizations. Much of the success of the business model employed by Southwest Airlines of maintaining good employee and community relations is directly attributable to Colleen. She is truly a kind and generous lady.



Top, left, a set of hand-drawn plans begins the evolution of Captain John Elsey's "jet" creation to safely and easily transport helium canisters through hospital corridors at PFK visits to DFW area children's hospitals.



Peggie Sherry of Faces of Courage accepts a check from Owen Clifton on behalf of Pilots for Kids.

### Year-Round Giving Continues

Pilots for Kids recently had a unique opportunity to double donations and seized upon it. The organization donated \$2000 to "Faces of Courage". The PFK contribution was matched dollar for dollar by the DeCastro Family of Charlotte.

Faces of Courage ([www.facesofcourage.org](http://www.facesofcourage.org)) provides life enriching experiences for children and their families touched by cancer and blood disorders. PFK supporters' time and generous donations DO make a difference, and not just during the holiday season.

### PFK's Newest "Jet"

Some people take life's challenges and see an opportunity to shine. Such is the case with Captain John Elsey, this year's Pilots for Kids Award winner. Captain Elsey wanted to provide balloons as part of the gift package provided by PFK. Due to possible latex reactions, only mylar balloons are allowed in the hospitals. Captain Elsey found a wonderful mylar balloon in the shape of a jet...perfect for gift giving from PFK. He tracked down the manufacturer and negotiated a huge discount on the balloons. Then came the next challenge...how to fill the balloons quickly and safely on-site. Captain Elsey devised a special jet, complete with rotating engines and flashing lights, and large enough to hold two helium tanks. He designed the contraption, worked with area businesses to design and produce the proper lines, nozzles and other parts, and built the aircraft. The nine-month project is nearing completion, just in time for this year's holiday visits. There will be hundreds of happy young faces in the DFW area thanks to Captain Elsey's efforts!

## 2011 Fundraising Event

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DFW

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**Pilots For Kids Organization, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 620052 Orlando, Florida 32862-0052  
E-mail: [President@pilotsforkids.org](mailto:President@pilotsforkids.org)

### Pilots For Kids Board of Directors:

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

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PFK Mascot, Capt. Baldy SM

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

P.O. Box 620052  
Orlando, Florida 32862-0052

*"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 our 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.



*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."*

