



OPERATIONS HEADQUARTERS

8864 Airport Blvd.  
Leesburg, FL 34788  
[www.angelflightse.org](http://www.angelflightse.org)

352-326-0761  
352-314-3227 FAX

## Angel Flight™ Southeast Awards Florida Resident, Board Member and Business Owner Pilot of the Year

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leesburg, FL (June 20, 2010) - Thomas E. Powers, volunteer command pilot, board member of Angel Flight™ Southeast and president of Flightline Drug Testing has been awarded PILOT OF THE YEAR for 2009.

Each year, hundreds of volunteer pilots donate their planes, time and fuel to make possible the thousands of missions Angel Flight™ Southeast coordinate for families in need of long distance transportation.

"Because Angel Flight™ Southeast directly affects the people in our communities, our volunteer command pilots are critically important to ensure that our mission is fulfilled," said Blake Mathis, President/CEO of Angel Flight™ Southeast. "During the last 18 years of volunteer service, Mr. Powers has flown over 500 missions and continues his commitment of providing high-quality service to those in need and to the community."

Mr. Powers flew 75 missions in 2009. One of those missions was especially vital to ensure that transportation was not an obstacle to receiving care. On one particular day, Mr. Powers was called on a moments notice. He volunteered to fly a double lung transplant recipient from Miami to Gainesville within a four hour window for surgery. "Flying a transplant mission and knowing that you are giving the ultimate gift of 'life' to someone is especially rewarding," Tom Powers says. "Anyone can help make a difference and assist the organization in its mission, whether they volunteer as a pilot, as an Earth Angel or give financial support through our Adopt-A-Mission Program."

In 2009, Angel Flight™ Southeast celebrated its 25th anniversary as a 501(c) 3 organization dedicated to its mission of "*Coordinating free air transportation for children and adults with medical or compelling humanitarian needs.*" On average, over 3000 FREE missions are coordinated each year. Angel Flight™ Southeast is member of the Air Charity Network ([www.AirCharityNetwork.org](http://www.AirCharityNetwork.org)) which is a national organization that coordinates over 22,000 missions annually with over 8,000 volunteer pilots who help with the mission.

Additional Information: [www.AngelFlightSE.org](http://www.AngelFlightSE.org)

Corporate/Media Contact:

Blake Mathis, [media@MercyMail.org](mailto:media@MercyMail.org), phone: 352-326-0761