

# Angel Flight SE: Saves Lives, Flies Missions of Mercy

by Robert S. Myers

**PALM COAST:** Keith Evans of Palm Coast is an Angel Flight Pilot who donates his time and airplane flying "missions of mercy" and offering hope and help to those in need.

Angel Flight Southeast coordinates free air transportation for children and adults with medical or compelling humanitarian need.

"Flying a patient to receive an organ transplant is probably the most exciting type of mission," said Robert Alex, a spokesperson for Angel Flight Southeast which serves Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina.

"Time is critical," he added, "and often pilots are required to fly at a moment's notice in the middle of the night. But the rewards are well worth

the inconvenience because a transplant flight can truly mean the difference between life and death."

Angel Flight Southeast provides a missing link in the treatment of medical care. As the world's largest charitable aviation network, it can coordinate transportation quickly and freely to major medical facilities.

Usually health insurance does not provide payment for transportation. Angel Flight flies all its patients free of charge. Pilots donate their time, airplane, equipment and fuel which can range as much as \$500 to \$3,000 or more per flight.

And because hospitals and medical facilities have become more specialized, treatment often cannot be found locally, and patients must travel to distant locations to find the

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Flagler County Airport: Angel Flight Southeast Pilot Keith Evans (owner of EQ Financial); Co-Pilot Terri Evans; Robert Alex and Mark Gilson, spokespersons for Angel Flight Southeast; and Joel Fallon, Co-Pilot and owner of Granny Nannies.

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treatment they need. Angel Flight provides this missing link.

"Because of the large financial expenses by our volunteer pilots," said Alex, "there must be a financial need on the part of the patient.

"The passengers must be medically stable and ambulatory," he added, "and treatment is not available locally. A waiver of liability and physician's medical release is also required."

Angel Flight pilots fly missions to provide transportation for: organ transplant candidates; clinical trials and other research; chemotherapy and other repetitive treatment; victims of abuse seeking relocation; patients and families receiving assistance from the Shriners Hospitals. Ronald

McDonald Houses and other organizations that serve the community; and Homeland Security and emergency disaster relief.

Angel Flight Southeast is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization and is registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. It is over 20 years old and pilots have flown over 10,000 free missions of mercy.

"If your child needed specialized medical treatments on a regular basis at a medical facility far from home, or if your friend, family member or employee needed transportation to participate in a new life-saving medical treatment or a special clinical trial at a distant hospital, give a call to Angel Flight Southeast," said Alex.

For more information, call Robert Alex at (386) 446-0263 or visit Angel Flight Southeast on the web at: [www.angelflightse.org](http://www.angelflightse.org)