

## In This Issue

<i>A Soldier's Story</i>	1
<i>ConAgra, Wachovia, Honeywell, and Duke Energy Receive 2005 Corporate Angel Award</i>	1
<i>From the President</i>	2
<i>One Family's Story</i>	2
<i>"Get Out of Dodge"</i>	3
<i>Can's Annual Volunteer Party</i>	3
<i>Patient Letters</i>	4
<i>Our New Corporations</i>	4

## A SOLDIER'S STORY

At one time, the US Army's ad campaign appealed to young men and women to "Be All That You Can Be." Those words were certainly taken to heart by Spc. Sam Negus, a proud member of the US Army's 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division who has already completed one tour of duty in Iraq and expects to return. When Sam's country asked for his help, he wasted no time in responding, and when Sam's older sister, Ruth "Nicki" Young, needed help, Sam once again responded to the call of duty. Nicki suffers from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the immune system, which had gone into remission following months of aggressive treatment. In recent months,



Ruth "Nicki" Young gives her brother, Spc. Sam Negus, a drink while his stem cells are harvested at Medical City Dallas Hospital.

however, her white blood cell count dropped, prompting her doctors to prepare for a pre-emptive strike in the form of a stem cell transplant. Of all her siblings, Sam is Nicki's only perfect-match and so Spc. Negus prevailed upon the Army to delay his return to Iraq so that he could report to the Medical City Dallas Hospital and donate stem cells for his sister.

Sam's trip to Dallas was arranged by Corporate Angel Network. Independence Air, a CAN participating airline, flew Sam from North Carolina to New York where a CAN corporation, PepsiCo, flew him to Dallas. The bone marrow procedure was completed with no complications. Since Sam might be in Iraq when the doctors are ready to complete the transplant,

*continued on page 2*

## CONAGRA, WACHOVIA, HONEYWELL, AND DUKE ENERGY RECEIVE 2005 CORPORATE ANGEL AWARD

Initiated in 2001 and co-sponsored by Chevron Global Aviation, NBAA, Safe Flight Instrument Corporation, and *Business & Commercial Aviation* magazine, the Corporate Angel Award recognizes CAN participating corporations and flight departments for their exceptional contribution to our cancer patients. The 2005 quarterly recipients of this award were: ConAgra Foods, Wachovia Corporation, Honeywell, and Duke Energy. Each flight department was recognized with a full-page ad in *Business & Commercial Aviation* (B/CA) and \$2,500 of Chevron aviation fuel. B/CA donates the net ad proceeds to Corporate Angel Network.

This award demonstrates positive examples of merging business activity with corporate responsibility. Corporate Angel Network congratulates this year's four recipients and extends its heartfelt thanks to the awards co-sponsors for supporting our efforts to help cancer patient's receive life saving treatment.

Previous Corporate Angel Award winners include: Corning, Inc., Wyeth, International Products, Schering-Plough, Dow Chemical, Flight Options, Inc., The 401K Company, Verizon, The Ford Motor Company, Limited Brands, ConocoPhillips, PepsiCo, America Online, Inc., AT&T, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and The Coca-Cola Company.

## From the President

Our 20,000th flight took off on the heels of a blizzard and our 22,000th flight occurred despite the ravages of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Along with the usual challenges involved with matching patient requests with flights, CAN volunteers dealt with power outages and crashed computers with their usual energy and enthusiasm. We thank and congratulate them for continuing to arrange record numbers of flights despite all of the above.

Corporate Angel Network was proud to be a part of the evacuation from the areas affected by the Hurricanes. Details of one flight are included in this edition of *Flight Lines*.

Gifts of hours from fractional owners have made a significant impact on our ability to arrange flights to remote or seldom traveled destinations. One child, a nine year old whose leukemia prohibited her from commercial travel, was able to fly home between treatments for the first time in fourteen months. Thanks to the generosity of fractional owners, we have been able to combine gifts of an hour or two with other fractional donors and arrange trips that often make a critical and lasting difference in the lives of our patients.

On behalf of all our patients, I extend our sincere appreciation for the efforts of our staff, volunteers, fractional owners and CAN corporations.

Bonnie Le Var

### *A Soldier's Story...continued from page 1*

his stem cells were frozen and stored, ready for Nicki when the time is right. Following his stay in Dallas, yet another CAN participant was able to fly Sam to Washington, DC. From there Independence Air completed his journey by taking him back to North Carolina where he is with his wife and resting comfortably, secure in the knowledge that he has risen to the challenge of aiding both his country and his family in time of need. Corporate Angel Network is proud to have been instrumental in arranging transportation for Sam and extends its thanks to the flight departments and crews of the corporations that took part for their professionalism and compassion. They are true exemplars of corporate responsibility.

## ONE FAMILY'S STORY

They say that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points. Sometimes, however, a little bend in that line turns out to be shorter. A recent case in point for Corporate Angel Network was that of Richard and Melissa Fritsch. They were seeking transportation to Duke Medical Center in North Carolina for their 5 year-old son Parker. CAN staff and volunteers worked to find seats on a corporate jet heading towards North Carolina. What transpired were flight plans and problems of almost epic proportions.

Webster defines odyssey as "a long journey marked usually by many changes of fortune." Fortunately, we can now share this story of good fortune for the Fritsch family and for the many wonderful people involved in helping Parker reach treatment.

Learning that a flight is unavailable means only one thing to CAN volunteers – keep on trying! It took the help and cooperation of four different corporations, the flexibility of Parker's doctors at Duke, and Corporate Angel Network to make it a reality for this family to avail itself of cutting edge cancer treatment. On an additional flight, room was made for Parker, his parents, and his 2-year-old little brother, Connor.



*Parker Fritsch enjoying his flight.*

For Parker, once he began stem cell transplants, flying commercially could be a health hazard. Compromised immune systems are easy targets for common bacteria and infections often found on commercial flights. Private travel is not just a luxury, it is a necessity.

The family began their journey February 1<sup>st</sup>. They flew from San Francisco, CA. to Wheeling, IL. Waiting for them was Parker's uncle John, who drove them to Wisconsin. The family stayed over for two days until another corporation could fly them from Wisconsin to Greensboro, N.C. There, the family rented a car and drove to Duke Medical Center in Raleigh Durham.

For six months, Melissa and Richard set up temporary family living in an apartment so that their young son could receive intensive cancer care. When the focus finally shifted to the medical aspect, one can imagine the travel and upheaval was the easy part.

Springtime brought good news. Parker would be able to return home in late June. This time the Fritschs drove from Raleigh Durham to Dulles International Airport, in D.C., to catch a corporate flight to Waukegan, Ill. There they spent a few days relaxing and caught another corporate flight to Oakland, CA.

At this writing, the family is on their way home from their six month follow-up, buoyed with great test results. Melissa Fritsch, declaring this a "miracle", was also ecstatic that HFBC, the corporation that flew them on the first leg of their journey on a bleak February day, was now flying them home. It is a glorious Fall day and Melissa swears the flight team is as happy as she is.

## “GET OUT OF DODGE”

On September 22, as on most workdays, Vicki Blucher, Corporate Angel Network’s Director of Volunteers, was fielding the numerous calls we receive from cancer patients seeking to arrange transportation to treatment around the country on our participating corporate aircraft. But when she received a frantic call from Tracy Leska that morning, she knew she had to act quickly.

Hurricane Rita had been upgraded from a Category 4 hurricane to a possible Category 5 and it was bearing down on Houston and the rest of the Gulf Coast. Tracy had been a patient at MD Anderson’s Cancer Center since July and the hospital was scaling back patient service and suspending all clinical operations in preparation for the

storm. She needed to get out of Houston, and fast.

She wasn’t alone. As many as two million residents had been ordered to evacuate and Tracy and her husband Shawn needed to, as the locals were saying “get the heck out of Dodge.”

Fortunately Vicki, with the help of CAN volunteers, was able to locate a corporation that had an aircraft leaving from Houston later that day. Even more fortunately, the airport from which it departed was located a short distance south of the city. As a mass of Texas humanity crawled northward along traffic-clogged highways, scrambling to get to safe areas before the full force of the storm struck, Tracy and Shawn drove south, against the flow, to Lake Jackson Brazoria County Airport where they were able to fly to Saginaw, Michigan. Had they been forced to fly from one of Houston’s other airports, the traffic would have prevented them from reaching their flight on time. While they drove the forty miles to the Lake Jackson airport, CAN volunteer Mike Kempler was searching for, and found, another corporate flight that would be able to take the couple from Michigan, closer to home. From Saginaw, Tracy and Shawn drove to Battle Creek, to catch the CAN flight to Westchester County Airport. From there it was only a short car ride to their Connecticut home.

Since then, Hurricane Rita has evaporated, MD Anderson has been restored to full operations, and most of Houston is back to business as usual. Tracy will be returning to MD Anderson soon, hopefully for the briefest of stays. But for now, she and Shawn have a wonderful story to tell their grandchildren one day about the time that Corporate Angel Network and two of its participating corporations helped them “get the heck out of Dodge.”



Shawn and Tracy Leska return to Westchester County Airport after their adventure!

### CAN Flight Lines

Published by Corporate Angel Network, a national public charity under IRC §170(b)(1)(a)(vi) and §509(a)(1) that partners with over 500 U.S. corporations and fractional owners, using the empty seats aboard their aircraft to fly cancer patients to recognized treatment centers, free of charge. Financial need is not a factor in eligibility.

Based in White Plains, New York, Corporate Angel Network operates out of offices donated by Westchester County Airport. With the assistance of referring physicians, corporations, flight departments, and leading treatment facilities, a team of 50 part-time volunteers and five full-time staff arranges nearly 2,500 flights a year.

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## CAN’S ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PARTY

On a picture-perfect summer afternoon in August, Corporate Angel Network held its annual picnic at the home of volunteers Ron and Betty Hanswirth in Armonk, New York. The annual event is to thank the many volunteers whose selfless dedication enables our organization to fulfill its mission. More than forty volunteers gathered to enjoy a plentiful barbecue, each other’s company, and to reflect on a job well done. Corporate Angel Network is deeply grateful for the work of those who donate their time and efforts arranging free flights on corporate aircraft for cancer patients needing to travel for treatment. We relish this opportunity to demonstrate our appreciation. A great time was had by all. As one volunteer put it when she surveyed the dessert platters, “so many calories, so little time.”



Peter Fleiss, CAN’s Executive Director with long-time volunteers Claudine & Jay Samsky and Chuck & Shelly Shotland Volunteers.

## Patient Letters

Dear Vicki,

*Again, as usual, I can't thank all of you enough.  
My trip went perfectly.*

*Things are going so well that I don't have to travel  
again till early December.*

*On a more personal note, I've enclosed a card from the  
facility that cured me. Unfortunately, we all eventually  
know of someone that requires care for Cancer. I've gone  
from Stage IV (mets to the bones and lung), to completely  
100% normal.*

*Having said that, I again say THANKS, and will be in  
touch in a few months.*

Sincerely,

Shelley Contin-Hubbs

## Our New Corporations

Machovia Inc.

Sunstate Equipment Co.

C P Transportation, Inc.

EFO Holdings, L.P.

Cochran Firm

JMS Group Ltd.

Richmor Aviation

Sunburst Media Mst.



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THEY NEED A LIFT!**

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