



NEWS RELEASE

[Click For Downloadable Picture - Jack Pelton Signs Check](#)

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GREATER WASHINGTON AVIATION OPEN RAISES \$140,000 FOR CORPORATE ANGEL NETWORK

The 20th Annual Greater Washington Aviation Open Helps Cancer Patients Fight Their Battle

Lansdowne, VA—Immediate—The 20th Annual Greater Washington Aviation Open (GWAO), the largest aviation charity event in the Washington DC area, raised a record \$140,000 for Corporate Angel Network (CAN), the non-profit that arranges free flights to treatment for cancer patients using empty seats on corporate flights.

Held on May 5 at Lansdowne Resort in Virginia, tournament attendees included senior leadership from major aviation associations, airlines, aerospace manufacturers, high-level representation from Capitol Hill, and Federal agencies. More than 90 major aviation corporations and associations participated representing 37 states and several countries.

The GWAO tournament has raised more than \$1,250,000 for Corporate Angel Network. This year's Honorary Chairman was Jack Pelton, Chairman, President & CEO of Cessna Aircraft Company. Mr. Pelton is also a member of Corporate Angel Network's Board of Directors.

After a beautiful day of golf and tennis, participants enjoyed the Victory Reception and Awards Banquet featuring a live auction. "Flights of Fancy" around the world travel and resort accommodations were donated by airlines and hotels; these included business-class travel packages to Europe and Asia and first-class tickets and packages to U.S. destinations and resorts, and a type rating in a Cessna Mustang Jet donated by Flight Safety International. CAN participating corporations were well represented among the donors and bidders. A check for \$140,000 was presented to CAN by the GWAO Board of Directors. GWAO Tournament Director, Paul Bollinger, remarked "Every year the support for CAN by the aviation community grows stronger and this year, our 20th anniversary, proved to be the greatest ever."

"The funds raised here and donated to Corporate Angel Network are instrumental in our ability to continue to provide and expand our service" said CAN's Executive Director, Peter Fleiss during the check presentation. "We now fly three times the number of cancer patients we flew just 8 years ago. On behalf of the thousands of cancer patients we've helped in the past, and the thousands more we will fly in the future, we'd like to thank the entire GWAO tournament committee for the time and exceptional effort they extend, year after year, for an incredible 20 years now, in order to put together this great event.

Greater Washington Aviation Open

Hosted yearly by the aviation industry, the Greater Washington Aviation Open (GWAO) was established in 1989 by a group of aviation executives as a means for aviation companies to support a worthy cause related to air transportation while enjoying a day of sports and camaraderie. The GWAO has raised more than \$1.25 million for CAN over the past 20 years. Thousands of aviation professionals, congressmen and senators, government officials, and people from across the country and globe have participated in past tournaments. With more than 90 companies and organizations represented this year, the GWAO is the largest gathering of aviation professionals for a sporting charity event in the Washington DC area. The event is planned and managed by an all-volunteer tournament committee which includes Tournament Director Paul Bollinger; Pete West, West Advocacy; Don Skiados, Air Line Pilots Association International; Jeff Lehman, OBN Aviation; Jon Ash, InterVISTAS-ga2.; Mary Miller, Signature Flight Support; Ed Hazelwood, Aviation Week Group; Paul Wiedefeld, Maryland Transportation Authority, and Tim Letzkus, of Sullivan Hidgon & Sink. For more information please visit: www.gwao.org.

About Corporate Angel Network

Corporate Angel Network arranges free flights to treatment for cancer patients using the empty seats on corporate flights. Now in it's 26th year, CAN has grown to include 530 participating corporations, five paid staff, and a team of 50 part-time volunteers who work with patients, physicians, corporate flight departments, and leading treatment centers to coordinate medical travel needs of cancer patients with the scheduled flight activity of participating corporations. To date, CAN has arranged nearly 29,000 flights and currently provides more than 200 patient flights a month. CAN has received numerous awards in recognition of its service to cancer patients, including The Volunteer Action Award, the highest volunteer award from the President of the United States. For more information please call CAN at (914) 328-1313 or visit www.CorpAngelNetwork.org.

First Photo Caption: GWAO Honorary Chairman Jack Pelton (Chairman, President & CEO of Cessna Aircraft Company) signs \$140,000 check to Corporate Angel Network.

Second Photo Caption: Group with check: (L to R). Paul Bollinger, Tim Letzkus, Jon Ash (GWAO), Peter Fleiss (CAN) Jeff Lehman (GWAO), Jack Pelton (Cessna/CAN)), Randy Greene (Safe Flight/CAN), Ed Hazelwood, Steve Martin (GWAO).

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