

DISPATCHES



Maine Voters Show Their Support for LifeFlight

PAGE 2

2010 Calendar On Sale Now

PAGE 7

New EMS/Fire Ambassador Program

PAGE 5

Every Day is a Gift for Vinalhaven Family

Megan Day was 8 months pregnant when she began bleeding at her home on Vinalhaven Island off the coast of Rockland. An hour by boat from the nearest hospital, luckily the LifeFlight helicopter was already on the island for a training. The flight crew rushed Megan to Penobscot Bay Medical Center where physicians saved Megan's life and delivered her baby girl, Kyra. But the struggle was just beginning for the premature infant. Maine Medical Center's NICU team picked her up and brought her back to Portland, where specialists helped her survive her first, most tenuous days.

Recently, Kyra celebrated her 5th birthday, a milestone her family feared she might never reach. Today, she is a healthy, active and very social little girl, happily adjusting to life in kindergarten.

"Every day is fantastic!" explains Megan. "Kyra loves the color pink, princesses and drawing pictures. She keeps us all very entertained with her stories and very busy with her energy."



Maine voters show their support for LifeFlight

Funds from the transportation bond will help create a safe and reliable aviation environment for LifeFlight of Maine pilots, crew and patients

2

On November 3, Maine voters approved a \$71 million transportation bond, which included \$1 million to help the LifeFlight Foundation. The funds will build comprehensive, statewide aviation infrastructure and replace LifeFlight’s radio system. The weather stations and GPS approaches that will be installed and developed with this funding will improve the safety and reliability of emergency helicopter flights along the coast and in rural areas.

The statewide effort to build the infrastructure began with \$2.6 million from the 2003 transportation bond. Those funds helped many of Maine’s hospitals build dedicated helipads and a handful of airports install Automated Weather Observing Stations (AWOS). A small portion of the 2003 funds was also used to develop helicopter GPS approaches for rural hospitals and commonly used landing zones.

Funds from the 2009 transportation bond will install several more AWOS along the

coast and in the mountains, and help develop GPS approaches at dozens more community hospitals and rural landing zones.

A few years ago, there were very few AWOS in the state. This meant LifeFlight pilots had to turn down a greater number of flight requests due to weather, as they were relying on weather reports from stations that could be hundreds of miles from the actual destination.

“The good news is that Maine now leads the country in developing low level instrument flight systems which are the gold standard for commercial airline travel. In fact, the FAA is going to use our network of weather and instrument approaches as a national model,” noted Tom Judge, Executive Director of the LifeFlight Foundation.

While these funds are only a small part of a larger investment in infrastructure and jobs in Maine, the LifeFlight crew and community are grateful for the support of Maine’s people. 

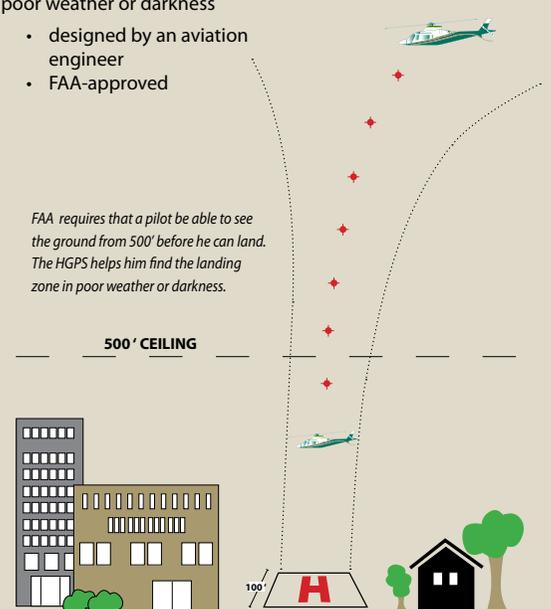
HGPS Approach

An electronic map that improves access to remote communities and hospitals in poor weather or darkness

- designed by an aviation engineer
- FAA-approved

FAA requires that a pilot be able to see the ground from 500' before he can land. The HGPS helps him find the landing zone in poor weather or darkness.

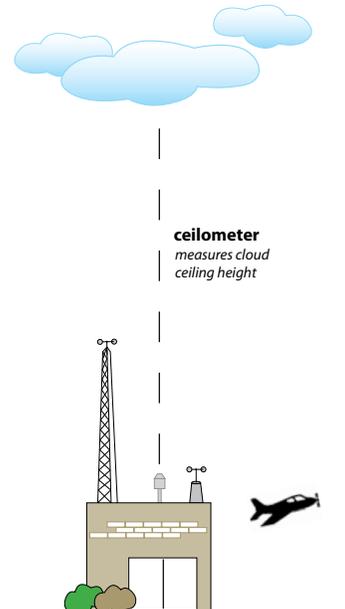
500' CEILING



AWOS

Automated Weather Observing Station

Remote, real-time weather reporting enhancing safety and predictability



ceilometer
measures cloud ceiling height

Rural landing zone a godsend for ATV accident victim

Peace and quiet. Getting back to nature. Wildlife watching. It's the reason so many people come to visit Maine. Those fortunate enough to live here take advantage of Maine's natural resources as often as possible. Cindy Annis, of Hampden, has been camping with her family in a remote area of northern Hancock County since she was a child. Today, she and her husband make the three hour drive over dirt roads every summer to bring their teenage son to Unknown Lake for some swimming, canoeing and fishing.

During last summer's camping trip, Cindy and her friend, Melissa, were driving ATVs into town to pick up supplies. As they made their way down a slight incline, Cindy's ATV unexpectedly hit soft gravel and rolled down a 30-foot embankment. Cindy came to a stop against a large boulder. Fortunately, she was wearing a helmet. However, her chest and shoulders were in a great deal of pain. Although she didn't know it yet, Cindy's accident had left her with a broken collarbone, three broken ribs, a lacerated liver and a collapsed lung. Her friend helped her back up to the road, just as a pickup truck happened by. When the driver, Sam Dana, stopped to help, he realized how badly Cindy was hurt and remembered seeing a helicopter landing zone just a few miles up the road. Melissa went ahead to find the landing zone and call for the helicopter.

"This landing zone was nearly perfect," remembers Carol Jordan, the flight nurse on board the helicopter. "It was open, flat, and had an enormous sign with the area's GPS coordinates. It had everything but the big red H! The entire process ran like clockwork."

Rural landing zones such as the one that helped save Cindy are being established across the state with help from local ATV and snowmobile clubs, game wardens and sporting camp owners. Having rapid access to emergency care is an important link in Maine's trauma system.

Cindy looks forward to returning to her favorite camping spot for many years to come, comfortable in the knowledge that, if it's ever needed again, she'll know how to get help fast. 



LifeFlight patient Cindy Annis visits with (l-r) pilot Joe Obremski, flight nurse Carol Jordan and flight paramedic Pete Allen. Below, the sign at the rural landing zone LifeFlight used to pick up Cindy and transport her to Eastern Maine Medical Center.





photo by Michele Barker



photo by Cathy Case



photo by Cathy Case

LifeFlight Launches New EMS/Fire Ambassador Program

LifeFlight of Maine is inviting EMS and Fire crew members from around the state to become part of a new partnership.

Emergency responders across Maine know first-hand how crucial it is to have an emergency air medicine service. What everyone may not know, however, is that LifeFlight is a non-profit organization, providing access to specialty care regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

LifeFlight Ambassadors agree to host a fundraising event in their community. The funds raised will go directly to support LifeFlight of Maine's training and outreach programs, including the Human Patient Simulator (HPS) and ground safety programs. With the HPS, LifeFlight provides unique, hands-on training to EMS agencies that is fully customized to meet the needs of emergency responders.

Nobody knows an area better than its emergency responders. And emergency responders are nothing if not creative! Some events already being discussed include fishing derbies, golf tournaments, dances, potluck suppers, snowmobile races and black tie events.

5



photo by Michele Barker

For more information on this new opportunity, please contact Mary Hauprich at mhauprich@lifeflightmaine.org. 

Profile | Mike Choate, CCEMT-P

Mike was born and raised in Gardiner, where he followed a traditional educational path, graduating from Colby College in Waterville with a degree in mathematics. However, a constant interest in the human body led him to take anatomy and physiology classes in college, as well as an EMT class. As he learned more, he grew to love the ever-evolving practice of medicine and felt a strong desire to help people during their time of need.

He earned his paramedic license from Tri-County EMS and also attended Kellogg



photo by Cathy Case

Community College where he graduated with a critical care paramedic license. Before coming to LifeFlight of Maine in 2006, Mike worked

for Delta Ambulance in Augusta, where he continues to work when he's not flying.

Mike is married, has two sons and likes to spend his time off hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, riding his ATV and playing poker. 

Profile | Kim Savage, RN, BSN, CCRN



photo by Kevin Burkholder

Growing up on Campobello Island in New Brunswick, Canada, Kim always liked caring for others, so it seemed like a logical choice

to pursue a nursing diploma at the Saint John School of Nursing in Saint John, New Brunswick. After graduation, she moved to Maine and earned a BSN from the University of Maine in Orono.

She began her nursing career at St. Joseph

Hospital in Bangor on the medical/surgical floor, but quickly moved to the emergency department. After 4 years at St. Joseph's, Kim spent a year as a traveling nurse, working in emergency departments in Virginia Beach, Virginia; Hagerstown, Maryland; and Belfast. She then settled down at Eastern Maine Medical Center, where she worked in emergency, as well as adult and pediatric intensive care. She moved to LifeFlight of Maine in March of 2007.

Outside of work, Kim likes to spend her time quilting and enjoying outdoor activities. 🚶‍♀️

6

LifeFlight Foundation office is moving

The LifeFlight Foundation is moving its office to downtown Camden in December. The move comes as the Foundation is expanding its donor base and growing its staff.

Since 2003, the Foundation's office has been at the Thompson Community Center in Union. While in Union, the Foundation office enjoyed a cooperative relationship with the Mid Coast regional EMS office, sharing resources and knowledge during this important period of growth. The move to a professional grade office space was facilitated by generous concessions by the Montgomery Family of Camden, owners of the building.

Next time you're in the mid coast area, please stop in and check out our new space.

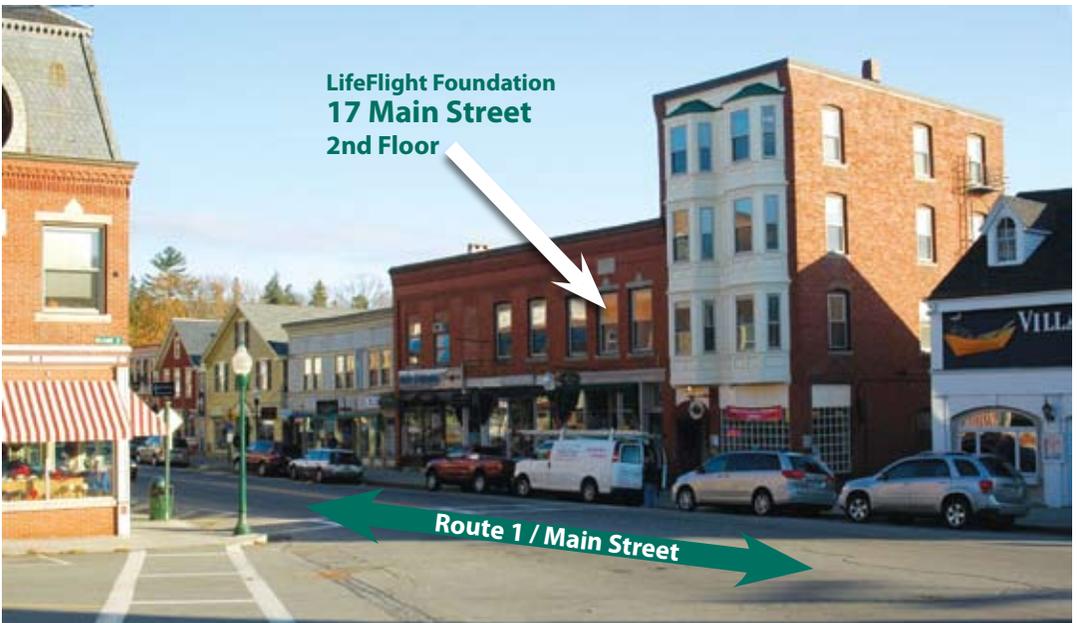
Wish List

Help support the LifeFlight Foundation with an in-kind donation:

- Professional quality board room table & chairs
- Break room table
- Desk lamps
- Video conferencing equipment

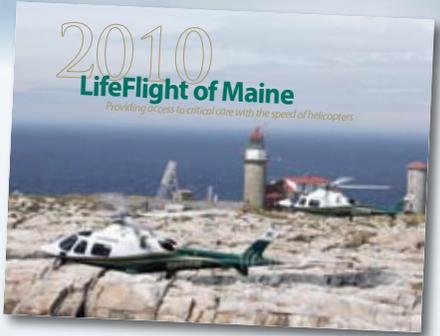
**LifeFlight Foundation
17 Main Street
2nd Floor**

Route 1 / Main Street



LifeFlight of Maine 2010 Calendar Campaign

Help support LifeFlight's mission of saving lives



7

Each year, The LifeFlight Foundation produces a calendar that features some of our most compelling patient stories. These men, women and children, with help from Maine's entire emergency healthcare system, overcame many challenges and obstacles to return to the lives they once knew.

LifeFlight of Maine is one small part of the system that helped to save each of these patients' lives, but it is an important part. We depend on the support of foundations, corporations, governments and individuals just

like you to make sure LifeFlight will always be there when it is needed most.

This year, for the first time, we are asking Mainers to consider purchasing our 2010 calendar for a donation of \$20. You can feel confident knowing that your gift will go directly to support your statewide critical care helicopter service.

2010 LifeFlight Calendar Order Form

Quantity	Item	Cost	Total
	2010 LifeFlight Calendar	\$20.00	
	<i>Shipping and Handling</i>		\$2.00
	TOTAL		

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Mail this form with payment to: The LifeFlight Foundation | PO Box 899 | Camden, ME 04843
Or order online: www.lifeflightmaine.org

LIFELIGHT FOUNDATION

DISPATCHES is a publication of The LifeFlight Foundation, which provides fundraising and public relations support to LifeFlight of Maine, the state's only medical helicopter service.

The LifeFlight Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Tax Code. It is governed by an elected board of trustees who represent medical, business, legal and educational fields throughout the state.

LifeFlight also aids the development, training and funding of Maine's major air medical needs, such as trauma training statewide, construction of hospital helipads, and installation of weather reporting, navigational and communications systems across the state.

The Foundation's office is located in the Town of Camden at 17 Main Street, 2nd floor.

LIFELIGHT OF MAINE

LifeFlight of Maine is a nonprofit statewide critical care medical helicopter service jointly owned by Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems and Central Maine Healthcare Corporation. LifeFlight's two helicopters, based in Bangor and Lewiston, cover the entire state and offshore islands. LifeFlight complements and supports the work of local EMS and hospital personnel in caring for the critically ill or injured. Each base is staffed by a highly qualified team of pilots, mechanics, flight nurses and paramedics. More than 10,000 patients have been safely transported since LifeFlight's founding in 1998.

LifeFlight was fully re-accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems in 2009.

CONTRIBUTORS

Melissa Arndt
*Marketing and Educational Outreach Manager
The LifeFlight Foundation*

Renee Johnson
*Development Assistant
The LifeFlight Foundation*

Christopher Hamilton
*Director of Development
The LifeFlight Foundation*

Thomas Judge, CCT-P
*Executive Director
The LifeFlight Foundation*



THE LIFELIGHT FOUNDATION
PO Box 899 | Camden, ME 04843
Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Augusta, ME
Permit No. 121

Dispatches is published by The LifeFlight Foundation for friends, supporters and members of the state's Emergency Medical Services community. Comments and suggestions may be directed to the Foundation at Phone: 785-2288 Email: info@lifeflightmaine.org

www.lifeflightmaine.org