Like most new parents, Olga and Christian Zimmerman were looking forward to days filled with diapers and bottles, and even a few sleepless nights with their new baby boy, Alden.

Things were going well at home for the first few days. Although Alden was having a bit of trouble nursing, he was not particularly fussy. At his first well baby check up, he was showing signs of dehydration. His parents took him to Penobscot Bay Medical Center for testing, where they found his sodium levels were very high. This dangerous situation can lead to seizures or even a coma, and needs to be treated quickly.

Realizing Alden would require care from a specialty hospital, doctors at Pen Bay arranged for LifeFlight to transport him to Barbara Bush Childrens Hospital in Portland.

Paramedic Joe Moore had only been working for LifeFlight for a few months when the call came in to transport baby Alden, who was just a few days old. He and flight nurse Joe Dragon had, coincidentally, spent the morning practicing their pediatric clinical skills in the Maine
Donors make a difference

EMS/LifeFlight of Maine human patient simulator mobile lab (see page 3 for details). Now they would need to put their skills to work for real.

Brand new infants are a special challenge to transport because they struggle to regulate their own body temperature, an issue that is made more difficult when the infants are critically ill or injured.

Thanks to the generosity of more than 100 private donors, including a large gift from Walmart, LifeFlight was able to purchase two isolettes, special infant carriers designed to maintain a constant ambient temperature and monitor a sick newborn’s vital signs.

As Joe and Joe loaded the isolette onto the helicopter in Bangor, Olga said goodbye to her son at Pen Bay and headed to Portland to be there when Alden arrived. When the flight crew arrived at Pen Bay, they brought the isolette right into the emergency department, where they could assess Alden and settle him into his new environment for the 28-minute flight to Portland.

Himself a brand new father, Joe Moore was humbled when Christian handed Alden over to him. He found he had a whole new respect for the trust families put in the LifeFlight crew.

The flight went smoothly, with Alden’s vital signs remaining stable. The staff at Barbara Bush Childrens Hospital got Alden back on track over the next couple of days, and he was able to return home to Hope with his parents after less than a week.

Walmart gives $60,000 for new isolette, bringing the company’s total giving to more than $100,000

Walmart recently donated $60,000 to the LifeFlight Foundation to help purchase an isolette, a critical piece of medical equipment.

It is used by the crew based at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston.

David Murray, Central Maine Market Manager, played a key role in choosing to support LifeFlight. “LifeFlight is one of only a few nonprofit organizations that we support with large donations, and we do that because we believe it provides a valuable, lifesaving service to the entire state,” Murray explained. “I’m proud to be part of a team that gives back to our communities in a way that will enhance the critical care LifeFlight provides to Maine’s sickest and smallest patients.”

The isolette, essential for transporting our youngest and sickest patients, monitors vital signs, delivers oxygen to the patient and maintains a climate-controlled environment.

According to LifeFlight executive director Tom Judge, “Babies are thermally challenged—that is, not only is it difficult to maintain their body temperature, but it’s difficult for them to overcome temperature deficits—we have to take special precautions and use some highly advanced equipment when transporting babies.”

The donation was made through Walmart’s state grant program, which is funded by the Walmart Foundation.

“...we support LifeFlight because we believe it provides a valuable, lifesaving service to the entire state.”

David Murray
Central Maine Market Manager, Walmart

When added to Walmart’s previous donations, this most recent gift brings the company’s total giving to more than $100,000. In 2008, employees at seventeen Walmart stores and one distribution center in Maine and New Hampshire donated more than $20,000 to help purchase night vision goggles for the LifeFlight aircraft. Over the course of 2009 and 2010, nearly all of the Walmart stores in Maine donated more than $25,000 to LifeFlight’s medical equipment campaign.

“The widespread support by Walmart employees illustrates how important LifeFlight is to the people of Maine,” said Judge. “We are grateful for this important vote of confidence and for these hard-raised funds.”

Fundraising Partnership Program

Help support LifeFlight’s mission of saving lives

The idea is simple. School organizations or civic groups would sell LifeFlight calendars for $15 each, keeping $5 per calendar to benefit local causes and giving the remaining funds to LifeFlight.

A fundraising partnership with LifeFlight means your school organization or civic group will earn needed funds, while supporting Maine’s nonprofit emergency medical helicopter service.

To learn more about this exciting fundraising opportunity, contact us at The LifeFlight Foundation, 207-230-7092.
The speed of the helicopter is important but what’s inside makes all the difference

The LifeFlight helicopters are known for transporting critical patients to the care they need quickly and safely. Though not talked about as often, the crew and equipment on board are just as important to a patient’s survival and recovery as the helicopter itself. LifeFlight relies on private donations to help fund the more than $175,000 of advanced medical equipment on board each helicopter.

Isolette

Isolettes are critical for the sickest infants. They monitor vital signs and deliver oxygen. They maintain a constant ambient temperature, creating a self-sustaining, nurturing environment for newborns.

I-STAT System

The i-STAT is an advanced, handheld blood analyzer that provides real-time, lab-quality results within minutes to accelerate the patient care decision-making process. It enables the medical crew to perform blood tests while in flight, giving physicians at the receiving hospital a more complete picture of the patient’s condition. This i-STAT also increases the level of patient care during flight.

Infusion Pumps

These pumps can control flow rates of up to three different intravenous (IV) fluids or medicines. Some of the most critical cardiac patients can require three pumps, as they have more than six medications and need fluids infusing. Just a few short years ago, these patients would have been considered too sick to be flown. But with today’s technology and expertise, LifeFlight can save these patients and get to the care they need.

Nearly half of all LifeFlight’s calls occur after dark. With night enhanced vision (NVG), pilots and crew members can see landing zone obstacles such as wires, towers, trees, and rocks while flying in the dark, improving flight safety and protecting the aircraft’s precious cargo. They are absolutely necessary when the helicopters are called to emergency scenes on coastal islands, snowmobile accidents in the North Maine Woods or mountain rescues in western Maine.

These pumps are used to stabilize and manage patients whose heart is not pumping effectively. LifeFlight’s aircraft and crews are capable of transporting these patients, but must currently rely on scarce IABP’s from a referring hospital which are not designed for helicopter transport. To improve patient care and safety, LifeFlight needs to acquire a specially designed cardiac pump made for aircraft.

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Two units of O-negative, universal donor blood are carried on every flight. Most ambulance services do not have donor blood on hand, so LifeFlight is critical for patients who have severe internal or external bleeding, or have medical forms of anemia.

Night Vision Goggles

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LTV 1200 Ventilator

The LTV 1200 ventilator can meet the ventilation needs of literally any patient. It can be programmed to control ventilation based on either volume or pressure; that is, the crew can set it to provide a specific volume of air or provide air up to a set pressure. The unit is also capable of non-invasive mask ventilation (Bi-Pap) for respiratory patients who do not require intubation.

MD Propaq Monitor

These monitors diagnose a patient’s essential information so treatments can be modified as necessary. They have been specifically designed for air medical transport – with special attention given to vibration, weight and ease of use in challenging field situations. Special characteristics make it critical for pediatric and therapeutic hypothermia patients, and improve airway management for every patient.

Donor Blood

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Intra-aortic Balloon Pump

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Isolette

I-STAT System

Infusion Pumps

Night Vision Goggles

LTV 1200 Ventilator

MD Propaq Monitor

Donor Blood

Intra-aortic Balloon Pump
LifeFlight cares for more than 1500 critically ill or injured people each year. Every case is different. The challenge for LifeFlight’s crew is to quickly evaluate the patient and begin treatment in the field.

More than 100 patients, family members, staff and volunteers turned out for LifeFlight’s first annual Pediatric Patient Celebration held in May at the Owls Head Transportation Museum.

The reunion was an opportunity for kids who have been transported by LifeFlight to meet the flight crew, learn more about emergency care in Maine, and share their experiences with other patients and families.

Golf Scramble
Saturday, July 16 | 9am
Natanis Golf Course | Vassalboro

Register online at www.lifeflightmaine.org or call (207) 230-7092

Golf Scramble
Saturday, July 16 | 9am
Natanis Golf Course | Vassalboro

$400 per 4-person team includes 18 holes of golf, toaster oven, wines and free use of the driving range

Full field expected! Register online today at www.lifeflightmaine.org!

Preregistration Deadline: July 8th

For more information contact us at 207-230-7092 or tamilton@lifeflightmaine.org.

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Sponsored in part by:

• Life Insurance
• Real Estate
• Retirement Accounts
• Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds
• Personal Property
• Cash

Some examples of common planned giving tools include:

• Bequests
• trusts

To learn more about planned giving opportunities, contact Chris Hamilton at 207-230-7092 or chamilton@lifeflightmaine.org.

LifeFlight has a profound impact on people’s lives. They often want to show their appreciation by giving back. Through planned giving, people sometimes find that they can make a more significant donation – allowing them to support an organization they care deeply about.

Leaving a Legacy

LifeFlight’s first annual pediatric patient celebration was a huge hit with patients, families and crew.

It often takes time for families to heal emotionally from the distressing events of the day LifeFlight comes into their lives. Giving them an opportunity to have a positive experience with the flight crew might help speed that emotional recovery,” explained Tom Judge, LifeFlight’s Executive Director.

The event was generously sponsored by Bangor Savings Bank, Verizon Wireless and Rockland Fire’s ambulance. Guests also enjoyed Model T rides from the museum, face painting with Rockland Key Club students and creating a mural of fingerprints. Shriners clowns were in attendance, along with a lifesize, remote control R2D2 robot from Star War.

The reunion was an opportunity for kids who have been transported by LifeFlight to meet the flight crew, learn more about emergency care in Maine, and share their experiences with other patients and families.

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“Signs of virtually every Bangor base manager. Flight nurse and early in the campaign,” explains Sandy Benton, flight nurse and Bangor base manager. “They monitor the vital signs of virtually every patient we transport.”

On hand for the check presentation were LifeFlight Development Director Chris Hamilton, TD Bank Senior Loan Officer Jeff Pouliot, Flight Nurse Missy McCame, Flight Medics Frank McCollum, LifeFlight Executive Director Tom Judge, and TD Bank Regional Marketing Manager Stephanie Armstrong.

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LIFEFLIGHT 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 13 Main Street, 2nd floor. You can reach us at 207-230-7092 or info@lifeflightmaine.org.

Donations are tax-deductible.

LIFEFLIGHT 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 and operated by Era Helicopters, 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 12,000 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.

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