A mother’s letter of appreciation

The following is an excerpt from an email sent by a grateful parent, to the medical crew that cared for her son.

Dear Jared and Doris,

When my son was only two years old, he had to have his tonsils and adenoids removed. It was a difficult decision for us as parents, but we didn’t want him to struggle with sleep apnea. Although it was a simple surgery, complications arose two days later. William had a hard time breathing and his heart rate was very high. We didn’t know it at the time, but he was suffering from pneumonia.

I rocked him back and forth in the hospital bed, thinking for sure I could make him feel better. After all, I am his mother. The doctors did lots of tests, but William continued to worsen and we were soon wheeled down to the ICU. I still had no idea what was happening, but I held my son and rocked him, and kissed him, and I just knew that I could help him.

When a nurse told me, “Your son needs to go to Portland and there’s no time for an ambulance,” I just lost it. I remember thinking, “so what now?” Then she explained about the helicopter.

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A mother’s letter

I thought, “Do I have to fly in that helicopter with him? I might have a heart attack, but I’ll do it. I need to be with him.”

Then you two walked in and looked me in the eye, and told me everything would be fine, you would take care of my baby. I don’t trust just anybody with my children, but for some reason, I trusted you both immediately.

Today, my William is a happy, healthy 4-year-old who is fascinated with helicopters. Although he doesn’t remember his ordeal, he will always know the special people who took part in saving his life that day. Thank you all so much for what you do, not only for my son, but for everybody in the state of Maine!

With love, Amie
Winthrop, Maine

Four-year-old William Frake entertained LifeFlight crew members Ryan Gauvin, flight paramedic; Ryan Walsh, flight paramedic; John Scanlon, pilot; and Jeremy Nadeau, flight nurse/paramedic when he visited recently. When he was just 2 years old, William had to be flown to Maine Medical Center when he suffered complications from surgery.

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 non-profit emergency medical helicopter service.

To learn more about this exciting fundraising opportunity, contact us at the LifeFlight Foundation, 207-230-7092.

Making a family gift to LifeFlight

People from all walks of life support LifeFlight’s mission of providing critical care and transport to people anywhere in Maine. Those who have had a family member flown by LifeFlight have an especially meaningful relationship with us. Some of them, like the Harwoods (above), have organized family-oriented fundraising efforts. They set a fundraising goal and then ask other family members to join with them in making a special gift in honor of their loved one.

Fortunately, most people have never needed to use LifeFlight, yet they are grateful that we are there if they need us. Someone who is especially supportive of LifeFlight might also organize their family to join with them in making gifts to LifeFlight. Together they can make a more meaningful gift.

Often, a person’s family extends to their community of neighbors, co-workers, parishioners and civic organizations. Together they can have an even greater impact.

Melanie Lajoie | Augusta
To show their appreciation for the lifesaving care provided by LifeFlight following her head-on car crash, Melanie Lajoie and her family gave a personal gift, hosted a special fundraiser on Facebook, held a large birthday party with the proceeds coming to LifeFlight and have sponsored LifeFlight’s annual golf tournament.

For more information on how your family can help, contact the LifeFlight Foundation at 230-7092.
Support from Maine businesses grows

A recent pledge of $30,000 from Cianbro Corporation is the latest donation from a growing number of Maine businesses. During the last three months, nearly 40 businesses have given more than $60,000 to support LifeFlight’s mission.

“Maine’s business leaders understand the importance of LifeFlight’s service to their employees, customers and Maine’s economy,” said Peter Vigue, President of Cianbro. “We are proud to support such a vital organization.”

Some donations go to pay for the aircraft, like that given by Cianbro. Others help to pay for medical equipment and training.

Central Maine Harley Davidson in Hermon held a fundraising party before the Toby Keith concert last August. They netted $3,000.

Employees at Walmart stores continue to support LifeFlight in a meaningful way. In September, four stores gave $1,000 each – making Walmart’s total donations in excess of $108,000 in the last three years.

Local businesses can also support LifeFlight’s mission with in-kind donations. Wayne Michaud at Jax Auto in Chelsea donated the use of his garage and parking lots for a fundraising event organized by the family of a LifeFlight patient. Julian and Betsy Harwood of Manchester hosted a motorcycle ride in honor of their late son, Talon. They secured donations from area businesses for door prizes, raffles and enough food to feed the 240 motorcyclists who joined the ride. Following the event, the Harwoods presented LifeFlight with a check for $7,000. They hope for an even larger event next summer.

If your business would like to make a donation or host an event, please contact the LifeFlight Foundation at 230-7092.

Camden National Bank Supports LifeFlight Foundation

Camden National Bank recently supported the LifeFlight Foundation’s educational outreach program with a gift of $2,500. The medical flight crew offers advanced training to community hospitals and EMS agencies for high risk cardiac, stroke, brain injury and pediatric patients. Pictured here, representatives of the LifeFlight Foundation receive the donation from Camden National Bank Senior Vice President Jack Williams. From left to right: Foundation Trustee Thomas Tinsley, Foundation Trustee Chair Elaine Clark, Williams, Foundation Trustee Ann Montgomery and Executive Director Thomas Judge.

The LifeFlight Foundation/LifeFlight of Maine and Maine EMS will be holding a series of one-day conferences that will focus on the prehospital assessment and management of critically ill or injured children. The program will feature both classroom lecture and hands-on training using the newest patient simulation technology.

Topics covered will include: recognizing respiratory failure and shock in children; rapid assessment and management of the ABC’s; fluid support; cardiac emergencies; sepsis; recognizing abuse; and trauma. The program is divided into a combination of classroom learning, case studies, and team-based hands-on sessions using the newest patient simulation technology.

Faculty for the program are LifeFlight medical crew and physicians. For details, call the LifeFlight Foundation at 230-7092.

To enable providers at local EMS agencies to take part in the training sessions, this program has been generously supported by:

- Kiwanis Clubs of Rockland, Orono/Old Town, Milo, Dexter and Dover-Foxcroft
- Maine Health Access Foundation
- Camden National Bank
- Affiliated Healthcare Systems
- The Betterment Fund
- United Mid Coast Charities
Purchase a unique gift this season and help a great cause at the same time!

Every time you purchase a bag of this special coffee blend, Seacoast Coffee donates 100% of the profits to LifeFlight. The staff and crew at LifeFlight strive every day to make a difference for critically ill and injured patients across Maine.

And now you can make a difference, too.

The holidays are just around the corner

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Americorps Service Members

The LifeFlight Foundation’s second Americorps member, Teresa Dobbins of Camden, recently completed her 11-month service.

“She was a great asset to the organization, bringing her professionalism, creativity and positive energy to the office each and every day,” said Development Director Chris Hamilton.

During her tenure, she helped with a number of tasks. She spent endless hours scheduling and coordinating meetings for our hospital campaign and civic organization outreach efforts. She coordinated a multi-week island landing zone inspection project.

Teresa also worked on grant research, finding several new funding sources and helping to submit dozens of grants.

One of her most memorable achievements was to help implement the first annual Pediatric Patient Celebration, a day for young patients and their families to come back to visit the LifeFlight crew and tour the helicopter.

As we bid a fond farewell to Teresa, we welcome two new Americorps service members who will stay with us through September 2012.

Brandy Dupper-Macy, an air force veteran who now lives on North Haven with her husband and two children, will be implementing and coordinating statewide pediatric training conferences and other educational outreach efforts.

Christine deLorimier, who lives in Appleton with her husband and two children, will be conducting research and helping to schedule and coordinate visits to community hospitals and civic organizations.

Leave a Legacy

Make sure LifeFlight will be there when it is needed most.

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.

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

Some examples of common planned giving tools include:

- Bequests — Cash, Personal Property
- Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds
- Retirement Accounts
- Real Estate
- Life Income Gifts
- Life Insurance
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 2011.

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