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Maine hospitals continue their support of LifeFlight

LifeFlight is well known for its dramatic rescues on Maine's roads, highways, islands and recreational trails. However, these calls make up only a small portion of LifeFlight's mission. Nearly 80% of our transports are from one hospital to another; usually from a small community hospital to one of the state's three trauma centers: Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston and Maine Medical Center in Portland.

For most communities in Maine, access to high level emergency care means a trip to Bangor, Lewiston, Portland or even Boston. For the most critically ill or injured patients who need treatment quickly, that means LifeFlight. With its fast helicopters, highly-trained medical crew and advanced medical equipment, LifeFlight is an extension of the emergency care rural hospitals provide to their community. Because of this unique partnership, nearly every hospital in Maine has chosen to make a financial donation to support the purchase of LifeFlight's aircraft.

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LifeFlight receives \$5,000 grant from Bangor Savings Bank's Community Matters More Program

2 Bangor Savings Bank Foundation recently announced that The LifeFlight Foundation was one of eight nonprofits across the state to receive a \$5,000 grant through the Community Matters More giving program. More than 100,000 votes were cast for 68 Maine nonprofits. Most of these nonprofits received \$1,000 grants, but the top eight vote-getters were awarded \$5,000. The Community Matters More program gave away a total of \$100,000.

The LifeFlight Foundation was nominated to the ballot by Heidi Elliott of Strong. Heidi's daughter, Lauren, has a rare genetic disorder that causes severe seizures, making it nearly impossible for her to breathe. When this happens, Lauren needs to be treated by specialists at Maine Medical Center within minutes, not the hours it takes to drive from Strong to Portland. For Heidi, LifeFlight provides an absolutely critical link to her daughter's lifesaving treatments.

Jim Conlon, Bangor Savings Bank CEO and President commented on the success of Community Matters More. "Once again the people of Maine have stepped up and supported their favorite nonprofits by casting votes in Community Matters More. The success of this annual initiative is only possible because of Maine people's commitment to communities and the important role nonprofits have in our state."

The Community Matters More program is a partnership of the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation, WLBZ-TV 2, WCSH-TV 6, WGAN 560 Newsradio, and Blueberry Broadcasting. In addition to the grant money, the 48 nonprofits included on the ballot received substantial exposure about their missions.

Community Matters More is part of the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation's total commitment of giving over \$1 million per year to the community in the form of nonprofit sponsorships, grants and partnership initiatives. 

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUL 29

5k Road Race

Machias

The family member of a LifeFlight patient is organizing a fundraiser for LifeFlight. For more information contact Shelbie at lifeflight5k@gmail.com.

JUL 30-AUG 4

LifeFlight Week at Province Lake Golf Club Parsonsfield

PLGC will donate money from each greens fee and hold a fundraising raffle to benefit LifeFlight.

AUG 11

Talon Harwood Memorial Bike Ride

Gardiner

The second annual memorial ride will start and finish in Chelsea. For more information contact Julian at 592-7223 or Betsy at 592-5264

SEP 7

4th Annual LifeFlight Golf Scramble

Cumberland

This year's charity golf tournament will be held at Val Halla Golf Center. For more information, visit www.lifeflightmaine.org

SEP 8

Pediatric Patient Conference for EMT-P

Rockland

Day-long, pediatric-focused conference for paramedics and intermediates using hands-on simulation. Visit www.lifeflightmaine.org for details.

SEP 18

Pediatric Patient Conference

Sanford

Day-long, pediatric-focused conference for physicians, nurses and paramedics using hands-on simulation. Visit www.lifeflightmaine.org for details.

Hospital support

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The ability to get to a specialty center quickly is critical in cases like young Johnathan Ramage. Johnathan hit his head while playing outside, and when he began to show signs of a severe head injury a few minutes later, his father quickly brought him to his local emergency department at MaineGeneral Medical Center. Doctors there immediately suspected internal bleeding and needed to send him to the pediatric specialists at Maine Medical Center as quickly as possible. They called for LifeFlight, who transported Johnathan to MMC in just a few minutes. Physicians there stopped

the bleeding and eased the pressure on Johnathan's brain. Today, the preschooler has fully recovered and spends his carefree days playing with trucks and riding his mini Gator.

Working together, the emergency physicians at MaineGeneral, the LifeFlight crew and the pediatric specialists at Maine Medical Center created a continuum of care for Johnathan that ensured access to high quality care when it was needed most. LifeFlight couldn't meet its mission without financial support from the hospitals whose patients and communities we serve. 

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LifeFlight Supporters

The Aroostook Medical Center Presque Isle
Blue Hill Memorial Hospital
Bridgton Hospital
Calais Regional Hospital
Central Maine Medical Center Lewiston
Charles A. Dean Memorial Hospital Greenville
Down East Community Hospital Machias
Eastern Maine Medical Center Bangor
Franklin Memorial Hospital Farmington
Goodall Hospital Sanford
Houlton Regional Hospital
Inland Hospital Waterville
Maine Coast Memorial Hospital Ellsworth
Maine Medical Center Portland
MaineGeneral Medical Center Augusta/Waterville

Mayo Regional Hospital Dover-Foxcroft
Mid Coast Hospital Brunswick
Miles Memorial Hospital Damariscotta
Millinocket Regional Hospital
Mount Desert Island Hospital Bar Harbor
Northern Maine Medical Center Fort Kent
Parkview Adventist Medical Center Brunswick
Penobscot Bay Medical Center Rockport
Penobscot Valley Hospital Lincoln
Redington-Fairview General Hospital Skowhegan
Rumford Hospital
Sebasticook Valley Hospital Pittsfield
Southern Maine Medical Center Biddeford
St. Andrews Hospital Boothbay Harbor
St. Joseph Hospital Bangor
St. Mary's Regional Medical Center Lewiston
Stephens Memorial Hospital Norway
Waldo County General Hospital Belfast
York Hospital



LifeFlight of Maine is all about access to critical care. As LifeFlight's two helicopters get busier, we need to expand our service to increase statewide access to critical care.



Caring for More Patients

Expanding LifeFlight's Reach

4 As requests from physicians continue to increase, LifeFlight has reached the capacity of its two helicopters. In the last year LifeFlight transported 1438 patients from every corner of the state to specialty hospitals in Maine, Boston, and beyond. Our patients range from a day old to over 100 years old, but they all need care from specialist doctors for cardiac emergencies, surgery, trauma and/or brain injuries. Increasingly we cannot meet the needs in Maine's rural hospitals. To serve everyone who would benefit from our service, LifeFlight needs to add a third aircraft.



Improve access to critical care

250-300 additional patients each year

Improve all weather capability

A fixed wing aircraft can fly in conditions that helicopters cannot.

Capacity to fly longer distances

A fixed wing aircraft meets the increasing need to fly patients over longer distances. The faster speed of an airplane makes up for the additional ground transfer times.

Increase lifespan of helicopters

Having a fixed wing aircraft will reduce the number of long flights made by the helicopters, which also increases availability of the helicopters.

Part of a larger EMS system

LifeFlight's fixed wing does not replace anything currently in Maine's EMS network. It is supportive and complementary to the helicopters, the airplanes in Aroostook County and Penobscot Bay, and the hundreds of ground ambulances across the state, by increasing regional critical care transport capacity.

Another tool in the tool box

A medical transport system that serves the entire state requires multiple strategies—helicopters, ground ambulances and fixed wing aircraft. Each vehicle has different capabilities and limitations, and together they provide a comprehensive team. The common element is LifeFlight's critical care medical team and equipment, which brings tertiary-level care directly to the patient.

PROJECT COST:

aircraft purchase/retrofit	\$2,500,000
medical equipment	\$175,000
administrative start-up costs	\$825,000

TOTAL : \$3,500,000

Raised to Date \$1,072,000

TOTAL NEED : \$2,428,000

Inviting feedback from patients and EMS providers

In a constant effort to improve patient care and service, LifeFlight implemented a web-based survey tool in February. This quick and easy survey will help LifeFlight capture key insights and measure customer satisfaction at every stage of transport, from the ambulance service at the accident scene, to the emergency departments at Maine's hospitals, to the patients and family members. The tool is an extension of our commitment to provide superior care to patients and their families, and superior service to the EMS and hospital caregivers we work with every day.

Survey cards containing a unique mission code and a website address are distributed

to EMS, hospital staff and patients and family members. People can enter the mission code to access the survey, or simply use the transport details like date, location and facility. The survey takes less than a minute to complete and the results are reviewed by the LifeFlight management team to ensure patient, family and caregiver satisfaction.

So far the survey tool, provided in partnership with RSQ 911 Solutions, has been very successful, with an astonishing 57% response rate. With this essential information, LifeFlight has been able to make helpful changes to better serve patients, families and EMS providers. Keep the feedback coming! 

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GOLF SCRAMBLE

Friday, September 7 | 9am
Val Halla Golf Center | Cumberland

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

You can also support LifeFlight's mission by becoming a sponsor.

To learn more contact us at 230-7092
or rjohnson@lifeflightmaine.org

\$400 per 4-person team
includes 18 holes of golf, 2 cart rentals, lunch, prizes and free use of the driving range

Preregistration Deadline:
August 24th



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verizon wireless





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Celebrating kids at annual pediatric patient event

The LifeFlight Foundation hosted its second annual pediatric patient party to celebrate inspiring stories of recovery and to give patients and families an opportunity to meet others who have shared similar experiences. It was also a chance to tour the LifeFlight helicopters and meet the crew members in a fun, stress-free environment.

Every year, LifeFlight of Maine transports hundreds of critically ill or injured infants, children and teenagers to specialty centers in Bangor, Lewiston, Portland and Boston.

“When a call for help comes in for a pediatric patient, a whole new dynamic is added to the picture,” explained Tom Judge, LifeFlight’s Executive Director. “It’s often scary for children to be separated from their parents and difficult for parents to see their child airlifted. Our goal at this event is to help alleviate the lingering anxiety a transport can create.”

The event was generously sponsored by Verizon Wireless and Bangor Savings Bank. It was hosted, free of charge, by the Owls Head Transportation Museum, located just



outside of Rockland. Families and volunteers toured LifeFlight’s helicopters, the Maine EMS/LifeFlight human patient simulator, fire trucks and ambulances from Owls Head, St. George and Rockland. Shrine clowns were in attendance, along with a life-size, remote control R2D2 robot from the Star Wars movies. The Coastal Children’s Museum also joined the fun, offering many games and craft activities. MidCoast Martial Arts gave demonstrations and taught the kids a few basic moves. In addition, the Rockland Kiwanis Club prepared and served lunch, and Hannaford in Camden donated the cake.

“Having my son transported at such an early age was unexpected and scary,” said Hope resident Christian Zimmerman. “Coming to the celebration and meeting all of the crew members who care for children was a great experience for my wife and me.” 



From Emergency Medicine to Organic Farming

As many of you may already know, Christopher Hamilton, our Director of Development for the last five years, has resigned to accept a position with Maine Organic Farmers and Gardener's Association (MOFGA) as their Associate Director.



While this indeed is a setback for LifeFlight, it represents a great opportunity for Chris. He and his wife, Patti, for years have operated their own organic farm in Whitefield, Maine – thus organic farming has long been near and dear to their hearts.

During Chris' tenure, The LifeFlight Foundation has prospered. The number of donors climbed significantly, as did their financial contributions. His initiative has led to strong support from service organizations, and from the many Walmart stores throughout the state. A planned giving program was also started. The support we continue to enjoy from charitable foundations has been nourished under Chris' stewardship. Chris was a great help to us in Augusta as we lobbied successfully in 2009 and again this year for bonds to support air medical infrastructure and benefit the safety of LifeFlight operations.

We are now beginning a search for Chris' successor. In the interim, we have been very lucky to re-engage from retirement the Foundation's original development director, Pen Williamson, on a part-time basis.

I thank you for your generosity to LifeFlight – and for joining me in thanking Chris Hamilton for a job well done.

Sincerely,
Thomas Judge, EMT-P, Executive Director

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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 13 Main Street, 2nd floor.

You can reach us at 207-230-7092 or info@lifeflightmaine.org.

Donations are tax-deductible.

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 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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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: **207-230-7092** Email: info@lifeflightmaine.org

www.lifeflightmaine.org