

General Aviation to the Rescue – Assistance and Aid By Air

Welcome to Avfuel's "General Aviation Works for America" series, in which we bring you stories about Avfuel customers who apply general aviation to support and enhance other industries. By moving people, products and services in a timely and flexible manner, these Avfuel dealers and others like them make a positive contribution to the quality of life for people all over the world. Please help us spread the word about the importance of GA to your community and beyond. Every positive word helps.

To be included in future General Aviation Works for America features, please submit your story to Leia Menlove at lmenlove@avfuel.com. To read back issues, please visit the News and Media section of avfuel.com.

FLYING GIFTS TO KIDS

Pentastar Aviation (PTK) • Oakland County, MI



Every year Pentastar Aviation of Oakland County International Airport (PTK) plays a key role in assisting with Operation Good Cheer, a state-wide charity program arranged by Child and Family Services of Michigan. Operation Good Cheer has a noble function - to ensure that children in state care receive not only gifts, but a sense of holiday spirit. The program is unique in that it relies chiefly on aviation for its execution. Every year, flight departments and individual pilots donate flight hours on their aircraft to transport gifts from place to place via general aviation aircraft.

That's where Pentastar comes in. As official host, Pentastar Aviation serves as a sorting center for gift collection and distribution and a home base for an army of volunteers. It's no small job. Pentastar Aviation and staff prepare for the two day event by emptying out a large aircraft storage hangar, moving aircraft and preparing the space for the thousands of gifts soon to be stacked there by hundreds and hundreds of volunteers. They also feed and help organize the volunteers, cater lunches and dinners, and act as ambassadors to help the event flow smoothly. Additionally, the employees of Pentastar Aviation sponsored 75 children this year.

The program starts with a list: each child in state care submits a wish list of six desired items. Then, thanks to pilots and Guardian Trucking,

the gifts are donated, organized and finally distributed all over the state over the course of two magical days.

"It's incredible to see the hangar with gifts stacked six or seven feet high," says Pentastar Aviation's Corporate Communication Specialist, Danielle Tanner. "We do this every year because it's a great way for us to help kids by using what we know best – aviation."



According to Child and Family Services of Michigan, in 2008 more than 4,871 children received gifts, including infants, children, teens and adults with disabilities. That's an estimated 14,000 gifts!

For more information about Operation Good Cheer and how you can get involved, please visit <http://www.cfsm.org/OperationGoodCheer.htm>.

ABOUT PENTASTAR AVIATION

For more than 45 years, Pentastar Aviation has been a leader in the world of business aviation, serving a diverse network of global customers. Pentastar Aviation provides industry-leading aircraft maintenance, aircraft management services, aircraft charter, avionics design/installation/repair and aviation advisors. Their 130,000 square foot repair station received Airframe Class 3 and 4 Ratings from the FAA in January 2009. A world-class FBO, Pentastar provides exceptional customer service and amenities and was voted #1 U.S. FBO in 2008. Pentastar Aviation's FBO at the Van Nuys Airport (VNY) is also an Avfuel-branded dealer. www.pentastaraviation.com

EMERGENCY AID TO HAITI

Banyan Air Service, Fort Lauderdale, FL (FXE)

After a powerful earthquake hit Haiti in January, Banyan Air Service teammates quickly organized to help get aid to the devastated country. Coordinating with various aid organizations such as Corporate Aircraft for Relief Efforts (CARE), headed up by Robin Eissler of Jet Quest and other businesses like Windsor Jet Management, Banyan teammates helped coordinate flights containing medical supplies and personnel, performed ground handling duties and loaded cargo onto corporate aircraft bound to and from Haiti.

Meanwhile, Banyan used its own King Air 300 to transport food and supplies to a Haitian orphanage. Indeed, many aircraft volunteered lift to Haiti at no charge, yet the coordination and procurement of permissions and permits was a gargantuan task that fell in part to Banyan Air Service's teammates. As an additional means of helping, the full-service FBO provided fuel at just cents above cost and free labor around the clock to focus relief money on food and medical supplies.



Banyan President, Don Campion said, "Once again business and personal aviation has lead the way in saving lives and placing supplies and personnel in the places most desperate while the military and government agencies work through international policy and political protocol. U.S. Customs, Border Patrol, FAA and FXE Airport Administration worked with business aircraft owners to get aircraft into small airports where government aircraft aid teams had not arrived. We have many stories of generous aircraft owners allowing us to use their aircraft to complete a specific mission resulting in hundreds of lives being saved."

Additional information is available at www.banyanair.com

FEEDING THE NEEDY

Threshold Technologies • Chino, CA (CNO)

This past December 2009, Threshold Technologies hosted its second annual "Feed the Needy" Christmas Dinner -- right inside its hangar! The event provided families in need with a dose of fabulous Christmas cheer with hot meals, entertainment (including a magician) and the appearance of a certain bearded man in red. In order to make the event a success, the staff of Threshold Technologies rallied support from many community businesses and individuals: receiving food, soft drinks, desserts, entertainment and children's gifts.



"We understand that there are a great number of families that are in need of kindness and nourishment this holiday season," said Mark DiLullo, chief executive officer for Threshold Technologies.

ABOUT THRESHOLD TECHNOLOGIES

Threshold Technologies is a full-service aviation-service provider. The company manages, maintains and operates 30 jet aircraft from its over 125,000-square-foot facilities at Chino Airport. The company operates an executive terminal as well as jet charters, and provides fuel and maintenance services for most aircraft. Besides Threshold's philanthropic work in the community, the company benefits San Bernardino County through employing 60 local families with well-paying jobs and generous benefits. Threshold's efforts to expand in the future will add additional employment opportunities to residents. Threshold's commitment to develop the Chino Airport and the County of San Bernardino is unwavering.

Additional information is available at www.flytti.com

