

Airlift Northwest Alaska 8429 Livingston Way Juneau, AK 99801 907-790-4944 Fax 907-790-4989

December 20, 2011

Administration 6987 Perimeter Road South #110 Seattle, Washington 98108 206-521-1599 FAX 206-521-1865 www.airliftnw.org

Patient Financial Services 866-245-4373 (Toll Free) 206-521-1616 (Seattle) FAX 205-521-1612

24-Hour ComCenter 800-428-2430 (US/Canada) 206-329-2569 (Seattle)

Aldift Northwest is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Mr. Rod Swope City & Borough Manger's Officer 155 S. Seward St. Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Swope,

Airlift Northwest (ALNW) is a Section 115 tax exempt governmental entity that has been providing critical care air ambulance for Alaska and the Pacific Northwest for almost 30 years. To improve services to Juneau and the Southeast communities a permanent base was established in Juneau in 1994. ALNW has completed over 90,000 transports with over 7,000 patients originating from Alaska.

ALNW would like to petition for \$50,000.00 from the Marine Passenger Fee Proceeds which would assist Airlift Northwest in their continued commitment to providing safe, efficient air ambulance transport service to cruise ship passengers and crew. The funding assists ALNW in improving service so critical patients can be transported quickly. It also assists in providing financial assistance to cruise ship passengers who are unable to pay for services provided.

During the cruise ship season ~25% of our transports are for cruise ship passengers or crew. Each flight from Juneau to Seattle takes approximately 8-9 hours from time of page to return, which may leave the communities uncovered. During that time if another service is not available a patient must wait. Delays in transport can negatively affect outcomes for critical patients. To improve availability and timelines of transports for cruise ship passengers and community members ALNW day based an additional jet in Juneau from May thru September this year. An additional staff member was also added to improve coverage from our local team.

Airlift Northwest provides approximately 5 million in uncompensated care annually. It is an important part of our mission to be able to assist patients financially due to the economic times.



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The total cost was \$248,665.00 with the following detail:

- Additional Staff
  - o 25% of cost = \$32,000.00
- Day Basing Jet
  - o 25% of cost = \$41,267.00
- Uncompensated payment from cruise ship passengers
  - o \$175,398.00 as of 12/21/11

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please call or email me if you have any questions.

. Cordially,

Shelly Deering RN, BSN, CCRN Alaska Regional Manager

907-723-0168

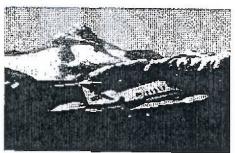
shelly.deering@airliftnw.org



#### www.airliftnw.org

# FACT SHEET







**Airlift Northwest** is a preeminent provider of air medical services in the Pacific Northwest dedicated to providing safe, efficient air medical care to critically ill and injured infants, children and adults.

The program provides air medical service for one of the largest and most geographically varied service areas in the world — from isolated islands in Alaska to coastal villages in Western Washington and the high-desert communities in Eastern Washington.

Airlift Northwest provides air medical service from one of five bases located strategically throughout the Pacific Northwest. The rotary-wing division operates four bases in Washington --- Bellingham, Arlington, Seattle and Olympia — that provide almost 700 hours per week of air medical services to Western and Central Washington.

Fixed-wing bases are located in Seattle and Juneau, Alaska, enabling Airlift Northwest to provide timely air medical transport services to a much broader region, including any location in the continental United States or Canada.

In 2010, Airlift Northwest added a new Turbo Commander aircraft to its Seattle air medical fleet. The new plane will give highly trained, specialized UW Medicine staff the ability to reach remote locations in more parts of Central Washington.

Airlift Northwest has safely cared for more than 80,000 patients and made more than 250,000 takeoffs and landings since its inception in 1982. The program's commitment to safety has resulted in investments in some of the most up to date equipment available, including state-of-the-art night vision goggles, satellite tracking and communications, as well as GPS approach systems.

Aircraft are equipped with the latest recommended equipment, including terrain-avoidance warning systems and aircraft proximity warnings, in addition to a weather radar and night-vision goggles.

Airlift Northwest is part of the UW Medicine Health System, which also includes Harborview Medical Center, UW Medical Center, Northwest Hospital & Medical Center, UW Neighborhood Clinics, the UW School of Medicine and UW Physicians.

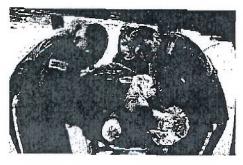
## Expertise

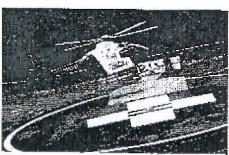
All aircraft fly with teams of two nurses certified in advanced cardiac life support, advanced trauma life support, pediatric advanced life support, trauma nursing care, neonatal resuscitation, critical care nursing, emergency nursing and flight nursing. This level of expertise is unique in the air medical industry and comparable to that found in a hospital intensive care unit.

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## AIRLIFT NORTHWEST CONT.





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#### Accreditation

Airlift Northwest has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Services, or CAMTS, since 1997. Airlift Northwest was the first air medical service in Southeast Alaska to receive this recognition. Accreditation means a medical transport service meets a series of industry standards that address issues of patient care and safety.

## Community Service

Staff provides medical education and participates in community activities throughout the region. Airlift Northwest provides annual training in setting up safe landing zones for first responders and fire departments. It also reviews helipads annually, assists hospitals with training in order to make new helipads operational and helps hospitals develop policies and procedures pertaining to aircraft safety.

## AirCare Program

Airlift Northwest is pleased to offer a membership program that provides residents in communities in Alaska and Washington with high-quality air medical service at an affordable cost. As part of membership, the portion of the Airlift Northwest bill that isn't covered by insurance or Medicare is paid when Airlift Northwest is requested by a medical facility or an emergency response team to fly a critically ill or injured patient to appropriate medical care. AirCare membership is \$79 a year and covers all members of a household.

### 2010 Statistics

Total patients served	3,684
Rotary-wing, inter-hospital transfers	51 percent
Rotary-wing, 9-1-1/EMS scene responses	26 percent
Fixed-wing flights	23 percent

## History

Airlift Northwest was founded in 1982 by Dr. Michael Copass and a consortium of hospitals in the Seattle area, including University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle Children's and Harborview Medical Center, to bring high-quality air medical transportation to an underserved area — Southeast Alaska. Today, Airlift Northwest continues to provide air medical services in Alaska and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Airlift Northwest

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