



NEWS RELEASE

ANGEL FLIGHT LAUNCHES APPEAL TO RECRUIT VOLUNTEER PILOTS AND EARTH ANGELS

Sydney, Australia, November 10, 2006 - Angel Flight Australia, a charity that coordinates non emergency flights for financially and medically needy people, is appealing for volunteers to become Angel Flight pilots as well as Earth Angels. All Angel Flights are free and can involve patients and compassionate carers travelling to and from medical facilities anywhere in Australia.

Since Angel Flight was launched more than three years ago, demand for its services has increased from 20 flights per month to 140. And as demand increases so does its need for more volunteer pilots who own an aircraft or can hire one. These valuable volunteers need to be prepared to donate their skill and most of the aircraft operating costs to help those less fortunate than them.

“Patients needing to attend hospital from regional or remote areas on a regular basis often find themselves in financial hardship, especially due to rising fuel, public transport and commercial flight costs. Additionally, the inconvenience and uncomfortable nature of extremely long journeys just gets too much for them when they are unwell.” said Bill Bristow, founder of Angel Flight.

“To ensure that we never have to refuse a request from anyone in need, we are encouraging directors of organisations and business owners around Australia to offer all their staff just half a day off per year to allow them to contribute their time to the Angel Flight charity.”

One volunteer Angel Flight pilot happy to get involved in such a worthy Australian charity is Tony Mitchell, the chairman of Allphones, Australia’s biggest multi-carrier mobile communications retailer, who says he is grateful that he can help people while doing something that he loves.

“Flying is my passion and to see the faces of the people I have flown to attend essential hospital appointments is magical and extremely rewarding,” said Tony Mitchell, Chairman of Allphones.

“I am so passionate about this truly Australian charity that Allphones has made a donation of \$25,000 and promised a further \$25,000 to help towards its running costs,” he continued.

Not everyone has a plane, but many people own a car and becoming an **Earth Angel** is another way that volunteers can offer their time and skills to help others. An Earth Angel helps with car transport for airport/hospital transfers. Half a day a year is all that is needed to make a difference to the charity and the lives of the people it helps.

Angel Flight’s newest Earth Angel volunteer, Karin Martensson, marketing manager from Allphones said: “It is rewarding to help others by becoming an Earth Angel, and all I have to do is offer myself and my car for half a day a year to help transport patients from the airport to a hospital nearby.”

Allphones has announced to its staff at its headquarters in Sydney that they are all able to have half a day off per year to volunteer their time to be Earth Angels or to help in any way they can. Angel Flight also needs help with patient and pilot coordinating, fund raising and running information booths at air shows. Allphones is also encouraging the franchisees of its 149 stores to get involved and offer their staff the same.

Anyone wishing to help this vital community service can call toll free on 1300 726 567 or register their support via the website at www.angelflight.org.au.

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