



**40 YEARS** OF MIRACLE FLIGHTS

# IMPACT REPORT

MAY 1, 2024 - APRIL 30, 2025

**ASHER**

SOARÉE 2025 CHILD AMBASSADOR



## Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we celebrate Miracle Flights’ 40th anniversary, I write to you with immense gratitude and pride. This milestone is not only a celebration of our past achievements but also a testament to the enduring compassion and commitment of individuals like you, whose unwavering support has fueled our mission from the very beginning.

Since 1985, Miracle Flights has remained dedicated to a singular purpose: ensuring that no child is ever denied access to life-saving medical care due to geographic barriers or the financial burden of travel. Over the years, our work has expanded across all 50 states, and the families we serve, facing some of life’s most difficult challenges, have found hope at 30,000 feet. Because of you, we have flown over 100 million miles, offering more than 160,000 free medical flights to children and their families in need.

We commemorated this extraordinary milestone in 2024 with a special event at Harry Reid International Airport, alongside the Clark County Department of Aviation, Southwest Airlines, and esteemed public leaders, including U.S. Congresswoman Dina Titus and Commissioner Jim Gibson. This gathering was not only a celebration of miles flown—it was a reaffirmation of the mission that drives us, the resilience of the families we serve, and the collective power of a community united in purpose.

As Miracle Flights continues to grow, so does our reach and impact, which are made possible by our strategic partnerships and generous sponsors. Organizations such as Southwest Airlines, Blacklane, WHSmith North America, Paradies Lagardère, Thrive Aviation, AMGEN, and SkyHop Global have played a critical role in helping us meet the increasing demand for our services. In a time when the cost of living and travel continues to rise, their support has helped alleviate the financial burden placed on families already navigating complex medical journeys.

Among the year’s highlights was our third annual SOARée, held in the Thrive Aviation private jet hangar in Las Vegas. This signature event brought together over 500 guests and raised a record \$358,000 to support our programs. We honored former Las Vegas Mayor Jan Jones Blackhurst with the Navigator Award for her decades-long commitment to public service and community advocacy. We also introduced Asher, a courageous young patient, as our Child Ambassador, whose story served as a poignant reminder of the hope Miracle Flights delivers every day.

Additionally, our retail partnerships continued to expand. Through our collaboration with WHSmith North America, the beloved “Hope” plush bear is now available in more airport stores nationwide, helping to raise funds and awareness for our mission. These initiatives, though simple in appearance, serve as powerful tools for engagement and storytelling, connecting travelers with the children and families whose lives have been touched by your generosity.

Throughout 2024 and into 2025, our events—Lights for Flights, Wine Flights, and SOARée—have provided vital opportunities to come together, reflect on our impact, and renew our commitment to the road ahead. These events remind us that behind every flight is a child with a future, a family holding hope, and a community ready to stand beside them.

As the first national nonprofit proudly headquartered in Las Vegas, Miracle Flights is honored to represent the spirit of a city known for resilience, generosity, and innovation. We look forward to a future where we can fly even more miles, serve even more families, and build even stronger partnerships to fulfill our promise that no child should ever be out of reach of the care they need.

Please accept our deepest thanks for standing with us, believing in our mission, and helping us turn miles into miracles. I invite you to read our 2024–2025 Impact Report, which reflects not just our accomplishments but your lasting impact on the lives of thousands of families across the country.

With heartfelt gratitude and hope,

**Christopher Khorsandi, MD**

Chairman of the Board  
Miracle Flights



**CHRISTOPHER KHORSANDI, MD , JESSICA CONNELL, AND JOEL JARVIS**  
MIRACLE FLIGHTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT SOARÉE 2025





TOP 10 TREATMENT SITES

Boston Children's Hospital	BOSTON, MA
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	PHILADELPHIA, PA
City of Hope	LOS ANGELES, CA
Food Allergy Institute	LONG BEACH, CA
Mayo Clinic	ROCHESTER, MN
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	NEW YORK, NY
Nationwide Children's Hospital	COLUMBUS, OH
Nemours Children's Hospital	WILMINGTON, DE
Paley Orthopedic & Spine Institute	WEST PALM BEACH, FL
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	HOUSTON, TX

TOP TEN FLIGHT REQUESTS

1. Food Allergies
2. Clubfoot
3. Retinoblastoma
4. Arthrogryposis / AMC (joint condition)
5. Heart Defects
6. Epilepsy
7. Cerebral Palsy
8. Lung Disease
9. Hirschsprung's Disease (colon condition)
10. Scoliosis

REFERRAL SOURCES

Another Nonprofit
Another Miracle Flights Family
Internet Search
Local Physician
Social Media
Social Worker
Treatment Site Physician

IMPACT  
BY THE NUMBERS



167,734

FLIGHTS FLOWN  
SINCE 1985



700

AVG. FLIGHTS  
PER MONTH

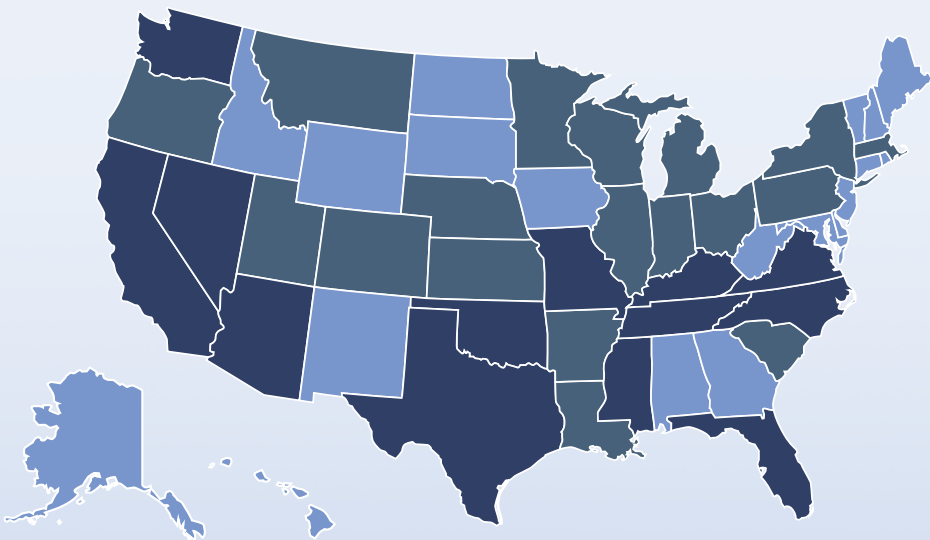


102,809,227

MILES FLOWN  
SINCE 1985



MIRACLE  
FLIERS  
BY AGE

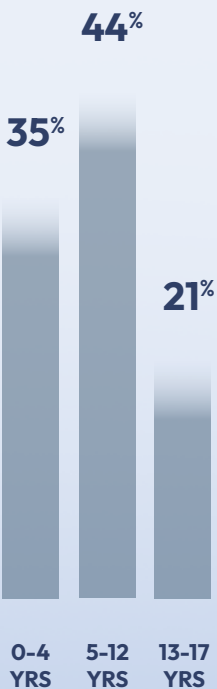


NUMBER OF MIRACLE FLIGHTS DEPARTING FROM EACH STATE

0-99 FLIGHTS

100-199 FLIGHTS

200+ FLIGHTS



LAS VEGAS MAYOR  
SHELLEY BERKLEY

“This is an organization that has a national, if not international, footprint, but they’re based in Las Vegas. This is the first [national] 501(c)(3) that actually is home based in Las Vegas. It’s ours and we’re so proud that they’re one of our own.”

- Mayor Shelley Berkley



Left to Right: Kathy Roller (Vice President of Events, Miracle Flights), Las Vegas Mayor Shelley Berkley, and Robert Sanchez (Vice President of Operations, Miracle Flights).

Kathy Roller, Vice President of Events, and Robert Sanchez, Vice President of Operations, present Las Vegas Mayor Shelley Berkley, a painting by Miracle Flights recipient, Levi. The painting was presented in honor of “Rare Disease Day” and is a representation of a zebra. The zebra is the symbol of rare diseases.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**CHRISTOPHER KHORSANDI, MD** is Chairman of the Board of Directors. A member of the American Board of Plastic Surgeons with practices in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, Dr. Khorsandi received his medical education at Villanova University and Temple University School of Medicine. He then received training at the University of Pennsylvania General Surgery program, with the opportunity to work at the country's first hospital, Pennsylvania Hospital. He also received training at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, followed by acceptance into Cleveland Clinic's Plastic and Reconstructive Training Program. His expertise expands from plastic surgery to minimally invasive hand surgery and the emerging new field of migraine relief surgery. Dr. Khorsandi is a three-time recipient of the national Patient's Choice Award for his skills and a two-time recipient of the national Compassionate Doctor Award.



**JESSICA CONNELL** is the executive director at Connell Outdoor Advertising, where she manages billboard operations and philanthropic initiatives in Nevada and New Jersey. Born and raised in Las Vegas, she is a graduate of Durango High School and Leadership Las Vegas. Her previous work in the community includes her tenure as co-chair for Young Professionals Against Cancer with the American Cancer Society. Jessica held management roles at 60Frames Entertainment and fox21 Studio, where she produced original content for digital and TV platforms. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in finance and international business from Loyola Marymount University and recently graduated from the executive program at the John Anderson Graduate School of Management. She enjoys time with family, travel, yoga, beach volleyball and tennis.



**JOEL G. JARVIS** is an agent/producer/marketing specialist at Kaercher Insurance Brokerage, serving clients in various industries including legal, nonprofit, transportation, hospitality, municipalities and construction. Previously, Joel worked for Las Vegas Sands, Perlman Architecture, Capitol Pacific Homes, Accountants Inc. and Horace Mann Insurance Companies. Joel has served Opportunity Village, Aid for Aids of Nevada (AFAN), Jewish Family Service Agency and United Way of Southern Nevada. He is involved in the Clark County Bar Association and was recognized as Ambassador of the Year in 2004. A Liberty Bell Award winner, Joel insures 250 attorneys in Las Vegas, where he has lived since 1993, and 60 nonprofit organizations. He holds bachelor degrees in accounting and finance as well as a law degree from Illinois State University.

# MIRACLE FLIGHTS TEAM



**ROBERT SANCHEZ**  
Vice President of Operations



**FOX DEATRY**  
Vice President of Marketing and Communications



**DR. JOHN RINALDO**  
Vice President of Development



**KATHY ROLLER**  
Vice President of Events



**REBECCA BOYCE**  
Director of Flight Operations



**JESSICA CARDENAS**  
Flight Operations Specialist



**ANITA CARPENTER**  
Resource Development Manager



**CASSANDRA CASTANINO**  
Events Coordinator



**DONA KRYSTOSEK, RN**  
Family Advocate



**VANESSA MORENO**  
Director of Operations



**NICOLE PADBERG MUNKDALE**  
Multimedia Producer



**TERRA SADLER**  
Administrative Assistant



**Miracle Flights** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides free flights to those in need of life-changing medical care not found in their local communities.





# LIGHTS FOR FLIGHTS

Miracle Flights proudly presents its 4th annual Lights for Flights installation at Downtown Summerlin. Seven oversized illuminated words, "Love, Joy, Hope, Peace, Soar, Miracle, and I Love You," were placed around Downtown Summerlin shops during the holidays. These words embody Miracle Flights' mission and values and allow our supporters and donors to give back to one of Las Vegas' favorite nonprofits.



**NOVEMBER 23, 2024 • DOWNTOWN SUMMERLIN**

For the first time during Lights for Flights, Miracle Flights introduced its new Wine Flights event at Downtown Summerlin, during the 2024 holiday season. Guests strolled amongst the shops, visiting Miracle Flights' lighted installation signs, where various wine stations were placed to taste delicious viticultural offerings.

**AMOUNT RAISED**  
**\$35,000**







## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DINA TITUS (NV-1)

“Thank you so much for letting me be part of this exciting celebration—ONE HUNDRED MILLION MILES! And how exciting it is to be celebrating with Luna, who is about to make one of her trips to Salt Lake City. She is a great ambassador for the flight, so thank you, Luna, for letting us share this moment with you.

It is so important, and so noteworthy, that we put a statement in the Congressional Record commending Miracle Flights, mentioning Luna, and saying thank you for the incredible service you have provided to this community and to so many lives.

Thank you, Miracle Flights, and thank you for letting me be here to help you celebrate.” – *The Honorable Dina Titus*



Robert Sanchez, Miracle Flights' VP of Operations, accepts recognition of Miracle Flights' 100-million-mile achievement being entered into the Congressional Record by U.S. House Representative Dina Titus.

# 100,000,000 100 MILLION MILES AND BEYOND!

On October 24, 2024, with the help of our community partners—Southwest Airlines and Harry Reid International Airport—along with U.S. House Representative Dina Titus (NV-1) and Clark County Nevada Commissioner Jim Gibson, we celebrated a milestone event: reaching 100-million-mile in flights. Our 100-million-mile Miracle Flyer, Luna, and her mother were also on hand to help us celebrate as they boarded the milestone flight.



**LUNA • 100 MILLION MILE MIRACLE FLYER!**  
OPTIC GLIOMA | LAS VEGAS, NV → SALT LAKE CITY, UT



Clark County Nevada Commissioner Jim Gibson presents a proclamation celebrating Miracle Flights' 100-million-mile achievement to VP of Operations, Robert Sanchez.



# SOARée

MIRACLE FLIGHTS

MARCH 28, 2025 • THRIVE AVIATION

AMOUNT RAISED  
**\$501,295**

ATTENDEES: **400**

HOST SPONSOR:  
**THRIVE AVIATION**

PRESENTING SPONSOR:  
**SKYHOP GLOBAL**

Miracle Flights hosted its third annual, one-of-a-kind fundraising event, SOARée. Hosted by Thrive Aviation at their luxurious private aviation hangar located just off the Las Vegas Strip. Guests enjoyed custom cocktails, tantalizing small bites, and exciting entertainment. Attendees bring their suitcases! Unlike other events where you leave the venue at the end of the evening, at SOARée, three lucky couples departed via private jet for a luxury weekend in Healdsburg, California (Sonoma County), with exclusive accommodations, car service, and more.



**ASHER & BECKY**  
2025 SOARÉE  
CHILD AMBASSADOR

**JAN JONES BLACKHURST**  
2025 SOARÉE  
NAVIGATOR HONOREE

**CURTIS EDENFIELD**  
HOST SPONSOR  
THRIVE AVIATION CEO







**JAN JONES BLACKHURST**  
2025 SOARÉE NAVIGATOR HONOREE

“Over the last 40 years, there have been over 160,000 flights. Flights that have changed childrens’ lives, families’ lives, and it all began with a vision in Las Vegas.

I hope Miracle Flights continues to be flying 40 years from now. And if we have donations and support from the community, maybe we can expand those flights, and help every child that needs access to medical care anywhere in this country.” – Jan Jones Blackhurst



Kathy Roller (VP of Events), Dr. John Rinaldo (VP of Development), Jan Jones Blackhurst (2025 SOARÉE Navigator Honoree), Robert Sanchez (VP of Operations), Fox Deatry (VP of Marketing and Communications), Nicole Padberg Munkdale (Multimedia Producer).

**Paradies Lagardère**  
TRAVEL RETAIL

and Miracle Flights partner with “Skyler”  
**LITTLE PLANE, BIG IMPACT**



Introducing Skyler, an airplane plush that will retail in certain Paradies Lagardère-operated airport stores. Proceeds from sales of Skyler fund Miracle Flights’ mission to help children and their families access distant medical care not found in their local communities.

Gregg Paradies, Paradies Lagardère President and CEO and Dr. John Rinaldo, Vice President of Development Miracle Flights, introduce Skyler at The Airport Experience Conference in Washington, D.C.

February 2025





NATIONAL FLIGHT PARTNERS



BLACKLANE



REGIONAL FLIGHT PARTNERS



\$20,000 AND UP

Disturbing Tha Peace  
Touring

John R. McCune  
Charitable Trust

KFKJ Family  
Charitable Fund

Vertex Pharmaceuticals

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Clark County OAG  
Clough Family Foundation  
Fred Maytag Family Foundation  
Geaton and JoAnn DeCesaris  
Family Foundation

Greehey Family Foundation  
Hagar Family Foundation  
Lon V. Smith Foundation

Miles Hodsdon Vernon Foundation

Robert Dejong

Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation

Tang Foundation

The Najim Charitable Foundation

Whiting Foundation

Boyd Gaming Corporation  
Brumley Foundation  
Chuck Brennan  
David Jackson  
Dwane & Velma Wallace  
Charitable Foundation  
Emily Landecker Foundation  
ESG Luxury  
FAT Brands Foundation  
Findlay Volkswagen Henderson

Anonymous Foundation  
Ben Beckley  
Brian Kleven  
Caesars Enterprise Services, LLC  
Christopher Khorsandi M.D.  
Connell Outdoor Advertising  
Cowles Charitable Trust  
Dermody Properties Foundation  
Dignity Health

Amicus Therapeutics  
APW brands  
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund  
Black Desert Resort  
Bob Thompson  
Breakthru Beverage  
Brett Frankel  
Carroll B. Burger  
Drai's  
Elizabeth Read Taylor Foundation  
Four Seasons Hotel Las Vegas  
Fox Foundation  
Gaudin Porsche  
Green Valley Ranch

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Frank and Victoria Fertitta Foundation  
Helen L. Kay Charitable Trust  
James W. Pickle Charitable Foundation  
Katherine A Oder  
Lehner Family Trust  
Makers & Finders  
Marshall R. Matley Foundation  
Medallion Foundation  
Messner Foundation  
Muptipure  
Red Desert Doodles

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Enterprise Mobility - Las Vegas  
Formula 1 Las Vegas Grand Prix  
Genu Bank  
Good Neighbor Fund -  
Spirit AeroSystems Employees  
Gordon Hartman Family Foundation  
Jeanette Marie Forrey  
Jeremy A. Aguero  
Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority

\$1,000 - \$2,499

H&H Development  
Irene C. Finkelstein Foundation  
Joseph W. Stanley Charitable Trust  
Julie Skiba  
Kenworth Sales Company, Truck Enterprises  
Las Vegas Motor Speedway  
Las Vegas Northwest Rotary Foundation  
Leo H. Bendit Charitable Foundation  
Lonnie Stephens Trust  
Marce Roth  
Marsha Marshall  
Mary Jo Manion  
Matthew Collins

San Diego Foundation  
Sky Diamonds  
Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs  
Speedway Children's Charities  
Steinberg Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
The Gitlin Foundation  
The Medallion Foundation  
The Richard & Nicole Marshall  
Family Foundation  
Wawona Foundation

Las Vegas Toilet Rentals  
Northern Trust  
Pilar Evans  
Red Rock Casino Resort and Spa  
Rick Van Diepen  
The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation  
The Las Vegas Aviators  
Vin Sauvage  
William Brennan

Melanie Moffat  
Michael Feder  
Miracle Mile Shops  
North Las Vegas Fire Department  
Resortcom International, LLC  
Resorts World Hotel & Casino  
Rio Las Vegas  
Samuel M Chen M.D.  
The Silverton Hotel and Casino  
The Sphere  
The Wawa Foundation  
Vegas Girls Night Out  
WRB Public Relations  
Yip Fitness





## Keona

AEX → LAX  
Asthma, PTSD, Shaken Baby Syndrome

Keona's story began with heartbreak. At just four weeks old, she was diagnosed with shaken baby syndrome, spending a month in a coma with two broken legs. But her story didn't end there—she was given a second chance when she was adopted by a loving family in Louisiana.

Because of time spent on life support, Keona needed a trach to breathe, leaving scarring near her voice box. But in 2015, hope arrived in the form of Dr. Sohit Kanotra. At 18 months old, Keona underwent a complex surgery to rebuild her airway—and for the first time, she spoke. When Dr. Kanotra relocated across the country, Keona's

family knew they had to stay by his side. Thanks to Miracle Flights, they could.

"We could not do this without Miracle Flights, and making sure our daughter gets the very best care is very important to us." - Tammy M., Keona's Mom

Now 9, Keona is thriving. She's bubbly, loves gymnastics, and dreams of becoming a doctor one day. Her latest Miracle Flight took her to UCLA for a bronchoscopy with Dr. Kanotra—ensuring she stays on the path to healing. With every flight, Miracle Flights helps her do more than travel. It helps her soar.

## WHSmith

NORTH AMERICA  
INCORPORATING INMOTION & MARSHALL RETAIL GROUP

### NATIONAL FLIGHT PARTNER

In 2025, Miracle Flights and WHSmith North America introduced a new plush bear, "Hope." In celebration of Hope's release, Mayor Shelley Berkley and the city of Las Vegas declared February 11, 2025 "Hope Day."

Hope, along with Miles retails in WHSmith North America locations in 58 of their airport locations. All proceeds from the sales of Hope and Miles are donated to Miracle Flights.



### AMOUNT RAISED

# \$146,940

14,694 BEARS SOLD  
58 STORES ACROSS THE U.S.





# BLACKLANE

## NATIONAL FLIGHT PARTNER

**563 RIDES**

MAY 1, 2024 - APRIL 30, 2025

In June 2024, we celebrated our five-year anniversary with our ground transportation partner, Blacklane. Since 2019, Blacklane has provided nearly 2,300 free chauffeured rides to sick children and their families traveling for life-changing medical care far from home. Blacklane—the leading global chauffeur service—provides safe, sustainable, and stress-free travel to our traveling families.



**Malik**

ALB → BWI  
Hirschsprung's Disease

## Malik, the GREAT!

Helpful, happy, 10-year-old Malik of Cohoes, New York started his Miracle Flights journey this year. He stepped up to show his gratitude after returning from his first Miracle Flights trip in a big way. He was a 2025 child artist that participated in the art auction at SOARée to help Miracle Flights.

He has Hirschsprung's Disease, which requires

him to travel to Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio for specialized treatment. When asked what he'd like to name his artwork he quickly replied, "Malik, the Great!" His mother describes him as quite the character. We agree that Malik is GREAT! Although his journey is still ongoing, his mother knows that Miracle Flights will be with them every flight of the way!





**Asher** LAS → BOS  
Subglottic Stenosis

Asher was 18-months-old when he received his first Miracle Flight to treat his Grade 4 Subglottic Stenosis, which caused a complete closure of the airway requiring him to be tracheostomy dependent. He traveled to Mass Eye and Ear in Boston, Massachusetts.

“We just returned home to Vegas from Boston Mass Eye & Ear, a Harvard teaching hospital dedicated to eye, ear, nose, throat, head, and neck care,” Becky, Asher’s mother, noted. “Our son had a bronchoscopy with an ENT that specializes in airway reconstruction. The whole experience from start to finish went perfectly. It was our first time flying with our medically complex baby, and we could not have asked for a better outcome. We received the news we had been hoping for: Asher is a great candidate for airway reconstruction surgery. This will provide him with a safe airway and a voice. We

have never heard Asher’s voice, not a single coo or babble; even when he cries, it is completely silent. We are so grateful for this opportunity to provide him with a better quality of life and to get him to a point where his condition is no longer life-threatening. This would not have been possible without the assistance of Miracle Flights. Words could never fully express our gratitude.”

Asher had his airway reconstruction surgery on September 4th at Mass General in Boston, Massachusetts. The surgery went well, with no complications. The surgeon successfully removed rib cartilage and placed the rib graft in his airway, which took about four hours. His airway is now open. Since the surgery, Asher has tried new foods. On September 23rd, his mother shared a video titled “Look who has a voice!”

# COMMUNITY EVENTS & VOLUNTEERS

**TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS: 152 PEOPLE**

**TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS: 5,016 HOURS**

In 2024, Miracle Flights engaged with the local Las Vegas community at various events, such as PBS’ Be My Neighbor Day, the Vegas Golden Knights’ Fan Fest, and National Night Out. For National Teddy Bear Day, the Miracle Flights team—along with Miles—spread smiles to patients at Sunrise Children’s Hospital.

The mission of Miracle Flights was further strengthened by the dedicated volunteer efforts of our valued partners—Southwest Airlines, NV Energy, MDL Group, Kendra Scott, and the Silverliners—as well as standout individual volunteers, including Sherry Catchpole, Cathy Barbagallo, and Darius Tran Solis and Paul Rogers of Southwest.







# MIRACLE FLIGHTS

# WAYS TO GIVE

## GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE WITH YOUR PERSONAL GIFT

Your gift today can provide free commercial flights and essential travel assistance, helping children and their families reach the medical specialists they desperately need. Whether you make a one-time donation or commit to a recurring monthly gift, you are giving the gift of hope, healing, and togetherness.

## CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

With the generous support of our corporate partners, we continue to make a profound difference in the lives of children and their families. These partnerships are essential to sustaining our vital work, and your company can be part of this extraordinary mission. By partnering with us, your brand can align with a meaningful cause, provide employees with valuable volunteer and networking opportunities at our events, and gain visibility through customized sponsorships that reflect our shared values.

## PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving is a powerful way to ensure the long-term success of Miracle Flights' mission. Consider including Miracle Flights in your estate plans.



[MIRACLEFLIGHTS.ORG/DONATE](https://miracleflights.org/donate)

For more information on ways to support Miracle Flights, contact Dr. John Rinaldo, Vice President of Development, at (702) 261-0494 or by email at [jrinaldo@miracleflights.org](mailto:jrinaldo@miracleflights.org).

**Madalyn**

AND HER SERVICE DOG CAROLINE

LAS → DEN  
Spinal Muscular Atrophy

5740 S. Eastern Avenue, Ste. 240 Las Vegas, NV 89119

Toll Free: 800.359.1711 | [MiracleFlights.org](https://MiracleFlights.org) | [info@MiracleFlights.org](mailto:info@MiracleFlights.org)

CHARITABLE TAX ID 88-0209952

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