

Submitted by: Edward R. Boyer, President/CEO, Mercy Medical Airlift (MMA)®

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Mercy Medical Airlift has the following mission: ..... to ensure that no needy patient is denied access to distant specialized medical evaluation, diagnosis or treatment for lack of a means of long-distance medical transportation; further, to ensure the provision of urgent transportation in situations of compelling human need and homeland security emergencies.

The population segment we serve is on the lower end of the socio-economic scale. They also are patients with one or more significant health problems and they normally do not have privately procured medical insurance.

MMA is “America’s Charitable Medical Transportation System.”® Its program startup was in 1972 and it became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 1984. In January 2013 it passed the milestone of having transported more than 100,000 patients long-distance to access specialized medical treatment not available close to where they live. The quarter million patient transport goal should be reached by 2021. To date this task has been done with 100% medical and transport safety. The organization is the oldest and largest charitable long-distance medical transportation organization in the United States.

MMA functions using donated funds, professional services and in-kind donations such as airline tickets, private aircraft charitable patient flights and corporate partnerships. Its current annual budget is nearly \$7 million. In CY 2012 it served more than 25,000 clients and transported over 11,000 patients long-distance. Of course, the activity in the organizations early years were much smaller in scope.

MMA provides patients with no cost airline flights, or private aircraft charitable flights with volunteer pilots, and/or numerous forms of long-distance ground transport including funding for gas cards, AMTRAK tickets or commercial bus tickets. Volunteer drivers also participate when available.

The issue of a steadily increasing flow of charitable donation money is the vital lifeblood that keeps MMA functioning 24/7/365 and allows it to grow to serve a greater portion of the national need. Any disruption or decline in income will directly affect the delivery of specialized health care to the U.S. population. Specialized treatment to which the lower end of the socioeconomic scale have no access is simply no care, no treatment and no chance for healing at all. This situation should not be permitted within the United States.

There are files full of real life stories of child lives saved, cancers being cured and even wounded warriors with PTSD being paired up with a service dog which matching changes the rest of their lives for the “infinitely better.”

Program names of operations administered by MMA include Angel Airlines for Life, Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic, Air Compassion for Veterans, Canines for Wounded Warriors, Children’s Angel Airlines, the National Patient Travel Center and Air Compassion America. There are several other programs as well.

Charitable giving comes to MMA through foundations, individuals, civic clubs, churches veteran organizations and partner charities – which themselves are funded by charitable donated funds.

Gentlemen and ladies, the quality of life in America depends on a combination of jobs and charitable giving – both large and small.

Tax code changes that diminish that giving are a step backward for the United States and the people whom we call neighbors.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward R. Boyer