

Angel Flight CENTRAL Ground Support Team (*GST*)

To our Angel Flight Central Ground Support Team,

Our passenger was the same young lady we flew back in September. She was traveling back to Nashville with her husband as part of a clinical trial to receive a chemo infusion for her colon cancer. She was incredibly sweet and even baked us banana bread to celebrate the holidays—and it was *really* good.

She was in great spirits as she shared that her cancer has actually shrunk, and this new infusion comes with far fewer side effects than the chemo she had tried previously. Needless to say, she's feeling very encouraged by the results of this experimental treatment.

She was a little nervous about the next leg of the trip since the connecting aircraft was much smaller than ours and the crosswinds were still very strong. We reassured her that she had a skilled pilot for the next leg, that he had a solid Plan B in case the winds were too high at the destination, and that the Cirrus is equipped with a parachute. That information helped her feel much more at ease.

This was Angel Flight mission number 202, November 9th, 2025.



Our passenger wrote the following in our guest logbook:

“Hi again! Thank you so much for picking up another of my flight requests. I feel so grateful for you both. Tomorrow when I get treatment, it is actually my one-year wedding anniversary. We were so thankful to not to have to drive this trip. My scan in October showed this clinical trial is working for me so far, so all the travel has been worth it. Thank you for making life a bit easier for me, and I hope the banana bread conveys my appreciation! Happy Holidays ❤️”

Trip Details:

If you were inside your house looking outside today, you might think it was a beautiful day for flying... and that would be true — as long as you weren't trying to take off or land. The wind conditions both at home and in St. Louis were extremely strong and gusty, and at both airports the wind was coming at an angle to the available runways, making for some super-challenging crosswind operations.

Once we got up above about 2,000ft, the air was mostly smooth and clear. We flew over to KSUS (Spirit of St. Louis) at FL190 for the 55-minute flight. There weren't many clouds to speak of, except for a few on the descent into St. Louis around 5,000ft. While the takeoff from KOJC was a bit challenging, the approach and landing at KSUS were downright chaotic. The winds were 70 degrees off the runway heading, steady at 16 knots and gusting over 30! It was a rodeo all the way to the ground, but with some luck and a lot of practice, the final touchdown was surprisingly smooth.

Our connecting pilot was there waiting to take our passengers the rest of the way on their journey to Nashville. We topped off with fuel at KSUS since the price was about \$1.25 per gallon cheaper than back home. Shortly after fueling, we began our 60-minute flight back at FL180. The original clearance we received was to fly the Ozark departure and then connect with the Braymer arrival, which wasn't optimal—especially given the prevailing NW winds — so I pulled a little trick out of my pilot bag and asked Center if we could fly “LEXIN direct LYMES” instead of the Braymer arrival. They approved it, of course. That shortcut probably saved us 10 minutes by being more direct and having a smaller headwind component on the way home.

We had another crosswind landing back at OJC, with winds out of 330 degrees at 10 knots gusting to 16, but it was totally manageable. Other than a little gust that popped us up a few feet right before touchdown, the approach and landing were pretty tame.

Home by 3:15 p.m., and with no Chiefs game to get to, I think we may take a short nap and enjoy the rest of our quiet Sunday.

And here is where you come in. As part of our Ground Support Team, you have offered to provide a contribution to the Angel Flight Central organization each time we fly a mission. To donate to Angel Flight Central on the Internet, visit the following site:

<https://angelflightcentral.org/donate/>

Or you can send a check, payable to Angel Flight Central, to the following address:

**Angel Flight Central
Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport
10 Richards Road
Kansas City, MO. 64116**

Thank you so much for being a part of our Ground Support Team.

Sincerely, Joe & Sandy