

# Angel Flight Central Ground Support Team (GST)

To our Angel Flight Central Ground Support Team,

We had two different passenger groups today. One is mom, dad and son on the left of the photo and then a single lady who is next to Sandy in the photo. The son is one of the patients who is seeking medical help for Spine Extra-Osseous Chordoma. This is an extremely rare, slow-growing, malignant tumor that grows as a result of something that is usually absorbed by the body in utero, but failed to be absorbed. In his case, it resulted in a bony growth at the base of his spine. This growth was removed at his home hospital and found to be cancerous so now they are seeking medical advice from an expert in this field in Houston. This was their first Angel Flight. The other lady is fighting Burkitt's lymphatic cancer. She slept most of the flight and we didn't really get to visit with her much but she did mention that this was her 7<sup>th</sup> Angel Flight so she's a pro at flying on small aircraft and really enjoys it.

*We were credited with 6 AFC missions on this trip, landing us at 2011 missions completed over the last 16 years 😊*

*March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026.*



Our passengers wrote the following in our guest logbook:

*"You are a blessing for providing us flights to Houston. Thank you so much for what you do. It's people like you who make the world go around. This is one less thing we had to worry about. We appreciate you!"*

*"I very much appreciate yalls' assistance with getting me back to Texas for my appointment. I'm originally from Texas, and I am out in Omaha trying to get back on my feet after being put out for some time w/ stage 4 Burkitt's lymphoma. Thanks for being a part of my healing journey; every bit helps a lot."*

## **Trip Details:**

We began the day departing Johnson County Executive (KOJC) empty at 8:58 a.m., heading north to Eppley Airfield (OMA) to pick up our passengers. Because the winds

aloft were extremely strong at the higher altitudes, we elected to cruise at FL140 for the short hop to Omaha, which helped us avoid the worst of the headwinds.

Upon arriving at OMA, we met two separate Angel Flight passenger groups who both happened to be traveling to MD Anderson in Houston for treatment the same day—something that rarely happens. Before loading up for the long trip south, we gathered inside the Signature FBO for a group photo with both passenger families.

The flight from OMA to Sugar Land Regional (SGR) was long enough that it normally counts as three Angel Flight mission legs, but since we were transporting two separate passenger groups, we were actually credited with six Angel Flight missions for the day.

We climbed up to FL250 for the trip south, where we were rewarded with excellent tailwinds—over 90 knots at times during the first half of the flight—which helped make the long leg a little more efficient. Unfortunately, our arrival planning had us approaching the Houston area from the east, and the busy airspace there resulted in ATC vectoring us far out toward the Gulf Coast before bringing us back west and then north into Sugar Land. The extended routing likely added 10 minutes or so to the trip.

After a short stop, we departed Sugar Land at 2:01 p.m. for the final leg home to KOJC, cruising again at FL250. This time the winds were not nearly as helpful, with moderate headwinds for much of the trip back north.

The arrival back into Kansas City turned out to be the most exciting part of the day. Surface winds were steady at 25 knots and gusting to 43 knots from the southwest, which made for quite the rodeo on final approach. Despite the challenging conditions, the landing worked out well, and after taxiing to the ramp we were greeted by the KCAC line service crew, who had been watching the approach and came over to congratulate us on the landing they had just witnessed from the ramp.

All told, we spent around six hours in the air, and thanks to the two passenger groups traveling together, the mission counted for six Angel Flight legs – a wonderful day.

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 online, visit:

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

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

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