

Angel Flight CENTRAL Ground Support Team (*GST*)

To our Angel Flight Central Ground Support Team,

Today's mission had a unique and meaningful twist, as we were able to fly using another Pilatus PC-12 - generously donated for the day by a local businessman. I had previously flown this businessman on a trip and we happened to start talking about Angel Flight, which sparked an interest on his part. He and I then talked about how he might get involved with Angel Flight. Since he's not a pilot himself, I suggested he consider offering the use of his airplane—and he didn't hesitate. This was the first mission made possible through his generosity, which made the day even more special. This was also the second time we flew this wonderful couple back from The Mayo Clinic. During this visit she finished up what might be her last major surgery or procedure for her nasal cancer. She's hopeful that they are done travelling for medical treatment for the foreseeable future.

We were credited with 2 AFC missions on this trip, landing us at 213 total missions so far.

*Mission Date:
April 23rd, 2026.*



Our passengers wrote the following in our guest logbook:

"Thank you both of you so much for what you guys are doing to help cancer patients like my wife. We are so blessed! May God richly bless you both!"

Trip Details:

The day started a little differently than usual, as this aircraft is based at New Century AirCenter (KIXD) instead of our home airport at KOJC. After making the slightly longer drive across town, we picked up the airplane and departed empty for Rochester (KRST). The flight north was direct at FL250, with clear skies, smooth conditions, and typical seasonal winds.

Our passenger was waiting for us inside the Signature Aviation FBO when we arrived, accompanied by her husband. She was in a wheelchair and clearly a bit weak, but in great spirits following a successful surgery earlier in the week. After introductions and getting everyone settled, we loaded up for the longer than usual leg south to get them home.

The flight from KRST to Fort Smith (KFSM) is long enough that it typically counts as two Angel Flight legs, so we were credited accordingly. The PC-12 handled the distance with ease as we cruised at FL260 in clear and mostly smooth conditions. It was one of those flights where everything just comes together perfectly - including the landing. In fact, the touchdown at KFSM was so smooth that hardly anyone in the airplane even realized we had landed... including the pilot 😊

The line service team in Fort Smith was outstanding, offering a golf cart ride for our passengers back to the FBO, which was especially helpful given her condition. After a brief group photo, we said our goodbyes and wished them well as they continued their recovery journey. We also took on a small load of fuel so we would have plenty of reserves to get back home ourselves.

With a little time before heading home, Sandy and I took advantage of the FBO courtesy car and made a quick run to my favorite aviation dining establishment... Subway 😊 We grabbed sandwiches to go and enjoyed lunch enroute on the flight back.

We departed Fort Smith and climbed to FL200 for the return leg toward Kansas City. During the flight, we decided it would be a good idea to have the aircraft's yaw damper system looked at once we got back. With onboard internet available, I reached out to the aircraft's management company, who quickly arranged for a maintenance slot. With that confirmed, we asked ATC to change our destination from KIXD to KOJC (where the plane's maintenance is handled), which ATC approved.

We arrived back in Kansas City to land on runway 18 at KOCJ just before 2:00 p.m., completing a smooth and efficient day of flying made possible by a generous aircraft owner and a great support team all around.

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