



# AIRLIFT NORTHWEST SERVING THE REGION, SAVING LIVES

**S**TEVE BRANTNER WAS SERIOUSLY ILL. His lungs were bleeding, his kidneys had failed, and his blood platelet count was dangerously low. His local hospital called Airlift Northwest to fly Steve to a larger medical center, one that could provide more specialized care.

He arrived in Seattle just in time: a half-hour longer, figured the physicians, and Steve would have died. Marijo, Steve’s wife, is tremendously grateful to Airlift, UW Medicine’s flying intensive care unit. “Airlift gives the gift of time,” she says.

Airlift Northwest connects rural or remote communities in Washington, Alaska, Montana and Idaho with hospitals in major urban centers, providing a lifeline when patients — from fragile infants to adults — need urgent care. We invite you to help Airlift provide superb care to the people of the Northwest.



## Airlift at a Glance

### Service

Washington, Alaska, Montana, Idaho; personnel are on call 24/7

### Patients served (FY 2014)

- 3,114 patients transported
- 25% — 9-1-1 emergency responses (rotary-wing aircraft)
- 34% — Long-distance transport, often from remote areas (Learjet and turboprop)
- 41% — Inter-hospital transfers (rotary-wing aircraft; for advanced care)

### Aircraft

Four helicopters, two Turbo Commanders and two Learjets

### Bases

Washington: Arlington, Bellingham, Olympia, Seattle, Yakima  
Alaska: Juneau

## When Every Minute Counts

Every minute counts after a heart attack or stroke, a car crash or other accident — or, as in Steve’s case, when a patient becomes desperately ill. Prompt response by local emergency technicians or physicians is the first step. If the patient needs care that the community cannot provide, calling Airlift is the second.

Airlift Northwest provides expert medical care during the flight to a hospital, a regional trauma center or a specialty care center. Whether the flight lasts 10 minutes or three hours, each minute of top-level, in-flight care can make the difference between life and death — or between a good recovery and lifelong disability.

## Family, Friends, Neighbors: Rescued

The unexpected can happen at any time, anywhere. When it happens in the Northwest, Airlift is there.

A few recent cases include:

- A 9-day-old baby from **Eastern Washington** who needed **emergency surgery for a heart defect**.
- A young man hiking at **Mt. Rainier** who experienced sudden **cardiac arrest**.
- A critically ill child, newly diagnosed with **diabetes in Alaska**, who needed special care.
- An 18-year-old **car-crash victim**, flown in from **Juneau, Alaska**.
- A baby from **Wenatchee, Wash.**, who had a congenital **brain malformation**.

Airlift's helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft carry teams of two registered nurses certified in advanced cardiac life support, advanced trauma life support, pediatric advanced life support, neonatal resuscitation, and critical-care, emergency, trauma and flight nursing. This high level of expertise — and the in-flight equipment used by our personnel — is unique to the region.

## *Keeping Airlift for Our Communities*

For more than 30 years, Airlift Northwest teams have responded to everyone needing transport for a critical condition, including people who are uninsured or unable to pay. Exceptional care, without exception — that's the rule. However, providing this kind of comprehensive care — the personnel, the equipment, the fuel, the maintenance of aircraft — is very expensive. The average flight in fiscal year 2014 cost \$13,000.

What's more, it isn't subsidized. Unlike other 9-1-1 emergency services, Airlift Northwest is not funded by taxpayers. Nor is it adequately funded by insurance reimbursements from patients who can afford to pay for care. In fact, uncompensated flights cost Airlift \$7.2 million in fiscal year 2014.

We are seeking philanthropic support to continue providing care to everyone who needs it and to underwrite essential equipment and educational and programmatic needs. Your investment will allow Airlift to continue to provide rapid, comprehensive and superb medical response over the four-state region of Washington, Alaska, Montana and Idaho.

## *Join Us*

Thank you for your interest in Airlift Northwest. If you would like to learn more about Airlift's needs and opportunities for investment, please let us know; we have a list we would be happy to share.

We also welcome queries about Airlift Northwest. For more information, please contact Matthew Sobotta (206.351.5906 or [msobotta@uw.edu](mailto:msobotta@uw.edu)). Thank you for your interest in advancing this vital service for our region.