

# DISPATCHES

A PUBLICATION FROM LIFEFLIGHT OF MAINE

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*Phoebe is a cute and curious toddler who has a guardian angel watching her every step.*

## FIRST FLIGHT FOR TODDLER: UNION TO BOSTON CHILDREN'S DIRECT FOR ORGAN TRANSPLANT

*By Karen L. Sites, Administrative Assistant, LifeFlight of Maine Outreach*

Phoebe Sage Root was born in February of 2003 and immediately became the apple of her parent's eye. When David and Amy Root of Union, Maine took their healthy newborn daughter home to start a brand new life together, they had plans and dreams. Their plans did not include an emer-

gency trip aboard LifeFlight of Maine, but that is just what happened.

It was during Phoebe's eight-week checkup that her pediatrician diagnosed her with jaundice and scheduled her for immediate blood tests. They went first to Maine Medical Center in Portland, and were then referred to a specialist in Boston. Phoebe was diagnosed with Biliary Atresia—a condition that causes scarring of the liver.

In May of 2003, when she was just three months old, Phoebe underwent her first surgery. Part of her small intestine was removed to try and bypass her liver. During the next few months she was in and out of the hospital and developed many complications, including dehydration. She also needed a feeding tube to receive nourishment. By the time she was six months old, Phoebe had survived so much physically that she was lagging developmentally. And there was more to come.

Her doctors discovered that Phoebe needed a liver transplant and she was immediately placed on the donor list. Since Phoebe would need to be in Boston within hours of a donor being located, LifeFlight was alerted



*Phoebe and her mom, Amy, enjoy spending quiet time together reading a book or going down the street to play with her cousins.*

*Continued on page 3 ...*

## MISSION STATEMENT

LifeFlight of Maine provides a statewide medical helicopter service that transports critically ill and injured patients. LifeFlight provides the highest quality of care and follows rigorous safety standards.

## LIFEFLIGHT OF MAINE

LifeFlight of Maine is a nonprofit statewide critical care medical helicopter service jointly owned by Eastern Maine Healthcare and Central Maine Healthcare. LifeFlight's two helicopters, based in Bangor and Lewiston, cover the entire state and offshore islands. LifeFlight compliments and supports the work of local EMS and hospital personnel in caring for the critically ill or injured. Each base is staffed by a team of pilots, mechanics, and highly qualified flight nurses and paramedics. Over 3,600 patients have now been flown safely by LifeFlight.

LifeFlight is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems.

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*Lewiston Crew*

# FOUR EVENTS HEADLINE FOUNDATION'S SCHEDULE SUMMER FUNDRAISING

*By Penn Williamson, Director of Development*

Thanks to the generosity of several friends of LifeFlight, receptions were held in several locations across the state during the summer, for the purpose of exposing more people to LifeFlight and enlisting their support. First, Bobby Monks and his wife, Bonnie Porta, held a late August reception in Cape Elizabeth; Boyden Gray quickly followed with a similar event in Northeast Harbor; and in Tenants Harbor Labor Day Weekend, Jamie and Phyllis Wyeth and Cindy Lang hosted a third.

On September 28, "LifeFlight Day" was held at Sebecook Valley Hospital in Pittsfield. Hosted by hospital CEO Jack May and his staff, we ran a brain injury course for local EMTs, a luncheon for business executives, and our Bangor helicopter was actually based there for the afternoon.

All told, over 300 people attended these four events.

## New Trustees Added

Two new trustees were voted onto the Board of Trustees. Foster Aborn, of Hingham MA and Tenants Harbor ME, is the retired Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer of John Hancock Financial Services, Inc. He is the Chair of the Financial Committee of Boston's Beth Israel Hospital. He is a Dartmouth College graduate and holds a MBA Degree from the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration.

Having been Director of Maine EMS for a decade, Kevin McGinnis of Hallowell ME is now a national EMS consultant working with the National Association of State EMS Directors. He serves in various board capacities with the National EMS Management

Association, National Public Safety, and the U.S. Department of Public Safety. He is a graduate of Brown University and holds a Master's degree from Cornell University.



*Flight Nurse Joe Dragon describes the small intensive care unit in the medical cabin of a LifeFlight Helicopter to attendees at LifeFlight Days in Pittsfield.*

*The LifeFlight Foundation, founded in 2003, was established to provide fundraising and public relations support to LifeFlight of Maine. It is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Tax Code, and governed by an elected board of trustees.*

*The Foundation's goals are helping fund:*

- new replacement helicopters due to go into service in early 2005
- helping hospitals build helipads adjacent their emergency rooms
- aviation improvements, such as weather reporting, navigation, and refueling systems in rural Maine
- clinical education, including implementation of a new mobile human patient simulator, and injury prevention programs for children

*Gifts to the Foundation can be made to:*

The LifeFlight Foundation

P.O. Box 1007

Union, ME 04862

(Tel: 207-785-2288)

*Continued on page 4 ...*

## Profiles

Faith, Family, and Flight is what describes John Marino, LifeFlight of Maine Pilot's background. As a boy John grew up in Portland, and Rumford and moved to Cape Cod where he grew up. In 1976, just out of High School John joined the Marine Corps. It was in the Marines where he began his career in helicopter aviation as a Jet Engine / Helicopter mechanic.



Joe Marino

In June of 1981 John was honorably discharged as a Sergeant and then attended Calvary Bible College in Kansas City to study to become a Missionary pilot/mechanic.

John was hired by LifeFlight in November of 1999 and still serves as the Safety Pilot at the Bangor Base.

Currently John lives in Winterport with his wife of 20 years, Paige, and my three children Evan (17), Jacob (14), and Amber Joy (11).

John's time off is balanced between his family; being a husband and father, church; singing, drama, youth work and duty in the MA. National Guard. John feels the Lord has truly blessed him with this position and is honored to serve as a LifeFlight of Maine EMS pilot.

Brian Laird was born and raised in Charlton, NY. After graduating from high school he spent four years serving in the United States Air Force. After his service in the military he went on to paramedic school in Cincinnati, OH. In his seven years as a paramedic five years have been spent doing inner-city EMS in Cincinnati and Atlanta. In May of 2003



Brian Laird

Brian moved to Maine, with his family, to become a flight paramedic with LifeFlight.

Linda McDougall, a flight nurse for LifeFlight, grew up in Hermon, Maine. In 1990 she graduated from the University of Maine with a Bachelors degree in Nursing.



Linda McDougall

Over the years she has also gained CCRN and CFRN certifications. Linda is also furthering her education by working towards her Master's degree in Nursing. Linda currently lives in Bangor with her husband of 30 years and her 3 children. In her spare time she enjoys running and has taken part in numerous marathons, including the Boston Marathon.

*Dispatches will profile three LifeFlight crew members in every issue.*

... Phoebe continued

that emergency transportation could be needed at a moment's notice.

It's not unheard of for patients to spend months, even years, on a donor list. Others never receive the lifesaving organs they wait for, so it was surprising when a donor for Phoebe was located just eighteen days after being placed on the waiting list. David and Amy got the call at 9 pm and instantly activated the plan they organized to get their daughter to Boston. The on-call crew from Union Ambulance arrived right away at the Root's home to get Phoebe and take her to the Union Fairgrounds. From there she was

"LifeFlighted" to Children's Hospital in Boston where she received a liver transplant and spent the next few months recovering.

Phoebe Sage Root is now a year and half old and doing remarkably well. She runs and plays with other children her age and she has a very healthy appetite. While it might seem that her ordeal is behind her, Phoebe still has some complications and needs to see her doctor frequently. Her parents also must be cautious about any exposure she has to sick people, such as somebody with the flu. To anyone who doesn't know her incredible story

Phoebe is a cute and curious toddler who has a guardian angel watching her every step.

"Phoebe's miraculous recovery shows just how very important organ donation is." Tom Judge, LifeFlight of Maine's Executive Director, "Prior to LifeFlight, for patients living anywhere but the in southern fringes of State, it was very unpredictable and rare to be able to access organ's in time."

... Donors continued

## LifeFlight Foundation Contributors

As this is our first listing, here are the names of the individuals, foundations and corporations who have made gifts and pledges from July 1, 2002 through September 30, 2004. Placement by giving level is based on cumulative giving during this period. Please notify the Foundation office of any errors or omissions.

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Flight Nurse Sandy Benton gives a 93 year old nurse from Sebecook Health Care Facility a tour of the helicopter.

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## BLOOD DRIVE SET FOR DECEMBER 17 AT CMMC

Central Maine Medical Center, assisted by the crew at LifeFlight of Maine's Lewiston base, will host a Blood Drive on December 17.

The last American Red Cross Blood Drive at CMMC in September was an unqualified success, with more than 95 people showing up to donate and 86 units of blood actually collected. In fact, at the September Blood Drive the desire to donate exceeded the capacity for collecting. Plans are underway to enhance resources at the December drive so that everyone who wishes to donate blood, and is clinically eligible to do so, will be accommodated.

The Blood Drive will be held from 6:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the CMMC Chairmen's Rooms, located on the

ground level of the 12 High Street Medical Office Building adjacent to CMMC.

"Maintaining an adequate blood supply is essential. We cannot stress how important it is for those living in the greater Lewiston-Auburn area to support this Blood Drive," said Lori Metayer, manager of LifeFlight of Maine's Lewiston base.

Anyone who would like to donate blood is urged to make an appointment by calling 795-2470.

Blood Drive participants will be given a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate.

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Yourself  
Asked™**



## **LIFEFLIGHT OF MAINE**

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Telephone: 795-2475.  
E-mail: [cmmc@cmmc.org](mailto:cmmc@cmmc.org)  
For more information about LifeFlight, call toll-free 877-262-2525.

[www.lifeflightmaine.org](http://www.lifeflightmaine.org)

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## **UNION AMBULANCE GOES BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY**

The Union Ambulance Service is a team of thirty active members who cover the Knox County towns of Union, South Hope, Appleton, and Washington. Making sure the residents of this more than 125 square mile area stay safe is a pretty tall order. You might even think that this would keep them too busy to serve their community in other ways, however, this group always finds time to do just a little bit more.

This year, members of the Union Ambulance Service helped at a local bike rodeo where more than fifty kids were fitted with new bike helmets that they got to take home with them. The ambulance squad also set up an obstacle course for the kids to ride their bikes through and receive a safety inspection. Four lucky kids even took home brand new bikes! The ambulance service members also volunteer their time in local schools, teaching first aid and safety to students. And if that isn't enough, during the holidays, the team supports a local family that needs a helping hand. Luke Church, a Union paramedic, says, "Nothing feels better than seeing a family all loaded up for Christmas." The holiday program is so popular, that this year the Union Ambulance Service is helping two families.

These activities are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to all this group does. There are other countless ways this dedicated group of medical professionals gives to the community, both on and off the job. For the team that is the Union Ambulance Service, any act of kindness— whether it's saving a life or helping the less fortunate is all in a day's work.

