MEDIA ADVISORY

August 1, 2020

For information contact:
Jeanine Chambers
Executive Director
770-361-4235

ANGEL FLIGHT SOARS™ Provides Free Transport for COVID-19 Tests, Cutting Results Time in Half

[Atlanta, GA, August 1, 2020] With an urgent need for fast, reliable testing for the coronavirus (COVID-19), Angel Flight Soars’ volunteer pilots are providing critical assistance to ensure test specimens arrive promptly at laboratories. Since the pandemic began, Angel Flight Soars has formed partnerships with several health care organizations throughout the South. These missions flying test specimens are scheduled as long as the need continues.

Relief efforts began with a volunteer pilot flying COVID-19 test specimens from Tifton to Augusta, Georgia, cutting transportation time by more than half. Next, Angel Flight Soars partnered with Navicent Health in Macon, Ga., where volunteer pilots flew daily missions from Macon to COVID-19 test laboratories in Charlotte, N.C., and Nashville, Tenn.

“Thanks to our partnership with Angel Flight Soars, Inc. we’ve been able to send over 300 COVID-19 test specimens to labs in Charlotte and Nashville in a single week, ensuring faster results for patients and their loved ones,” notes Navicent Health.

“We're in this together, and this is a way to really get those results quicker and let patients know,” said Michael Hajworonsky, Vice President of Clinical Support Services for Navicent Health. “We were driving all our specimens to those labs, 4-6 hours. Because of Angel Flight Soars’ wonderful ability to fly our specimens, we've cut that time in half.”

Angel Flight Soars also partnered with Cape Fear Valley Health in Fayetteville, N.C., and PathGroup laboratories in Nashville, to transport test specimens on the weekends when commercial medical transport was not available. This essential service means test specimens could get from health centers to labs 7 days a week, and in many cases, patients received results in as little as 8 hours instead of waiting up to 5 days.

“That is a huge win for our health system, our patients, and our employees to get those results in,” said Chris Tart, Vice President, Professional Services of Cape Fear Valley Health. “We already have results back on Sunday before 8:30 a.m. from Saturday’s flight.”

In April, Angel Flight Soars began flying COVID-19 test specimens from Meridian, Miss., to Denton, Texas, as a result of their partnership with Anderson Regional Health System. “I'm extremely excited and honored that Angel Flight Soars is willing to do this for us and for our patient population. This allows us to get our turnaround times for our test results faster on weekends then we've previously experienced,” said John Anderson, President and CEO of Anderson Regional Medical Center.

Angel Flight Soars’ missions also include partnerships with Houston Medical Center in Ga., Mayo Clinic Laboratories in Minnesota, and Florida, and Be The Match®, a global leader in bone marrow transplantation. Through their partnership with Be the Match, they’re working around the clock to ensure the safe and timely transport of life-saving bone marrow.

Angel Flight Soars services are always free to patients and families.
For 37 years, Angel Flight Soars has coordinated free flights for individuals in need of transportation to life-changing medical treatments. Fueled by the philosophy that geographic or financial boundaries should not prevent people from getting the medical care they need, Angel Flight Soars provides hope for families in times of crisis.

“It's always been our mission to connect patients with the medical care they need, and Angel Flight Soars continues to do so, even during this unprecedented time. On a daily basis we get families to their medical treatments, and during times of disaster, we bring hope to people in the form of medical transport services and supplies,” expressed Jeanine Chambers, Executive Director of 21 years.

During times of disaster, Angel Flight Soars is called upon to leverage their pilots and aircraft to take critical supplies and personnel to where they are needed most. They work closely with FEMA, GEMA, and other agencies to deliver life-sustaining supplies on short notice to bridge gaps in essential services. For decades, they have been instrumental in responding to many disaster relief efforts, all while continuing to help the patients that rely on their services every day.

Today, Angel Flight Soars remains committed to offering essential medical transport of COVID-19 tests so patients get faster results and medical professionals can use less personal protective equipment (PPE) to care for patients who test negative.

**Since April, our volunteer pilots have flown nearly 500 COVID-19 test specimen missions!**

**An increased number of Angel Flight Soars volunteer pilots are actively flying missions for the organization and patients in need, and all are aware of COVID-19 guidelines.**

Angel Flight Soars was formed in 1983 as a group of 15 volunteer pilots who wanted to help people in need of medical treatment. They coordinated about a dozen missions that year. Today, they serve patients in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. In 2019, Angel Flight Soars coordinated 3,617 mission flights. That's nearly 10 flights per day, 7 days a week! If you are in need of an Angel to transport you to and from distant medical treatment, call Angel Flight Soars' Mission Team at 770-452-7958 or visit their website [http://www.AngelFlightSoars.org](http://www.AngelFlightSoars.org).

###

Angel Flight Soars is a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer pilot organization that coordinates free air transportation for patients who need medical treatments that are not available locally and for other compassionate purposes. This service is available for any medically stable and ambulatory patient demonstrating a financial need and/or anyone who cannot utilize or access commercial transportation. Angel Flight helps families by eliminating the concern of how to get to necessary medical care, so they are able to focus on a resolution for the medical condition. This helps the patient to a speedier recovery and enables the family to resume participation in their community and workplace. This organization of volunteer pilots and earth angels (ground volunteers) is committed to their mission. The majority of the people served live in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Angel Flight Soars and their service are funded entirely by corporate and private donations.

* * *

Angel Flight Soars, Inc. • 2000 Airport Rd., Suite 227, Atlanta, GA 30341 • (770) 452-7958


©2020 Angel Flight Soars, Inc. • ANGEL FLIGHT™, ANGEL FLIGHT SOARS™, and WHERE HOPE SOARS® are trademarks of Angel Flight Soars, Inc.