



**MIRACLE FLIGHTS**  
THE CURE FOR DISTANCE

# IMPACT REPORT

MAY 1, 2023 - APRIL 30, 2024

**MAKENNA**  
SOARÉE 2024 CHILD AMBASSADOR





**MARK E. BROWN**  
CEO  
MIRACLE FLIGHTS

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the incredible impact Miracle Flights made throughout 2023 and 2024. This period has been marked by significant milestones and heartwarming successes that underline our unwavering commitment to helping families in need.

Miracle Flights takes pride in being the **first national nonprofit headquartered in Las Vegas, Nevada**. This unique positioning allows us to bring together a diverse and passionate community dedicated to making a difference. Every plane ride we facilitate and every partnership we cultivate is driven by a deep-seated commitment to our mission of providing free medical flights to children in need.

At a time when the costs of living and travel are continually rising, strategic partnerships like **Blacklane** and **WHSmith North America** allow us to alleviate the financial burdens that weigh heavily on the families we serve. Our goal is to ensure that every family can access life-saving medical treatments without the added stress of travel expenses.

In 2023, we proudly celebrated **1,500 chauffeured car rides** with our committed ground transportation partner, **Blacklane**, and celebrated with six-year-old Harris and her family at Los Angeles International Airport. We also worked closely with our airport retail partner, **WHSmith North America**, to bring the **“Miles” plush bear** to their expanded portfolio of stores across the country.

Our 2nd annual **SOARée** was a remarkable highlight, where we had the distinct honor of recognizing Mary Beth Sewald, President and CEO of the Vegas Chamber as the Navigator Honoree and nine-year-old Makenna as the Child Ambassador. SOARée became our largest fundraiser to date, raising \$358,000 and welcoming 450 guests.

As we move forward, I am inspired by the resilience and generosity of our supporters, partners, and the families we serve. Together, we are making a profound impact, one flight at a time. Thank you for your continued dedication and belief in the power of Miracle Flights.

Sincerely,  
**Mark E. Brown**  
Chief Executive Officer



Dear Miracle Flights Community,

As Chairman of the Board of Directors, I am thrilled to share our impact report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Our dedicated team has worked hard to expand our reach and impact, solidifying our position as the **leading national nonprofit** driving access to life-saving medical care.

One of the highlights of our year has been the growing partnerships with Southwest Airlines, Harry Reid International Airport, Blacklane, The Parking Spot, and WHSmith North America. These collaborations have increased our capacity to assist families **locally and nationwide**, ensuring that no distance is too great for a child to receive the critical medical care they deserve.

Our efforts have also brought us face-to-face with the families we serve, particularly during our **National Fly-Ins**, where we had the privilege of meeting and supporting families from across the country. These fly-ins have been a poignant reminder of the **direct impact of our mission**, as we listened to their stories of hope and perseverance. Additionally, we were honored to have Cowboys QB **Cooper Rush** support Miracle Flights during the NFL's "My Cause My Cleats" annual initiative. Rush proudly wore cleats with Miracle Flights branding during a November 2023 game against the Seattle Seahawks. Rush's support amplified our purpose and brought greater visibility to our mission.

As we celebrate the achievements of the past year, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners, supporters, and dedicated team members whose unwavering commitment has been instrumental in driving our success. Together, we look forward to continuing our mission with renewed vigor and making an even greater difference in the lives of those we serve.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Christopher Khorsandi  
Chairman of the Board



**DR. CHRISTOPHER KHORSANDI, JESSICA CONNELL, & JOEL JARVIS**  
MIRACLE FLIGHTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT SOARÉE 2024

# IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



## TOP 10 TREATMENT SITES

<b>Boston Children's Hospital</b>	BOSTON, MA
<b>Children's Hospital of Philadelphia</b>	PHILADELPHIA, PA
<b>City of Hope</b>	LOS ANGELES, CA
<b>Food Allergy Institute</b>	LONG BEACH, CA
<b>Mayo Clinic</b>	ROCHESTER, MN
<b>Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center</b>	NEW YORK, NY
<b>Nationwide Children's Hospital</b>	COLUMBUS, OH
<b>Nemours Children's Hospital</b>	WILMINGTON, DE
<b>Paley Orthopedic &amp; Spine Institute</b>	WEST PALM BEACH, FL
<b>University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center</b>	HOUSTON, TX

## TOP TEN FLIGHT REQUESTS

1. Food Allergies
2. Clubfoot
3. Retinoblastoma
4. Arthrogryposis (joint condition)
5. Heart Defects
6. Epilepsy
7. Cerebral Palsy
8. Lung Disease
9. Hirschsprung's Disease (colon condition)
10. Scoliosis

## REFERRAL SOURCES

- Another Nonprofit
- Another Miracle Flights Family
- Internet Search
- Local Physician
- Social Media
- Social Worker
- Treatment Site Physician

## MIRACLE FLIERS BY AGE



**7,645**

**FLIGHTS FLOWN**  
MAY 1, 2023 -  
APRIL 30, 2024



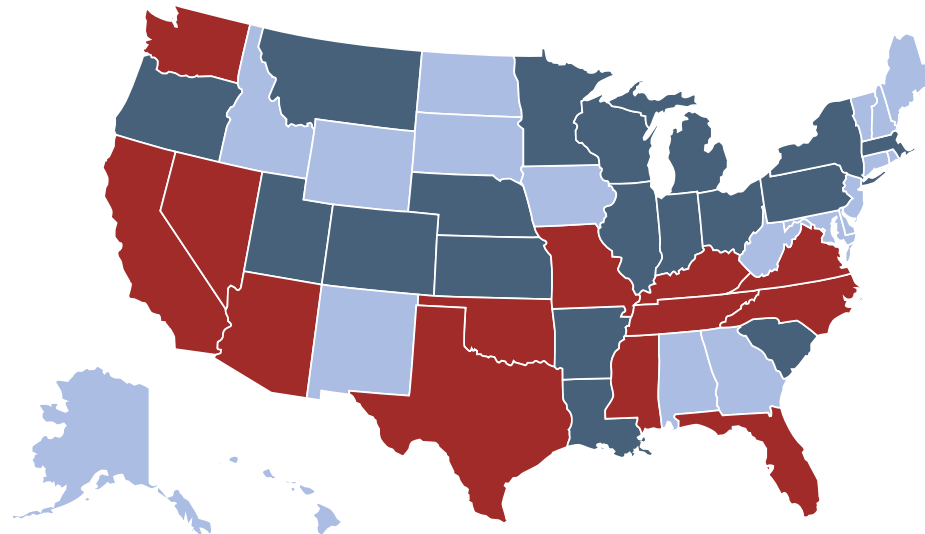
**637**

**FLIGHTS**  
PER MONTH



**98,292,540**

**MILES FLOWN**  
SINCE 1985




## NUMBER OF MIRACLE FLIGHTS DEPARTING FROM EACH STATE

0-99 FLIGHTS

100-199 FLIGHTS

200+ FLIGHTS





“Las Vegas is the home  
of **MIRACLE FLIGHTS**, and  
as Governor of the State of  
Nevada, I’m very proud to  
say it’s based in our state.”

**JOE LOMBARDO**  
Governor of Nevada



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**CHRISTOPHER KHORSANDI, MD** is Chairman of the Board of Directors. A member of the American Board of Plastic Surgeons with practices in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, Dr. Khorsandi received his medical education at Villanova University and Temple University School of Medicine. He then received training at the University of Pennsylvania General Surgery program, with the opportunity to work at the country's first hospital, Pennsylvania Hospital. He also received training at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, followed by acceptance into Cleveland Clinic's Plastic and Reconstructive Training Program. His expertise expands from plastic surgery to minimally invasive hand surgery and the emerging new field of migraine relief surgery. Dr. Khorsandi is a three-time recipient of the national Patient's Choice Award for his skills and a two-time recipient of the national Compassionate Doctor Award.



**JESSICA CONNELL** is the executive director at Connell Outdoor Advertising, where she manages billboard operations and philanthropic initiatives in Nevada and New Jersey. Born and raised in Las Vegas, she is a graduate of Durango High School and Leadership Las Vegas. Her previous work in the community includes her tenure as co-chair for Young Professionals Against Cancer with the American Cancer Society. Jessica held management roles at 60Frames Entertainment and fox21 Studio, where she produced original content for digital and TV platforms. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in finance and international business from Loyola Marymount University and recently graduated from the executive program at the John Anderson Graduate School of Management. She enjoys time with family, travel, yoga, beach volleyball and tennis.



**JOEL G. JARVIS** is an agent/producer/marketing specialist at Kaercher Insurance Brokerage, serving clients in various industries including legal, nonprofit, transportation, hospitality, municipalities and construction. Previously, Joel worked for Las Vegas Sands, Perlman Architecture, Capitol Pacific Homes, Accountants Inc. and Horace Mann Insurance Companies. Joel has served Opportunity Village, Aid for Aids of Nevada (AFAN), Jewish Family Service Agency and United Way of Southern Nevada. He is involved in the Clark County Bar Association and was recognized as Ambassador of the Year in 2004. A Liberty Bell Award winner, Joel insures 250 attorneys in Las Vegas, where he has lived since 1993, and 60 nonprofit organizations. He holds bachelor degrees in accounting and finance as well as a law degree from Illinois State University.



# MIRACLE FLIGHTS STAFF

## MARK E. BROWN

Chief Executive Officer

## ROBERT SANCHEZ

Vice President of Operations

## LINDA BRIDGES

Vice President of Marketing & Communications

## VANESSA MORENO

Director of Operations

## REBECCA BOYCE

Director of Flight Operations

## KATHY ROLLER

Director of Events

## CASSANDRA CASTANINO

Events Coordinator

## JESSICA CARDENAS

Flight Specialist

## ANITA CARPENTER

Resource Development Manager

## NICOLE PADBERG MUNKDALE

Graphic Designer

## DONA KRYSTOSEK, RN

Family Advocate

## TERRA SADLER

Administrative Assistant



**Miracle Flights** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides free flights to those in need of life-changing medical care not found in their local communities.



**CEO MARK BROWN: 2023 BRONZE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD**  
THE STARS OF NEVADA GOVERNOR'S POINTS OF LIGHT AWARD

# JAGS AND JETS



**JUNE 15, 2023**

**JAGUAR LAND ROVER LAS VEGAS**

Miracle Flights and Red Rock City Magazine hosted Jags & Jets, an after-hours social and fundraising event, at Jaguar Land Rover Las Vegas.

The 2nd annual event featured small bites and cocktails by Via Brasil Steakhouse, a painting party from Brush It Up: Mobile Paint Parties, luxury automobiles from Jaguar Land Rover Las Vegas, a silent auction, and more! Vegas Golden Knights National Anthem singer Carnell “The Golden Pipes” Johnson was the featured entertainment.

In addition, a representative from WHSmith North America presented a check for \$31,000 to Miracle Flights – the largest quarterly donation from the country’s leading specialty retailer in the airport and casino-resort marketplace, to date.







**\$12,400  
RAISED**

**200 ATTENDEES**

**MIRACLE  
FLIGHTS**





**CURTIS EDENFIELD**  
CEO, THRIVE AVIATION

# SOARée

*Miracle Flights*

**APRIL 12, 2024 • THRIVE AVIATION**

**\$358,000**  
**RAISED**

**450 GUESTS**

**TAKE OFF SPONSORS:**  
**THRIVE AVIATION**  
**SKYHOP GLOBAL**



Miracle Flights 2nd annual SOARée was a night of Hollywood Glamour to remember!

Held at the jaw-dropping private aviation hangar located at Thrive Aviation just off the Las Vegas Strip, 450 guests enjoyed custom cocktails, tantalizing small bites, and exciting entertainment from Star Time. At the end of the evening, six lucky couples flew on two private jets for a luxury weekend in Beverly Hills.

We raised \$358,000! With the funds raised, Miracle Flights provided 716 flights for children and their families to reach critical life-changing medical care... far from home.







“The fascination of flying helps sick children forget about their illness, and forget about their sickness. Being able to fly truly is a freedom. That’s one of the reasons I’m so personally passionate about **MIRACLE FLIGHTS** and their mission.”

**MARY BETH SEWALD**

Chief Executive Officer & President  
Vegas Chamber

**SOARÉE 2024 NAVIGATOR HONOREE**



**MAKENNA & MARY BETH SEWALD**  
2024 SOARÉE CHILD AMBASSADOR & NAVIGATOR HONOREE





LOVE

SNAP A SELFIE AND TAG US! @MiracleFlights



PEACE



# LIGHTS FOR FLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 1, 2023 - DECEMBER 31, 2023  
DOWNTOWN SUMMERLIN

The holiday season twinkled brighter than ever during the 3rd annual Lights for Flights at Downtown Summerlin! The popular photo opportunity featured the oversized words of LOVE, JOY, HOPE, PEACE, SOAR, MIRACLE, I LOVE YOU, and brand new in 2023: I ♥ YOU!

**AMANDA J.**

 *Miracle Flier*

Las Vegas ✈ Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford (CA)  
Epilepsy





# #TEDDYBEARLOVE

## INTERACTIVE PHOTO EXPERIENCE AT HARRY REID INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



In celebration of NATIONAL TEDDY BEAR DAY on September 9, Miracle Flights partnered with Harry Reid International Airport, the 12th busiest airport in the world, to launch #TeddyBearLove; a ten-foot-tall indoor selfie experience located in Terminal 1, across from the Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas gift shop. #TeddyBearLove was the first-of-its-kind interactive photo experience at Harry Reid International Airport.

*"The leadership team at Harry Reid International Airport is one of the most innovative and collaborative in the industry. This first-of-its-kind installation creates a unique and interactive airport experience and introduced our mission to millions of monthly passengers."*

**- Mark E. Brown, CEO of Miracle Flights**



**“MIRACLE FLIGHTS**

is great for this community  
and adds to the Las Vegas  
brand.”

**STEVE HILL**

Chief Executive Officer & President  
Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority  
(LVCVA)



## NATIONAL FLIGHT PARTNERS

**Southwest**

**WHSmith**  
NORTH AMERICA  
INCORPORATING IMMOTION & MARSHALL RETAIL GROUP

**BLACKLANE**

**SKYHOP** GLOBAL

**AMGEN**

**theParkingSpot**

## REGIONAL FLIGHT PARTNERS

**FINDLAY AUTOMOTIVE  
GROUP**

**HARRY REID  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**THRIVE  
AVIATION**

## PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL (\$20,000 AND UP)

**CHRISTIANSEN LAW OFFICES**

**FRESH WATA**

**HAGAR FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**DOWNTOWN SUMMERLIN**

**FREQUENCY PICTURES**

**MULTIPURE**

## LEADERSHIP CIRCLE (\$10,000 - \$19,999)

**THE ANNE L. & GEORGE H. CLAPP  
CHARITABLE TRUST**

**BATCHELOR FOUNDATION**

**CLOUGH FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**FINDLAY VOLKSWAGEN  
HENDERSON**

**FRED MAYTAG FAMILY  
FOUNDATION**

**GREATON & JOANN DECESARIS  
FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**GREEHEY FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**JOHN R. MCCUNE  
CHARITABLE TRUST**

**LON V. SMITH FOUNDATION**

**LAS VEGAS PARTY RENTALS**

**THE MILES HODSDON VERNON  
FOUNDATION, INC.**

**THE NAJIM CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

**RED ROCK CITY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE**

**STEPHEN & MARY BIRCH  
FOUNDATION, INC.**

**VEGAS CHAMBER  
WHITING FOUNDATION**



## HEALTHCARE NAVIGATORS (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

BRUMLEY FOUNDATION  
BURNING MAN PROJECT  
CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT, INC.  
CHRISTOPHER KHORSANDI, MD  
DWANE & VELMA WALLACE  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION  
EMILY LANDECKER FOUNDATION, INC.  
FAT BRANDS FOUNDATION  
FINDLAY HONDA HENDERSON  
FORMULA 1 LAS VEGAS GRAND PRIX  
THE FRANK & VICTORIA FERTITTA  
FOUNDATION, LTD  
THE GITLIN FOUNDATION

THE GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND/  
SPIRIT AEROSYSTEMS  
JAGUAR LAND ROVER LAS VEGAS  
JAMES W. PICKLE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION  
JESSICA CONNELL  
JOEL JARVIS  
MARKE. BROWN  
MARSHALL R. MATLEY FOUNDATION  
THE MEDALLION FOUNDATION, INC.  
MESSNER FOUNDATION  
NEW HORIZON UNIFORMS LLC DBA JETSEAM

THE RICHARD & NICOLE MARSHALL  
FAMILY FOUNDATION  
SKY DIAMONDS  
SPEEDWAY CHILDREN'S CHARITIES  
THE THOMAS NELSON ABDELLA MD  
FOUNDATION  
TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA  
TRUFFLES N BACON CAFE  
THE WAWONA FOUNDATION  
WILLIAM BRENNAN  
VIA BRASIL STEAKHOUSE  
VOLTZ INNOVATIONS  
YELP

## COMMUNITY ADVOCATES (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

ANONYMOUS PRIVATE FOUNDATION  
ALASKA AIRLINES  
AVIDEXCHANGE  
BREAKTHRU BEVERAGE  
CATAPULT FUNDRAISING  
COWLES CHARITABLE TRUST  
CREATIVE DIGITAL PRINTING  
D & R HOUSE OF DIAMONDS  
DOSE OF DOODLES  
EMCOR GROUP

GENUBANK  
GEOFF PRATT  
GREENBERG TRAUIG, LLP  
GORDON LAW  
KINGSBURY AWARD  
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION  
OF GREATER LAS VEGAS  
MEOW WOLF  
NEVADA BEVERAGE CO.  
NEWMARK

RANG'S COCINA MODERNE  
RAYCHEL BAILON  
RAYMOND JAMES  
RED ROCK CASINO RESORT AND SPA  
SMASH BOOTH  
STEINBERG DIAGNOSTIC  
SUNBURST SHUTTERS  
T-BIRD JEWELS  
TEQUILA DAME MAS  
URBN EVENTS

## MIRACLE MAKERS (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

AARNE & ARLENE REID FAMILY FUND  
AGILITEC IT  
AMR LAS VEGAS  
BANK OF AMERICA  
BRETT FRANKEL  
CAVALIER RESORT HOTELS  
COREY POOLE  
DENIANE JOHN  
DI LORETO CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT  
FLORENCE CAHILL CHARITABLE TRUST  
GC GARCIA  
GREG HYDE  
GREEN VALLEY RANCH RESORT SPA AND CASINO  
GUILHERME LEMES  
INSCRIPTAGRAPHS

IRENE C. FINKELSTEIN FOUNDATION  
JONATHAN VIA  
JOSEPH SHEREDY  
JOSEPH W. STANLEY CHARITABLE TRUST  
KURT BLOCH  
LARRY SINGER  
LEO H. BENDIT CHARITABLE FOUNDATION  
LONNIE STEPHENS TRUST  
LOUIS N. CASSETT FOUNDATION  
MATTHEW COLLINS  
MDL GROUP  
MOJAVE BREWING COMPANY  
NEIMAN MARCUS  
NORTH LAS VEGAS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
NORTHERN TRUST  
NOTHING BUNDT CAKES

PALMS RESORT CASINO  
PASQUALE LAURITO  
PENN & TELLER  
PINKBOX DOUGHNUTS  
RESORTS WORLD HOTEL & CASINO  
RICHARD W. BRIETZKE  
RONALD A. MADSEN  
SCOTT ROSENZWEIG  
STEVE HILL  
SUMMERLIN ROTARY  
TEXAS ROADHOUSE, NORTH LAS VEGAS  
VIRGIN HOTELS LAS VEGAS  
THE WAWA FOUNDATION, INC.  
WHITEHEAD PLUMBING  
YIP FITNESS

Miracle Flier

# Waylon

“We will need to fly back to Boston a second time and be there for 4 to 6 weeks. Miracle Flights and their partner Blacklane sure make life survivable in our time of need. My Waylon is 12 and can use all the prayers he can get! Thank you to all that donate to make it possible to get to where you need to go for treatment. God bless you all!”

- Carolyn, Waylon's mom

Taylorsville, KY ✈ Boston Children's Hospital (MA)  
Midaortic Syndrome, Bilateral Renal Artery Stenosis,  
Aortic Stenosis





# WHSmith

# NORTH AMERICA

## INCORPORATING INMOTION & MARSHALL RETAIL GROUP

## NATIONAL FLIGHT PARTNER

WHSmith North America is the country's leading specialty retailer in the airport and casino-resort marketplace and sells the "Miles" plush bear in 58 of their airport locations.

**“We are able to fly so many children and their families to receive life-changing medical care thanks, in part, to our partners at WHSmith North America.”**

- **Mark E. Brown, CEO of Miracle Flights**

**\$225,000  
RAISED**

**25,679 BEARS SOLD  
58 PARTICIPATING  
STORES ACROSS THE U.S.**







# theParkingSpot

## NATIONAL FLIGHT PARTNER

The Parking Spot provides complimentary parking spaces at airports across the United States, providing a convenient parking option for Miracle Flights families.

**EMERY**

 *Miracle Flier*

Florida ✈️ Nationwide Children's Hospital (OH)  
Chronic Kidney Disease & Kidney Transplant





# BLACKLANE

## NATIONAL FLIGHT PARTNER

### 451 RIDES

MAY 1, 2023 - APRIL 30, 2024

On September 4, 2023, BLACKLANE, the leading global chauffeur service, celebrated their 1,500th completed ride with Miracle Flights.

To celebrate this significant milestone, Co-Founder and CEO of Blacklane, Jens Wohltorf and CEO of Miracle Flights Mark E. Brown surprised 6-year-old Harris and her family at LAX with a VIP trip to Disneyland for her and her family.

**HARRIS** ✈️ *Miracle Flier*

Indiana ✈️ Allegery Institute Long Beach (CA)  
Anaphylactic Food Allergies







# VOLUNTEERS

**77 VOLUNTEERS**

**332 VOLUNTEER HOURS**

**TOP VOLUNTEER GROUPS:**

NV Energy

Silverliners

Association for Pre-Health Professionals at UNLV

**TOP INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER:**

Sherry Catchpole • 37 hours

# NATIONAL FLY-INS

In 2023, Miracle Flights staff visited 20+ families and two foundations in Reno, NV; Nashville, TN; and San Diego, CA.







# Makenna

“When we first found out about Makenna’s diagnosis, a little bit of denial was the first feeling. Thanks to **MIRACLE FLIGHTS**, we didn’t have to make a choice between getting the best medical care for our daughter and our finances.”

- **Samantha, Makenna’s Mom**

Las Vegas ✈️ Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (NY)  
Neuroblastoma





# MIRACLE FLIGHTS

5740 S. Eastern Avenue, Ste. 240 Las Vegas, NV 89119

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CHARITABLE TAX ID 88-0209952

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