

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Mission: Coordinating free air transportation for children and adults with medical or compelling humanitarian needs**

#### **AMELIA THE AIRPLANE FLOAT WILL APPEAR IN THE TAVARES INDEPENDENCE PARADE**

CENTRAL FLORIDA, June, 2008 – Angel Flight™ Southeast (AFSE), the nonprofit 501 (c)(3) volunteer pilot organization that coordinates free air transportation for children and adults with medical or compelling humanitarian needs, will participate in the Tavares Independence Day Parade on July 4<sup>th</sup> with Amelia, the airplane float. AFSE volunteers will be on hand to pass out information about our free service.

The North Central Florida Wing, under the leadership of Mike Winter and Ken Jordan, rescued the Piper Aztec Plane, which was damaged in Hurricane Katrina, and rebuilt the plane into a float that can be enjoyed by thousands. The North Central Florida Wing worked hundreds of hours and donated thousands of dollars to this project. “It attracts so much attention traveling down the road,” said staff member, Michelle Cavaretta, “it is a wonderful tool for outreach.”

Angel Flight Southeast is headquartered at the Leesburg International Airport. AFSE is able to coordinate missions to any part of the continental United States. In 2007 AFSE pilots coordinated approximately 3,000 missions and in 2008 expect to coordinate more than 3,500 missions! The calls for assistance are rising as more people find out about the charity, and health costs continue to spiral. For every dollar that we spend coordinating flights, we return \$5.20 worth of community service in the form of free air transportation for financially-stressed persons with medical or other compelling human needs.

AFSE’s private pilots donate their time, aircraft, and fuel to fly passengers when commercial air service is not available, affordable, or practical. Passengers include those who need specialized treatment not available to them locally such as chemotherapy, burn care, organ transplants and various other types of non-routine surgery.

More information about Angel Flight™ Southeast can be obtained at [www.angelflightse.org](http://www.angelflightse.org) or by calling (352) 326-0761. If you would like to request Amelia’s presence at a parade or event please contact [leigh@afse.org](mailto:leigh@afse.org)