



By Flight Attendants, for Flight Attendants.

Spring 2007

PHILANTHROPY, THE BEACON FOUNDATION AND ME

by Jil Strate, Recording Secretary and SEA Base Chair

I have long dreamed of being a philanthropist in the manner of Bill and Melissa Gates, Oprah and so many others of wealth. Easy enough to know that the economic situation of our job does not allow that level of giving. The definition from Webster, however, does not put an economic value on philanthropy. Rather, it states an "active effort to promote human welfare."

Philanthropy: fr. Greek *philanthropos* loving mankind

1: goodwill to fellowmen; esp: active effort to promote human welfare

2 a: a philanthropic act or gift
b: an organization distributing or supported by philanthropic funds

In 2000, the union letter had an article about The Beacon Foundation written by Alexander Habib. The newly established Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, needed help from each base to begin the process of collecting funds to be used to assist colleagues who were suffering from serious illness, disability or injury. Perfect timing. I realized this was what I was looking for in my quest for philanthropy. Not only was I willing to donate to assist my fellow work group, I signed on as a volunteer to be the Seattle Base Chair. My job: review grant requests, spearhead fundraising events at the base and raise awareness of the Foundations' need.

As The Beacon Foundation has grown, the need for grant money has grown. Although our support level

throughout the system is okay, it is barely adequate to grant the needs of our colleagues. Funds come from NWA payroll deduction, fundraisers held at each base and through a joint effort with the United Way. Yet the commitment from the flight attendant group as a whole is dismal.

We beg to get sign ups for payroll deduction. We field many questions from our group relating to the business of The Beacon Foundation, only to get a definite "NO" when we ask if payroll deduction is part of their support. The percentage of payroll deduction in Seattle is better than the average of other bases, but still barely reaches 22%. Why not 100%?

We widely advertise fundraising events, only to find little interest from the flight attendant group in assisting with the fundraiser or in

...continued on Page 2

MISSION STATEMENT

The Beacon Foundation's mission is to provide financial assistance to NWA Flight Attendants and their families who are suffering from a critical or terminal illness, injury or disability. The Beacon Foundation helps to maintain the dignity of families who have lost their income and are struggling to pay their bills.

New address and phone number

The Beacon Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 211756
Eagan, MN 55121
651-245-2441

For more information on how to get involved, log onto:
www.nwabeaconfoundation.org

PHILANTHROPY, THE BEACON FOUNDATION AND ME ...continued from Page 1

attending the event. There is a list of volunteers in Seattle, some of whom do not even work for Northwest Airlines, who have donated hundreds of hours to raise thousands of dollars for the Foundation. Essentially, the list is short and the same for each event. Those who already donate their time ask others to volunteer with little success. Why not a long list?

Have I achieved my goal? Yes. I donate through payroll deduction, review grant requests and volunteer many hours to fundraising events at

the Seattle base. Have we achieved the goals of The Beacon Foundation? Scarcely. As a whole, we have been unable to get the flight attendant group to wholeheartedly embrace their Foundation.

Their Foundation. The NWA flight attendant group voluntarily runs this Foundation. The NWA flight attendants, for lack of a better word, "own" this Foundation. Each of us may have a number of worthwhile organizations we support. I

do. Yet, The Beacon Foundation, Inc., belongs to the flight attendant group and is ready made for our support. It is time to step up for your organization and make that active effort to promote the welfare of your colleagues. Philanthropy begins at home.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

The Seattle Division of The Beacon Foundation continues to raise the most funds through fundraising! The Beacon Foundation's board of directors sincerely extends its deepest appreciation and thanks to the following Beacon Lights who have volunteered as fundraising chairpersons:

Jeff Abrahamson
Candi Ciochetti
Christi Damis
JoAnne Deveny
Tim Dougherty
Cindy Friesen
Molly Groendyke

Connie Hanson
Gail Hashimoto
Kathy Izumi
Pat Johnson
Kathy Kolt
Deb Nelson

Marilyn Nelson
Joann Olson
Richard Schaefer
Sandi Schaefer
Mary Jane Tarabochia
Sandi Washington

To the many other volunteers who have generously donated their time and talents to help NWA Flight Attendants in need, we thank you too!

Hands of Love Arts and Crafts Show

October 5-7, 2007

The 3rd Annual Arts and Crafts Fair will be held in Old Town Tacoma, WA. To enter your arts or crafts, contact Gail Hashimoto at 425-861-0794. Applications and information may be found on www.nwabeaconfoundation.org under the SEA Beacon Home page.

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS

I attended the first meetings to begin a foundation to help our fellow flight attendants. I have been involved with The Beacon Foundation ever since. Why am I still here? I believe in The Beacon Foundation and what we do.

We are here to help our brothers and sisters in their time of crisis and it's the right thing to do. It's great that we have such a foundation to help take care of our own. I thank the flight attendants for their continued support of The Beacon Foundation. We have been able to help many flight attendants in their time of need and continue to do so.

As president of The Beacon Foundation, it is my job to oversee how the Foundation is operated. There are many things that happen in order for a grant to be issued including: first contact with the flight attendant in need, follow up during the application process, review of the application to make sure all required information is provided and finally approval of financial assistance. As a Foundation, we need to follow the rules of the law. I also oversee this and make sure that we are doing what we are charged with doing.

– Jeff Abrahamson, President and Base Chair for HNL and SFO

.....

About three years ago, my partner and I were looking for a project that would allow us to give back. We had been involved with a couple of not for profits in our area, but really wanted to get involved in a project a little closer to home. That's when we met Jeff Abrahamson, and he told us about The Beacon Foundation; we

knew that we had found a good fit. What made it an even better fit, was that our closest friends also wanted to be involved.

All of us work hard to further the awareness of The Beacon Foundation in Detroit and dramatically increase the donations from the base. During this time, we are able to help countless flight attendants meet basic living expenses during a serious illness or injury that has kept them from working.

Sadly, many of our grant recipients are no longer with us, however those who donate to the Foundation need to know that their donations allowed fellow flight attendants to live out their last days with a degree of dignity that would have otherwise been lost. Donors should also know that we take tremendous care of their donations.

Applicants must meet strict criteria that ensures our donor's funds are

protected. Again, it needs to be emphasized that funds are granted as a "final net" for basic living expenses to flight attendants who cannot work due to a serious injury, illness or disability. Our work group and The Beacon Foundation are faced with many challenges. One way to minimize the challenges ahead is to get involved with The Beacon Foundation.

Whether you donate a dollar a month, or would like to serve on one of our base committees, your involvement will make a rewarding positive change for our futures.

– Jay Moorhead, Vice President and DTW Base Chair and Phillip Speering, DTW Base Committee Member

.....

I am the treasurer of The Beacon Foundation. Jeff Abrahamson and I have been part of The Beacon Found-

...continued on Page 4

Volunteers are crucial in making non-profit organizations function successfully. The Beacon Foundation relies on contributions, big or small, financial or service based.

If it weren't for volunteers, The Beacon Foundation would not exist. Our volunteers have contributed countless hours of work to help us provide the financial assistance that many of our co-workers require.

The Beacon Foundation seeks volunteers who are self-starters, responsible, energetic and most importantly, dedicated to helping our co-workers in need. Group and individual volunteers are wanted for: special events, fundraising, one-time projects and application reviews/grant authorizations.

If you would like to volunteer for The Beacon Foundation, please contact us directly at: info@thebeaconfoundation.org.

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS ...continued from Page 3

dation from the start.

A lot of changes have occurred in the 6 years of operations. The Foundation has grown in donations and the board has grown in wisdom.

When we started the Foundation, our intentions were good but we lacked experience. However, through time and perseverance, we have learned how to manage and operate The Beacon Foundation effectively.

A lot of work has been done to get the Foundation to where it is today. We've attained our non-profit status, completed payroll deduction process, and written and revised by-laws, guidelines and policies. Many volunteered hours have been devoted to the Foundation.

Today, the Foundation finds itself in a positive transition; we have grown to a point where more flight attendant involvement is needed in order to continue the Foundation's success. We need flight attendants, such as yourself, to have fundraisers big and small. We need flight attendants to help their fellow flight attendants in need by getting involved with the grant application review process. We need flight attendants to be advocates out on the line and to get more flight attendants and NWA employees to sign-up for the auto payroll deduction program. Giving \$1 dollar a paycheck really does make a difference.

We cannot do this alone we need your help. Volunteer, it feels good.

- Tim Dougherty, Treasurer

.....

I got started with The Beacon Foundation in 2003. I was impressed because the philosophy of an organization that is compassionate about its coworkers really moves me. People helping each other—what a wonderful concept! Hopefully more flight attendants will join The Beacon Foundation. Because in doing so, they are not only helping others but helping themselves as well.

- May Conway, Officer and LAX Base Chair

.....

I was in need of something to give me more purpose in life. I came across an article in the union newsletter about The Beacon Foundation. What better way to feel good about volunteering by helping your own "family," my fellow flight attendants in need? I called the number and was put in touch with Jil Strate who was the chairperson in Seattle at the time. I joined her, but found it very heart breaking to hear the stories and try to help so Jil decided I could be in charge of the fundraising end of it and she would do "the tough stuff!"

Our first fundraiser was a garden party. We have since had garage sales, farm parties, golf tournaments, arts and crafts shows, Pampered Chef parties, coffee (Jet-lag Java) and book sales. All these are from suggestions I have received from the volunteers I affectionately call "Beacon Lights."

In 2005 I retired from flying but not from volunteering with The Beacon Foundation. It has taken a lot of work and is time consuming, but we have so much fun. It is great to work

with such wonderful volunteers, stay connected and all to make life for the grantees a lot easier. I can't thank all the "Beacon Lights" enough for all their HUGE support! I look forward to others finding the need to join us in this worthwhile cause!

- Joann Olson, Fundraising Chair

.....

Gifts of Light

The Beacon Foundation has another way for your contribution to be meaningful. Donors may make gift donations to the Foundation.

Your gift donation to The Beacon Foundation could:

- honor an anniversary
- celebrate a birthday
- recognize a special milestone
- remember a loved one or
- surprise a friend

Making a gift donation is easy. Gifts of Light forms are available at www.nwabeaconfoundation.org and at each base In-flight. When you make a gift donation, the person or family you designate on the form will be sent a card acknowledging your gift. Cards are also available with the form, if you wish to send an acknowledgement yourself.

As with any donation to The Beacon Foundation, gift donations are tax-deductible.