

# Flight For Life

Colorado



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## NEWS RELEASE

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### FLIGHT FOR LIFE COLORADO EXTENDS ITS SERVICE AT ITS MOUNTAIN BASE IN FRISCO, COLORADO

DENVER, CO, December 7, 2009...Today, Kathy Mayer, director of Flight For Life Colorado, announced that beginning Sunday, January 3, 2010, Flight For Life helicopter coverage from St. Anthony Summit Medical Center mountain base in Frisco, Colorado will increase to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

“Currently, our helicopter, Lifeguard 2, is in service from 8 am to 7 pm daily with 24-hour emergency ground coverage via Flight For Life’s critical care ground ambulance. This change is necessary to meet the emergent health care needs of visitors and residents in the growing mountain communities,” said Mayer.

Flight For Life is a nonprofit, hospital-based, community service providing critical care transport for a nine state region with four helicopters, two fixed wing airplanes and three ground ambulances operating out of Denver, Frisco, Pueblo and Colorado Springs.

Flight For Life provides far more than a fast ride to the hospital. It offers efficient, safe transportation paired with skilled medical care delivered to patients in need wherever they are and regardless of their ability to pay.

Flight For Life crew members are registered nurses, paramedics, emergency medical technicians and respiratory therapists who are hospital based and bring superior skill and expertise to the critically injured or ill patient in any life threatening situation. Each flight nurse has an average of 14 years of experience in critical care and 7 years as a flight nurse. Flight nurses assist in the emergency department and intensive care units when they are not flying and time permits. Flight paramedics average 16 years experience and have been part of the Flight For Life team for an average of 4 years.

The program has a uniquely experienced crew of helicopter pilots with an average of 9,500 flight hours and an average of 14 years with Flight For Life. More experienced in mountain flying than any other air medical pilots in the region, they have great respect and familiarity with the regional terrain and geography, making them the best prepared to fly missions which present difficult challenges. All Flight For Life helicopters are equipped with night vision goggles, to enhance the safety of the patient and the crew.

Since 1993, Flight For Life has been accredited by the Commission for the Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems – the first in Colorado to achieve this designation that indicates the commitment to safety, education and quality improvement.

Flight For Life Colorado has transported more than 90,000 patients during its 36 years of operation. As the nation’s first medical air ambulance program, it has become the model for more than 300 air ambulance programs worldwide.

For additional facts on Flight For Life Colorado, please refer to the accompanying FACT SHEET.

(more)

#### *Our Mission*

*We extend the healing ministry of Christ by caring for those who are ill and by nurturing the health of the people in our communities*

# **Flight For Life**

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## **FACT SHEET**

### **Flight For Life Colorado: The Nation's First Hospital-based Air Ambulance Program**

- **Founded by St. Anthony Hospital in 1972, Flight For Life has served as the model for more than 300 flight programs worldwide. Flight For Life is the nation's first, and still one of its finest, air medical transport programs.**
- **Flight For Life Colorado Team Members:**
  - Flight Nurses**
  - Flight Paramedics (EMT-P)**
  - Respiratory Therapists**
  - Emergency Medical Technicians**
  - Fixed Wing Pilots**
  - Fixed Wing Mechanics**
  - Helicopter Pilots**
  - Helicopter Mechanics**
  - Communications Specialists**
- **Although operated by St. Anthony Hospital, Flight For Life transports patients to the most appropriate medical facility regardless of affiliation.**
- **Flight For Life is the air ambulance of choice in the mountains for ski patrols and search and rescue groups. Services offered include specialized avalanche rescue programs transporting search dogs, handlers and snow safety technicians to the scene of a slide.**
- **Flight For Life is the air ambulance of choice for:**
  - The Children's Hospital**
  - University Hospital**
  - Multiple Ski Patrols**
  - World Cup Races at Beaver Creek**
  - Search and Rescue groups across the state**
  - Outward Bound**
- **Flight For Life has flown missions to 40 states and the District of Columbia, Canada, Mexico and Costa Rica.**
- **Serving the region for 37 years, Flight For Life received the Denver Business Journal's, "Champions in Health Care Award 2008."**

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