



# MMA Insider



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## Free Flights to Texas Help Sisters with Rare Disorder



Meaghan, 11, and Stephanie (Steffi), 13, suffer from ASA (Argininosuccinic Aciduria), a rare disorder that was inadequately treated at their local hospital in Toronto, Canada. Their condition required travel to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. Mercy Medical Airlift stepped in to help by giving free airline tickets through a "special lift" program.

ASA is characterized by elevated levels of ammonia in the body that can cause damage to the brain and liver. The girls follow a protein-restricted diet and take the supplement arginine.

Their parents, Robert and Rita, attended a consortium in Toronto on the recommendation of their doctor, who said Meaghan and Steffi would be good candidates for a clinical study to be conducted at Texas Children's. The parents filled out the paperwork, and the girls were enrolled in the research trial in October 2008. But the costs of travel were

prohibitive.

Alyssa Tran, a nurse at the hospital in Houston, told Robert and Rita about Mercy Medical Airlift. The director of flight operations, Dannie Duckworth, arranged round trip tickets for Meaghan, Steffi and their parents. "He is wonderful. He did all the paperwork. It was smooth sailing from that moment on," Rita said.

The family has taken two trips to Houston so far and will be able to receive further assistance if medical travel is required in the future.

"Without their help, none of this would have been possible," Rita said. ✈

## Give Miles, Save Lives!



**Donate your miles to a great cause.**  
**Give wings to patients needing charitable flights.**

US Airways partners with Mercy Medical Airlift to provide free airline tickets. The airline is launching a campaign to expand outreach through a mileage matching program that will match 1,000 miles for every 5,000 miles donated to MMA. Through its Dividend Miles division, US Airways will match donations up to 25,000 miles.

To donate miles, visit [www.MercyMedical.org](http://www.MercyMedical.org) or [www.usairways.com/donatemiles](http://www.usairways.com/donatemiles). Be sure to tell your friends and family to do the same!

**Campaign extends from Nov. 24 until Dec. 31.**

# Numbers Tell Only Partial Story of MMA Service



Looking at the numbers of the many patients served by MMA this quarter and over the years gives us a feeling of accomplishment, and it is good

information to share with you, our friends and supporters who rightly hold us accountable.

But when we look at the patients' faces and hear their voices, that is something different. Statistics can't convey the heart of all we do; namely, our life-giving service to individuals and families struggling with enormous medical and financial challenges-- Meaghan and Stephanie, for example, sisters who suffer from a rare disorder and whose story is told in

but suffered a heart attack during emergency treatment, leaving his brain without oxygen for 30 minutes. Doctors said he would be in a vegetative state for the rest of his life.

<b>PROGRAM REPORT</b>	
<b>July-Sept. 2009</b>	
<b>Clients Served FYTD.....</b>	<b>25,360</b>
<b>Public Benefit.....</b>	<b>\$1,199,532</b>

What a miracle it was to hear this same soldier deliver the keynote speech at Halos and Heroes, the annual fundraiser for Air Compassion for Veterans (ACV) held at the Virginia Beach "Warbird" airport.

Administered by Mercy Medical Airlift, the ACV program has provided numerous flights for 29-year-old Eric and his family, enabling him to receive advanced medical care unavailable to him in his hometown of New Bern, North Carolina.

Because he can't speak, he "talked" through a special computer to a rapt audience at an honors ceremony that was part of the October 3 event.

We gave him a standing ovation and saluted him as well as his wife, Stephanie, their young daughter Gracie, and his parents, Ed and Beth Edmundson.

The loving support of his family, his fighting spirit, and the gift of medical air transportation were the factors that rescued an American hero from a tragic fate.

We thank God for Eric and all the other thousands of veterans and patients we are able to help each year. And we thank you for the financial support that makes all this possible. ↗



**Sgt. Edmundson and his family are homeward bound following Halos and Heroes. The airplane will be flown by Angel Flight pilot Jeff Douglass (far right).**

this newsletter.

And then there is Eric Edmundson, an Army sergeant who was severely wounded in Iraq when a roadside bomb detonated. He survived the explosion

## 'Compassion' Wins Film Award

We are pleased to announce that *Compassion Takes Flight* has won a Redemptive Storyteller Award 2009. The award was presented on Oct. 17 at Regent University in Virginia Beach. Go to our website to order your DVD copy of this heartwarming documentary.

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