



IMPACT REPORT

JULY-DECEMBER 2023



Navigating Lasting Impact



NAVIGATING LASTING IMPACT

I am pleased to welcome you into the stories of Wings Over the Rockies™ first impact report. Within these pages you will see that in just six months Wings was able to make a significant impact in our community.

Successes include:

- Behind the Wings Season 5 premiered on Rocky Mountain PBS
- 11 Pilot Pathway scholarship students completed their solo flights
- 134 Young Eagles were flown at Exploration of Flight
- Over 2,445 volunteer hours were spent restoring aircraft
- More than 8,000 students were reached through education outreach and museum tours

These numbers are incredible. I often lean on data when making decisions and have learned that even in the simplest process data varies. Change is nuanced and to see the full scope of the impact made in six months, a year or three decades, there needs to be a moment of pause, and a step back to find the forest through the trees. As museums move towards a data driven lens, it is important to us at Wings Over the Rockies to look at the whole picture, and examine the personal stories and experiences of our supporters.



When a parent shares that our Sensory Friendly hours are “magical mornings” because their child is allowed to be himself, or when a child “flies” on the Wright Flyer exhibit and begins to understand the four forces of flight. These experiences and more bring smiles, discovery and learning to our guests. These are the moments worth pausing for and are a reminder to not look at impact in only one way.

I’m grateful I have been here for it all. And I look forward to sharing Wings’ future successes as we continue to navigate lasting impact.



Kristina Stuber
Chief Development Officer

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INSPIRING STORIES



SINCE JULY, 11 SOLO FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY FLIGHT SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS



In addition to supplementing flight school tuition, Wings provides awardees with tips on how to select an airport, flight school, and instructor. Students can enroll in the Private Pilot Ground School at Exploration of Flight, have access to Wings' RedBird FMX flight simulator, and receive a full set of study materials. They are also invited to monthly social events where they can network with other scholarship awardees and alumni.

Wings Over the Rockies aims to inspire the next generation of aviators and, when possible, support them on their journey. Thanks to funding from The James C. Ray Foundation, Wings offers flight training scholarships to aspiring pilots aged 15-18.

"It's really just a phenomenal opportunity," recipient Tristan Faragallah says of Wings' Flight Training Scholarships. "There's really nothing else like it."

In November 2023, Wings recognized the first five winners of the annual Colonel James Harvey III Outstanding Scholarship Student Awards. Each of the award recipients earned the fastest certification in their scholarship class, starting when the student received a flight training scholarship and ending when they passed their Private Pilot Practical Exam. Faragallah won the 2022 Col. Harvey Award.

While working 35 hours per week, Faragallah carved out significant time for his training at Western Air Flight Academy at Colorado Air and Space Port. Three days a week, he'd fit two flights into his schedule. His morning flight demanded a 5 a.m. wakeup and an hour-long commute, followed by plane prep. After landing, he and his trainer would take a long break before going back out for an afternoon flight. *"We got a good mix of flying in different environments,"* Faragallah says.

INSPIRING STORIES

Asked about the aggressive pace he set for himself, he says, *"I had a lot of people helping me who I couldn't let down...I dedicated three months of my life to get it done fast and as efficiently as possible."*

As part of the scholarship program, Faragallah took advantage of Wings' ground school, which he found *"pretty comprehensive."* He also enjoyed networking with his peers at monthly social events. *"We're all going through the experience, so it's good to talk about what we've done, what we've seen, and the struggles we're having,"* he says. *"Usually someone can help in some way."*

The experience instilled in him a strong appreciation for the gift of mentorship. *"I'm only 20, but I've begun to learn that there's no greater joy in life than helping other people and seeing others grow,"* Faragallah says. He hopes to pay it forward by attracting more applicants to the program, having heard about it himself through word of mouth.

"Up until a couple of months before the scholarship deadline, I had no intention of getting into aviation at all," he says. Watching his brother graduate from Air Force flight training piqued his interest, and when he learned about the scholarship program at Wings, he applied.

Now working toward his bachelor's degree, the young pilot plans to join the Air Force after graduation and continue his path toward a career in aviation.

“

Up until a couple of months before the scholarship deadline, I had no intention of getting into aviation at all.

– Tristan Faragallah



Recipient of the **Colonel James Harvey III Outstanding Flight Scholarship Student Award**

INSPIRING STORIES

**OVER 2,445
VOLUNTEER HOURS
WERE SPENT ON
RESTORING AIRCRAFT
FROM JULY -
DECEMBER 2023**

Wings Over the Rockies volunteers come to the museum from all walks of life, each bringing a unique set of experiences, skills, and interests. For Eric Bartczak, riding his bike past the MiG-23 while it was parked outside sparked his interest in Wings. His wife took note, gifting him a membership to the museum in 2021. She also suggested he volunteer. Within two months he was onsite for his first day as a volunteer with the restorations department.

A mostly retired architect, Bartczak works alongside volunteers with backgrounds in aircraft maintenance and engineering. Members of the restorations crew don't always come from the world of aviation, but often feel called by a personal or professional bond to the work.

For Bartczak, restoring planes, building exhibits, and simply being around the historic aircraft make him feel connected to his late father, who was a master airplane mechanic during



Eric Bartczak working on the Wright Flyer Exhibit

WWII and later worked as a civilian member of the Air Force Logistics Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. Bartczak grew up visiting the National Museum of the United States Air Force and watching B-52s and KC-135s fly over his backyard. He even attended the same high school as the Wright Brothers, although they were “just a few years ahead of me,” he jokes.

Bartczak uses his extensive architecture skills in various ways, from taking detailed measurements of aircraft to building exhibit components and designing prototypes. His work is on display in the recently updated Wright Flyer exhibit. Bartczak built the display cabinet for three models related to early flight.

Reflecting on the grand opening of the updated Wright Flyer exhibit, Bartczak says

“Over the years I’ve attended a lot of grand openings for projects I’ve worked on, and I’ve rarely received so much appreciation for so little effort (in the greater scheme of things). I am proud and humbled to be a part of Wings.”

Volunteer Brings the RF-84K Back to Life

About the RF-84K

The RF-84K is one of the most unique planes in Wings' collection. It was designed to be flown into position as a "parasite" by a larger bomber. With cameras pointing toward the ground, it captured reconnaissance photos of enemy targets. Today, our RF-84K looks like it rolled off the assembly line thanks to the volunteers who have spent years restoring the aircraft. Restoration included recreating missing parts of the cockpit, reattaching the canopy, repurposing used lighting to highlight the cameras and a lot of painting and polishing!



Volunteer - Jim Kirkham



BEFORE



AFTER

Transforming History: The Before and After of the RF-84

Much of the fine detail work seen on the RF-84K was completed by Jim Kirkham, who began volunteering at Wings in 2019. After a 25-year career as an airplane mechanic, he worked for and retired from Owens Illinois, a glass bottle manufacturer. A desire to return to aviation brought him to Wings, where he found his niche among the restorations crew. To accurately replicate the lettering on the RF-84K, Jim uses a vinyl cutting machine, its associated software, and Adobe Illustrator to create stencils. He worked from detailed photographs of another extant model and identified the remnants of long faded words on our plane.

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS



Donors Teach their Children About Charitable Giving

“
It's important to give back so other people can have experiences and maybe hook them into aviation the way I did at such a young age.”

– Shaun Regan

For the Regan family, aviation is “in the blood.” Both Shaun and Kelly Regan grew up with pilots as parents. Now, they are sharing that legacy with their children.

In addition to passing down a love for flying, the two teach their kids about the value of philanthropic support. *“It's important, if you're blessed with more than enough, to give back to the community,”* Kelly says. Including the aviation community in their charitable giving was a no-brainer.

“One of the fun things we did recently is we wrapped up [our 2023] donations just sitting around the table and everybody getting to chime in on what's important to them,” Shaun says, “and then trying to find a charity that falls in that.”

For the family of four, supporting Wings Over the Rockies' Centennial location—Exploration of Flight—made sense. Their \$5,000 donation will support the center's operating fund and earn the Regans a place on the donor wall.

The couple hopes their gift will help expose more people to aviation. *“The museum is nice because you get to see the old artifacts,”* Kelly says. *“But to actually get hands-on in some of the little stations there in the hangar [at Exploration of Flight], it really gives you an idea of what pilots do.”*



“ [Exploration of Flight is] a great exposure for young kids and adults, an intro into aviation... Hopefully others will see that they can give back and help give aviation to somebody else.”

– Shaun Regan

As a family, the Regans have attended fly-ins and showcases, enjoyed exhibits that teach visitors what it's like to fly in instrument conditions, and utilized the desktop Jayhawk simulators.

“My son loves to fly those, and I can actually help him set up the simulator and get him on the right approach with the right airplane that he wants to play around with,” Kelly says. Her 12-year-old son and nine-year-old daughter factored into Kelly's decision to get her private pilot's license a few years back.

“[Shaun] wanted to fly around in little airplanes again,” Kelly says. *“I thought, well, if we're going to have our kids in the back of these things, I don't want you to be the only one who can get it on the ground.”*

Both Kelly's father and stepfather were fighter pilots for the Navy who went on to fly professionally for airlines

up until their retirement. *“I wish I had been a little more involved as a kid, because I probably would have chosen a different career path as a pilot,”* she says.

As a second-generation airline pilot, Shaun was six or seven years old when his stepdad introduced him to flying. The experience lit a spark that ultimately led to Shaun's career in aviation. He hopes to do the same for the next generation, including his children.

“Whether they choose to do it as a profession or as a hobby is completely up to them,” he says. *“I also want to support other people who may have not had the same opportunity, where the Exploration of Flight may be their first exposure and the first thing that hooks them in.”*



Donor's Enhancements to the Wright Brothers Exhibit Tells a More Comprehensive Story and Celebrates the 120th Anniversary of Powered Flight

Wings board member, volunteer and donor, Steve Bates, has a combined passion for philanthropy, history, aerospace and education that's resulted in incredible generosity to Wings. As the son of an early aerospace draftsman, Steve has loved spaceflight and aircraft since he was a young child. It was a visit to the museum with his late father where he saw the joy in his dad's face when he encountered the historical tools he used as a former "human computer" in designing the Atlas missile that cemented Steve's commitment to Wings.

Q&A WITH STEVE BATES

Do you have any personal connections or experiences that have shaped your interest in Wings mission?

Some of my earliest memories are of aircraft. Both my father and mother worked in the aerospace industry at the height of the Cold War in the 1950s-60s. Growing up, I was always going through my dad's library of historical aircraft books, building scale models, drawing spacecraft, or going to air shows with my father. I can't remember a time when I didn't love airplanes. Both the science of how they work and the stories of those who designed, built and flew them fascinate me, which is why I am so passionate about Wings' mission to educate, inspire and excite all people about aviation and space endeavors of the past, present and future.

“

This exhibit won't be just about static artifacts. Instead, it will be an interactive experience by taking the guest through the entire story of the Wright Brothers.

– Steve Bates



INTERVIEW WITH STEVE BATES - CONT

Before I started volunteering, my kids attended Wings summer camps, so I saw first-hand how Wings' programs could ignite a passion for aerospace. I've been able to watch the impact that those early formative experiences at Wings have had on my children. Today, my son is involved in his high school aerospace and physics clubs and is even leading a service project for Wings. I give to Wings as a tribute to my dad to thank him for bringing me this passion and passing it on to my kids. When I see the historical draftsman workstation exhibit and the tools he used to perform those complex calculations all those years ago, it makes me happy.

Can you share a personal story or experience that influences your decision to support Wings Over the Rockies for so many years?

I brought my father to Wings before he passed away. During the 1950s-60s he worked for RCA's Missile Division, General Atomics, and Lockheed, building and deploying the Atlas missile. This was a time before computers, and thousands of engineers and draftsman like my dad were the computers, doing incredibly complex math to calculate everything from the heating



effects on the payload to re-entry guidance for manned space flight. He lit up when he saw the vintage draftsman table for the Titan program, spending more than a half an hour talking about the tools of the trade that he had used. Seeing his love and excitement about one of our lesser-known Wings exhibits coupled with my children's experience at summer camp here, made it an easy decision to get involved.

Why is philanthropy important to you?

Our family motto is: See a job, do a job. It was in that spirit that my wife, Susanne, and I established the Bates Family Foundation. We are big believers in the power of giving of Time, Talent and Treasure. Everyone has one of those things. It is our responsibility as members of the community to give back. We believe that giving back ignites the human spirit and I encourage others to do so.



OUR IMPACT

JULY 2023 – DECEMBER 2023



528

Volunteer hours
preserving artifacts and
archival materials for the
Wings' collection



Ground school class
offerings have doubled due
to growing demand

3,187
Tour participants



72% Students



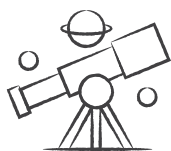
12

134

Young Eagles flown
from the Clay Lacy
Field of Dreams Ramp



JULY 2023 – DECEMBER 2023



Wings provides **over \$30,000 a year in scholarship funds** for field trips and school outreach

7

private pilot licenses
earned by flight
scholarship students



“

I soloed yesterday! I had so much fun, and I haven't stopped thinking about it. I felt like my hard work had paid off!”

– Jared Silverio, 2023 Scholarship Awardee



History Comes to Life, a weekend showcase, featured the historic Ford Tri-Motor and C-47, “That’s All Brother”, that led the D-Day invasion.

This four-day event included over 500 flights and more than 1700 guests.



The Wingman volunteer program grew 27%.
Wingman are mentors to flight scholarship students and guide them through the process of earning their private pilot’s license.



11



Wings Aerospace Pathways students received their Part 107 Drone Pilot license

OUR IMPACT

Supporting Our Communities

with Sensory Friendly Hours

For children and adults with sensory processing difficulties, such as autism, sensory processing disorder, and PTSD, the sounds and bright lights of a museum during normal operating hours can be overwhelming.

As part of Wings Over the Rockies' strategic goal to improve access for people with disabilities, the museum launched quarterly Sensory Friendly Hours in July 2023. During these special openings, Wings creates a fun and welcoming atmosphere for individuals with sensory processing issues and their families. Guests can prepare for their visit by reading the museum's "social story," a brief narrative that shares some of the things people can see and do at Wings. Knowing what to expect can make going to new places less jarring for some individuals. To offer this event, and better assist neurodivergent guests during all operating hours, Wings completed a site assessment, offered training to all staff, and received support and mentorship from community organizations.

Donor support allows Wings to buy activity supplies, fund accommodations, and offer Sensory Friendly Hours to our guests free of charge. It also enables the museum to seek out community partnerships and ensure staff are trained to offer the best guest experience possible.



“

We appreciate so much that this event exists! There are so few places that do this for families like ours. We met a family that drove from Colorado Springs to attend the event and thought it was amazing that they would go so far to attend. That shows how rare events like this happen. Thank you so much for doing this!

Accommodations



Facility

- Dimmed lights
- Low volume
- Smaller crowds
- Activities for sensory seekers
- Low Sensory Room



Support Materials

- Sensory Map
- Social Story
- Pre-visit Packet
- S.P.A.R.K. Packs



Partnerships

Sensory Friendly Denver, Autism Community Store through Denver Health and Human Services

OUR IMPACT



Supporting Our Communities *through Education Outreach*

EDUCATION OUTREACH TOUCHES A RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS



Over
5,000
Students Reached



Over
30
School Visits



10
Community Wide
Events



Wings Aerospace Pathways Program
featured at ASTC Conference

OUR IMPACT



Supporting Our Communities

Honoring Our Past

On September 18, 2023, Wings Over the Rockies™ partnered with the United States Air Force Historical Foundation for the 2023 Wings of Valor: Vietnam Air War Veterans Celebration. This event recognized the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam war, and most importantly gave tribute to the fearless aviators who soared through the turbulent skies of Vietnam, demonstrated unparalleled bravery and unwavering determination. The guest speaker was General Ron Fogleman, USAF (Ret).



THE POWER OF CONTENT



It's time to go...
Behind the Wings!



Behind the Wings[®] is produced by Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, Colorado's Official Air and Space Museum and the programming includes: a PBS TV series, Behind the Wings YouTube monthly videos and as a podcast.

The stories are a captivating and informative exploration into the world of aviation and aerospace. The content offers viewers and listeners an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at various aspects of aviation, including aircraft restoration, historical insights and interviews with industry experts. With high production quality and engaging storytelling, "*Behind the Wings*" provides aviation enthusiasts and the general audience alike with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the rich history and advancements in aviation and space endeavors.

Behind The Wings video series is also distributed internationally through American Public Television (APT)

THE POWER OF CONTENT

Behind the Wings PBS is in its 6th season of production. It is first distributed on the Rocky Mountain public broadcast station (RMPBS) and then nationally on PBS. It is also distributed digitally on PBS.org and PBS passport.



Behind the Wings® PBS
Series has aired in 106 markets,
39 states and reaches 60%
of the country.

300K+

Social Media
Followers

40M+

Social Media Short
Form Views



50M+

YouTube
Lifetime Views



Behind the Wings – The Podcast
is heading to its 4th season.

Behind the Wings podcast takes you on an
exhilarating journey into the world of aerospace.

Peaked at #16
Top 100 US Aviation
Podcasts in 2023

20K+
Downloads

OUR ORGANIZATION



CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHARLIE JOHNSON

Board Chairman

President (Ret) | Cessna Aircraft

JOHN KNUDSEN

Vice Chairman

Attorney | Law Office of John Knudsen

MEGAN FISHER

Treasurer

Director of Major Gifts | Denver Health Foundation

EMANUEL ANTON

Secretary

Managing Partner | Bizjet Law PLLC

JOHN BARRY

Major General, USAF (Ret)
President and CEO | Wings Over the Rockies

STEVE BATES

Advisory Partner (Ret) | KPMG

CAPT MICHAEL BONNER

Managing Director Aviate & Pilot Strategy

JACK CRONIN

Real Estate Developer
Cronin & Company

WILLIE DANIELS

President & CEO | Shades of Blue

GLENN DAVIS

Chief Retail Officer | Alpine Bank

DAVE DICKERSON

Principal | Grace Dickerson

ROB FUSCHINO

Pilot Instructor / Evaluator | United Airlines

RYAN HOWSAM

Founder & CEO | BLDX Inc.

DANA KIRCHMAR

Vice President, Customer Support Operations | SmartSky Networks, LLC

ANDY KLOSTERMAN

Owner | Peak Beverage

DAGMAR KRESS

Competitive Aerobatic Pilot & Coach | Metropolitan State University of Denver

CHRIS LEACH

Partner / Attorney | Carriere & Little, LLP

STEVE LINDSEY

Vice President | Sierra Nevada

CONOR MCCALLIN

Vice President | Morgan Stanley

JEFF PUCKETT

CEO | Jet Linx

LT. COLONEL JAMES REEMAN

F-16 Pilot | Air National Guard
767 Captain | Delta Airlines

COLLIN SCOTT

Regional Sales Manager | Salesforce

MILTON "SKIP" SMITH

Attorney | Sherman & Howard

RONALD SMITH

Retired | Air Force & Defense Contractor

SHAWN WALLACE

787 Instructor and Pilot | United Airlines
Managing Director | Ratio Wealth Group

RICHARD WARYN

CEO | LDK Logistics, Inc.

DONATA ZIEDINS

Senior Manager of Fleet Standards | United Airlines

GREG ANDERSON

Board Member Emeritus

TOM MARSH

Board Member Emeritus

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JOHN L. BARRY

Maj Gen, USAF (Ret)
President & CEO

JORDAN ASHLEY

Executive Director, Exploration of Flight

CHRISTA DRAKE

Director of Accounting

ERIC ATWOOD

Chief Operating & Financial Officer

KAREN SLYE

Director of Marketing

SCOTT SHINKLE

Director of Facilities

KRISTINA STUBER

Chief Development Officer

MICHELLE MCMAHON

Director of Education

CHUCK STOUT

Curator

DAWN HEATON

Director of Corporate Sales & Events



HOW TO GET INVOLVED



APRIL IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

Come for a visit, meet our volunteers and hear about their personal experiences with our aircraft. Consider becoming a part of the Wings family by becoming a volunteer.

Learn more by scanning the QR code below.



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK IS MAY 6-10

Remind your network of Colorado teachers that every teacher on the front range is eligible for a free flight on a Wings Over the Rockies aircraft when they become part of our Teacher Flight Pathway.

Learn more at:
WingsMuseum.org/Teacher-Flight-Pathway

FOLLOW US



@wingsmuseum
WingsMuseum.org

ONE ORGANIZATION. TWO LOCATIONS

AIR & SPACE MUSEUM
7711 E. Academy Blvd
Denver, CO 80230

EXPLORATION OF FLIGHT
13005 Wings Way
Englewood, CO 80112