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## Business

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High Flyers

# CareFlite offers open enrollment program for Parker County

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Since its formation in 1979, CareFlite has successfully transported more than 72,000 patients by air.

But few main realize the company's trademark orange and blue dual engine helicopters aren't the only modes of transportation the non-profit organization offers, and it's not the only thing that keeps them flying high.

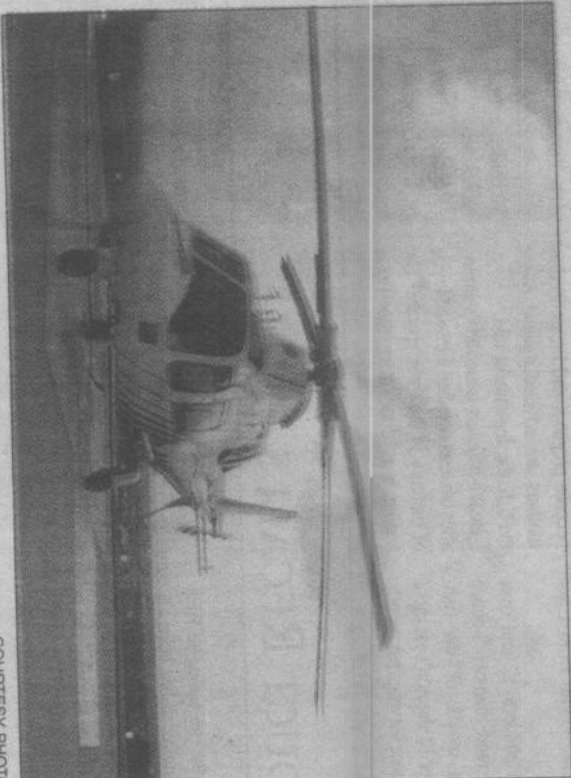
In addition to their air ambulance efforts, which are comprised not only of the helicopters but also fixed-wing transport as well, the agency provides 9-1-1 and ground ambulance services.

According to James Swartz, CareFlite president and CEO, the company prides itself on maintaining a level of excellence and quality with their vehicles and pilots.

"All of our aircraft is twin engine," he said. "That way if one motor quits the aircraft can continue to fly."

"We require an Airline Transport Rating for all of our pilots; we are one of the few companies to require that.

"Our pilots are some of the most skilled around and a significant number of them



COURTESY PHOTO

CareFlite has been in operation for 28 years, and in that time it has successfully transported more than 72,000 patients.

are ex-military."

In addition to highly trained pilots and enhanced aircraft the company also employs cutting edge technologies, to ensure nothing hinders the team from

completing their goals.

GPS systems are installed in all the companies helicopters and planes. The systems allow for flights and approach to landing zones even in severely inclement

weather.

Swartz said when it comes to serious injury or trauma.

The fact that the well-known and highly recognizable business is a non profit is another fact, that Swartz said often surprises people.

"Any success we have just goes right back into serving the community," he said.

In keeping with serving the greater good, CareFlite recently opened enrollment on a new program, which highly reduces the costs of their services and in some cases erases the potential financial strain completely.

The program, recently approved through the Texas Department of Health, offers Parker and Palo Pinto County residents a chance to have full coverage, so to speak, in case they would ever need air transportation.

"Everybody is going to have an ambulance ride sooner or later," Swartz said.

"And if you need transportation for an advanced medical service Campbell Hospital may not offer, you may have to be transported by air."

The Caring-Heart Membership Program is an air ambulance membership which covers the costs of a potential transport for \$49, money paid includes everyone in a household.

For those who are uninsured the program offers a reduction of 50 percent on the cost of CareFlite's services, which according to Swartz is a good way to go for those who may be un-insured or on Medicare.

"CareFlite can't solve all the problems of the un-insured," he said. "But I think this is one way we can help that problem."

The overall package takes worry out of the ever-rising cost of medical treatment in some ways, and allows for patients to put their focus on what's most important. "With the membership you don't have to be concerned with the costs," Swartz said. "All you have to worry about is getting well."

Enrollment for the Caring-Heart Program is open through April 30.

For more information or to download application forms visit [www.careflite.org](http://www.careflite.org).