March 31, 2025

**General Information about Houston Ground Angels**

Houston Ground Angels (“HGA”) is a 501(c)(3) based in Houston, Texas that provides medical ground transportation to cancer patients flying in from around the world, and local residents that live within a 13-county area around Houston. Over 90 percent of these patients are traveling to/from MD Anderson Cancer Center locations.

The inspiration for Houston Ground Angels began with a simple phone call. In 2000, Kathy Broussard, a private pilot who volunteered to fly patients to Houston, received a call from one of her clients, Eva Tovar. Tearfully, Eva informed Kathy that she was cancelling her trip to Houston because she could not afford the cost of ground transportation between the airport and MD Anderson. Kathy refused to cancel and kept telling Eva to come to Houston and they would figure it out. Finally, Kathy said she would personally drive Eva to her appointment at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

The notion that someone from out of town would not be able to receive the medical treatment they needed in Houston simply because they could not afford the taxi fare between the airport and the Medical Center was too much for Kathy. She was determined to make fellow Houstonians aware of this simple, vital need. She placed a small ad in the volunteer section of the local newspaper, and Houston Ground Angels was born.

According to early records, volunteers came forward in large numbers and completed approximately 300 missions in what remained of that year.

**The Present and the Future:** Since its inception, Houston Ground Angels volunteers have completed over 45,000 missions, and each year the number of requests for transportation missions grows. Now, with HGA providing medical transportation for
local patients too, the number of missions is rising quickly. Last year, as COVID fears decreased, HGA provided rides to over 4,000 patients.

In 2024, we received **6,808 requests for service** (“Missions”), of which we completed 4,288. 235 of these were fulfilled by Uber at HGA expense, funding of which came from donations and grants. Historic activity levels are as follows, and shows continual growth in demand:

2023 – 5,742 2022 – 4,280

2021 – 2,100 2020 – 1,601

2019 – 2,289 2018 – 1,812

**Mission Statement:** To provide complementary medical ground transportation for local patients living in the Greater Houston Metropolitan Area and from area airports and the Texas Medical Center for patients flying to Houston for medical treatment.

**Goals:** HGA has only two goals: To ensure that every low-income patient that needs local medical ground transportation for medical treatments receives transportation and to help each patient feel supported, that they are not alone.

**Sources of Funds:** HGA is funded by donations and grants. Most of our day-to-day donations are small ($50-100) from past patients and their families.

**Organization Expenses:** HGA has only one paid position – the full time Executive Director. When funding is available, we pay for Uber rides for some patients and we also provide gas cards occasionally for the volunteers that do many missions. The remainder of the organization’s cost is quite small and consists of IT/website maintenance, office expenses, shirts and caps for volunteers. Our total annual budget is less than $100k.

**Greatest Challenge:** Attracting new volunteers. We cannot keep up with the increasing demand. Since most of our volunteers have come from knowing existing volunteers, we need the help of our volunteer community to get the word out that we are in need. Publicizing HGA via social media, news articles, and magazines are not preferred methods as these have generated many more patients and very few volunteers.

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