



## **Two Legacies, One Mission**

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#### **Flight For Life and ThedaStar unite to strengthen air medical transport across Wisconsin**

**Waukesha, Wis. – May 27, 2026** – Residents across eastern Wisconsin will benefit from strengthened access to life-saving air medical transport as Flight For Life and ThedaStar announce a program merger.

Together, Flight For Life and ThedaStar are combining into a unified air medical transport program—bringing together two of Wisconsin’s most trusted and experienced teams to strengthen access, improve coordination, and enhance the delivery of critical care transport across the region.

“This integration allows us to combine the strengths of both programs in a way that directly benefits the communities we serve,” said Leif Erickson, Executive Director of Flight For Life and ThedaStar. “By leveraging best practices from each organization, we can improve reliability, expand access, and ensure the long-term sustainability of air medical transport.”

Flight For Life has transported more than 41,000 patients across Wisconsin and operates from bases in Waukesha, Burlington and Hartford. ThedaStar has completed more than 15,000 flights since 1986, serving communities throughout the region with highly specialized critical care transport.

The newly unified program will focus on:

- Enhancing clinical and operational performance by leveraging best practices from both organizations
- Expanding service area coverage to reach more communities in need
- Improving coordination to increase aircraft availability and reduce delays
- Increasing aircraft and staffing efficiency to reduce out-of-service time
- Strengthening service for patients, hospital partners, and EMS agencies

This merger represents a strategic investment in expanding—not reducing—service. The unified program is designed to improve availability, reduce response times, and ensure more patients can access timely, life-saving care when and where it’s needed most.

“Our focus is on strengthening access—not scaling back,” Erickson added. “By aligning our resources and expertise, we are better positioned to serve a broader geographic area and deliver the level of care our communities expect and deserve.”

Both Flight For Life and ThedaStar will continue operating under their established and trusted brands, maintaining the strong community connections they have built over decades.

Flight For Life and ThedaStar will continue working closely with healthcare partners, EMS providers, and community stakeholders to ensure a seamless transition and uninterrupted service throughout the integration process.

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Air transportation provided by Apollo and PHI