

# FACT SHEET

- Mission:** To use aviation as a tool to empower seriously ill children and their families through flight experiences and education programs.
- How:** The organization's primary program is their annual event, **Wings of Wonder™**. Since 2003, Kids in Flight™ has given children and their families sightseeing flights around the Cleveland area with experienced, licensed pilots free of charge. In addition to airplane rides, the event includes other aviation-related activities including arts and crafts, educational exhibits, clowns, magicians, aircraft displays, food and more.
- Why:** The philosophy behind the program is that when in flight, objects below appear smaller. For children fighting serious illnesses, the escape and excitement of flying can give them a new perspective. Through Kids in Flight programs, children are encouraged to have a positive attitude and reach for their dreams.
- Who:** Kids in Flight was founded by Cleveland native Maria Weybrecht in 2003 when she was 20-years old. Weybrecht had just obtained her private pilots license and was on her way to becoming a career military pilot when she was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of cancer. Since the diagnoses, she has not been able to pursue her original goal. Although she is still battling the disease, her love of flying remains strong. Kids in Flight is Weybrecht's way of sharing the inspiration, joy and hope of flight with families who need it most while giving back to those who helped her along her road to recovery.
- Donations:** In 2005, Kids in Flight, Inc. became a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law under Section 501(3)(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. To make an online donation, visit [www.kidsinflight.org](http://www.kidsinflight.org). Checks can be made payable to Kids in Flight and sent to the address below.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Kids in Flight	216-287-6565
P.O. Box 5234	<a href="mailto:info@kidsinflight.org">info@kidsinflight.org</a>
Willowick, Ohio 44095	<a href="http://www.kidsinflight.org">www.kidsinflight.org</a>

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Susan Shaw / Polakoff Communications / 216-941-7255

## **ABOUT MARIA WEYBRECHT**

- Valedictorian, summa cum laude, Cleveland State University. B.A. in journalism and promotional communication, December 2005. Graduate Certificate in Non-Profit Management, May 2007. Pursuing a master's degree in Business Administration.
- Obtained private pilot license, 2002
- Member of Airplane Owner's and Pilot's Association, Ninety-Nines, Public Relations Society of America, Women in Aviation International
- Named one of the Top 10 College Women of 2005 by *Glamour Magazine*
- Recipient of the Beauty of Giving Award by L'Oreal Paris

*Revised: June 2007*