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UINTAH BASIN HEALTHCARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

UBMC Celebrates One-Year Partnership with Intermountain Healthcare Life Flight

January 26, 2016: In an effort to enhance access to trauma and specialty care for residents of Eastern Utah, Uintah Basin Medical Center (UBMC) and Intermountain Healthcare joined forces to bring the Intermountain Life Flight program to Roosevelt, Utah in January of 2015. Since then, the helicopter and Life Flight team have been stationed full-time at UBMC.

This partnership marked the first time that Intermountain Healthcare had partnered with a non-Intermountain Healthcare facility. However, it was a bit of a homecoming for Life Flight, as Roosevelt was the location of the program's first patient flight when the Life Flight program was launched on July 6, 1978.

K.D. Simpson, who was on the first flight to Roosevelt's hospital, is still with Life Flight today. "I was on Life Flight's very first flight to this hospital in 1978. UBMC was a great place then and it's a great place today. UBMC staff and Life Flight staff know each other by name. This is such a gracious community and the partnership has been fantastic for us," said K.D. Simpson, MPA, Paramedic for Life Flight.

The Intermountain Life Flight program currently operates six helicopters, which travel about 120 and 150 mph: Two Agusta A109 K2 (one based at the Life Flight Operation Center, and one based at the Uintah Basin Medical Center) and four Agusta AW109 SP Grand based along the Wasatch Front and Southern Utah to serve the intermountain community. The 4 other bases are located at Intermountain Medical Center, Murray; McKay Dee Medical Center, Ogden; Utah Valley Regional Medical Center, Provo; and Dixie Regional Medical Center, St. George.

In the year that Life Flight has been stationed at UBMC, they have transported 237 patients, 167 of which have been transported via helicopter. The remaining patients were either transported by ground or with the Life Flight Fixed Wing aircraft.

As the only civilian air transport service in the United States to be certified by the FAA to conduct hoist/rescue operations, Life Flight's ability to bring specialized emergency equipment and medical personnel to remote locations where patients are critically ill or injured has been very beneficial to our area.

"Our level of care has continued to rise as we have focused on patient needs. A combined effort of dedicated staff focusing on the patient experience, and the completion of our Emergency Department renovation and construction, helped us earn the 2015 and 2016 Women's Choice Award. Our partnership with Life Flight has provided quick, reliable transportation to tertiary care facilities in situations with time-sensitive critical elements, improving patient outcomes. We have welcomed Life Flight to our Uintah Basin Healthcare family and the partnership has been beneficial for both of us," said James Marshall, CEO of Uintah Basin Healthcare.

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Uintah Basin Healthcare is a community not-for-profit healthcare system, serving the Uintah Basin since 1944. Today, Uintah Basin Healthcare is the largest and most comprehensive rural-based independent healthcare system in the state of Utah.



The Life Flight helicopter stationed at Uintah Basin Medical Center.
Photo by Santiago Gonzales with Life Flight



The Life Flight helicopter lifts off for a patient transport.



Local responders prepare for an on-site patient transport.



Local responders prepare for an on-site patient transport.



Some of our UBMC ER Staff and Life Flight Crew 1/26/16



Life Flight crew join Uintah Basin Healthcare employees
Celebrating our 1-year partnership! 1/26/16