

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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## Aviators are building base for rescue work

Wings of Hope Inc., a St. Louis-based humanitarian aviation organization, will construct a new hangar at the Spirit of St. Louis Airport to serve as the group's world headquarters, Joseph G. Fabick, the organization's president, announced Friday.

Work on the 6,400-square-foot hangar will begin this summer and should be finished by December, he said. The \$200,000 hangar project will include offices, meeting rooms, shops and storage space for the organization that provides air transportation and radio communication equipment to needy people in remote regions of the world.

WINGS OF HOPE has arranged to lease a 1.4-acre site for the hangar at the St. Louis County-owned airport in Chesterfield, Fabick said. The \$5,000-a-year lease will be sent to the County Council later this month for final approval, he added.

The organization, which was founded in 1962 by a group of professionals and

businessmen in St. Louis, repairs and modifies airplanes so that the group can give priority service to mercy air missions, such as medical rescue and disaster evacuations, Fabick said.

D. Robert Werner, hangar committee chairman for Wings of Hope, said the hangar will help the not-for-profit organization to operate its charitable work more efficiently across the globe.

UNTIL THE NEW hangar is ready, Wings of Hope will continue to rent space at various airports. Volunteer mechanics will continue to modify airplanes to enable pilots to land and take off in remote areas that do not have improved air strips, Fabick said.

In addition to the hangar, the new site at the Spirit airport will have tie-down space for 10 aircraft, he said.

"This is a big step for us," said William D. Edwards, the organization's executive director. "The new hangar is going to help us usher in another generation of service for the program."

## Group That Flies Mercy Missions To Be Based At Airport In County

Wings of Hope Inc., an organization that flies mercy missions throughout the world, has announced plans to build a central base at the Spirit of St. Louis Airport in Chesterfield.

Joseph G. Fabick, president of Wings of Hope, said the group planned to build a 6,000-square-foot hangar with offices, shops, meeting rooms and storage areas at the airport, which is owned by the county. The group will lease a 1.4-acre site at the airport for \$5,000 a year, pending approval by the St. Louis County Council.

The organization repairs and modifies airplanes to serve remote corners of the world that lack improved airstrips. Wings of Hope was founded in 1962 by a group of St. Louis area residents to provide air transportation and radio communication equipment to needy people throughout the world. The missions involve both medical rescues and disaster evacuations.

The group's offices are at 2319 Hampton Avenue.

Construction of the hangar is expected to begin this summer and should be completed by the end of the year, Fabick said.

County Executive Gene McNary said Friday that it was "fitting that the citizens of St. Louis County will be assisting indirectly in meeting human needs in distant parts of the world."

The construction is part of a general improvement program at the airport, county officials said.

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