



Beth Kempe, founder of The Uniform Project, not only collects used school uniforms for children in Third World countries, she mends and washes them when needed.

## No Uniforms, No School

### Clothing that facilitates education

Buckhead resident Beth Kempe is a self-starter who sees a need and immediately wants to fill it. While she was volunteering at the Woodward Academy resale store in 2010, she noticed that unsold wearable uniforms were virtually destroyed when the logos were cut off.

"What a waste," I thought. There are millions of kids throughout the world who can't attend school without a uniform and therefore don't get an education. I figured there had to be a way to connect the dots," Kempe says.

She began calling churches, asking if they needed uniforms to take on their mission trips. "Fifteen immediately signed up, along with a dozen prestigious private schools who donated uniforms," she says. Foreign nationals who frequently visit their home countries also jumped at the opportunity to take uniforms with them when they traveled. The only caveat specified by all the schools is that any clothing with a logo must be sent overseas.

Without realizing it, Kempe, a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway

Home Services, had stumbled onto a need far bigger than she imagined. The amount of clothing she received quickly outgrew her garage, so she approached the Northside United Methodist Church. They readily donated a room and shelving.

Kempe sorts the recycled uniforms by color and size. "There is also a huge need for soccer uniforms, so I'll amass fifteen shirts of the same color to make a team. We also accept gym shorts, soccer shorts and soccer cleats, but no sneakers or other clothing, she says. She personally boxes the clothing, which is carried onboard with missionaries and others traveling to Third World countries. Since 2010, tons of uniforms have been sent to 17 countries via missionaries or foreign nationals. But the project has outgrown Kempe's ability to handle it alone, and she is seeking volunteers to help sort clothing. Funds are also needed to pay for extra luggage.

● For more information visit [www.theuniformproject.org](http://www.theuniformproject.org).

STORY: Mickey Goodman

## Earth Angels Who Fly

### Pilot donates time and plane to fly medical missions

After Bert Light got his Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) instrument rating and bought a four-seater Mooney, he realized that there must be more to his hobby than just joy flying. Then a sign leading upstairs to the Angel Flight Soars offices at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport caught his eye.

"I'm here to help," the Buckhead resident and partner at Arlite Office Supply Co. told Executive Director Jeanine Chambers, who has headed the organization since 1999. Along with her mother, Bernadette Darnell, director of mission operations, they have facilitated more than 25,000 medical missions with 800 pilots who donate their planes and time. Angel Flight Soars now covers six southeastern states.

Light's first mission was flying an 8-year-old boy with a compromised immune system and his father to Boston for ongoing treatment. To develop rapport, he



Angel Flight pilots are always ready for takeoff. Missions have increased 800 percent since 2000 with approximately 2,400 flights in each of the last three years.

asked the young boy about his tackle box. "He shyly opened it, and instead of fishing lures, each section was piled high with pills he took daily," Light says. "I knew then that this was a powerful organization and I could put my love of flying to good use."

Light flew about 40 missions the first few years and became chairman of the board. "On the day after 9/11 when all planes were grounded, we got permission from the FAA to fly disaster relief missions and transported emergency personnel, cadaver dogs and blood. Our philosophy is that the cost of travel should never stand in the way of people receiving medical care."

"Our greatest need is for additional qualified pilots, volunteers and funds," says Light, who has transitioned to a four-passenger Cirrus.

● Learn more at [www.angelflightsoars.org](http://www.angelflightsoars.org).