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Mountain Air Pilots Association Awards \$28,000 to Yancey Charities

Burnsville, NC (September 14, 2007) -- The Mountain Air Pilots' Association (MAPA) donated \$28,000 to 12 Yancey County organizations during its annual Awards Luncheon held at the Mountain Air Country Club. This was the sixth such event since MAPA was founded in 1994. In total, MAPA has raised more than \$100,000 for local charities and projects which improve the quality of life in Yancey County. Also attending was Burnsville Mayor Danny McIntosh.

MAPA award recipients have included Appalachian Therapeutic Riding Center, Burnsville Chamber of Commerce and Carolina Mountain Literacy Festival, Cal & Carol Peddy Memorial Scholarship Fund, Centro de Enlace, Mitchell-Yancey Partnership for Children, Mountain Heritage High School Music Program, Cougar Club and student scholarships, Construction Trade Collaborative/Habitat for Humanity, Mountain Heritage High School Scholarship, Reconciliation House, Spruce Pine Hospital Foundation, Toe River Arts Council, Yancey County Committee on Aging, Yancey County Public Library, Yancey Volunteer Rescue Squad and West Yancey Volunteer Fire Squad and Women Helping Other Women.

“These awards are made possible by the successful fund raising projects held by the Pilots Association, including auctions, golf tournaments, and calendar sales. We are very appreciative of the generous contributions local businesses and Mountain Air property owners have made to these auctions, and are glad to be able to give back to the organizations that minister to our community with passion and compassion. Without these gifts of items and services to be auctioned, we would not be able to raise funds for the community,” said Dr. Bill Marshal, MAPA's President.

About Mountain Air Pilots' Association, Inc.

The Mountain Air Pilots Association was founded to promote aviation safety at Mountain Air and to contribute to the education and welfare of the local community. In addition to raising funds for charities, MAPA holds seminars on flight safety and makes safety improvements to the Mountain Air airport. The airport also provides year-round access that allows Mission Memorial Air Ambulance Service to reach critical care patients in the area when access to the valley is denied because of foggy conditions. A number of the pilots also participate in Angel Flight, an organization that flies patients to get health care, and flies donor organs to places where they are needed.

Visit www.mtnair.org for more information.