



Owners of the TBM 850 plane and Executive Directors of Strategic Aviation, Michael James and Shaun Aisen assist cancer patient Lyla Kinivan out of the plane after her Angel Flight to the Gold Coast for chemotherapy.

Touched by an air angel

Charleville resident Lyla Kinivan can get the chemotherapy she needs, thanks to Angel Flight and Australia's leading air charter company Strategic Aviation.

Strategic Aviation's TBM 850 took its first flight ever for Angel Flight to Charleville last Thursday.

The trip was Mrs Kinivan's fourth Angel Flight to the Tweed Hospital to receive treatment for cancer, and she says the ride on the TBM 850 was her best trip yet.

"It was unbelievably better than it usually is, so much more comfortable and so much quicker," Mrs Kinivan said.

Shaun Aisen, director of Strategic Aviation and senior pilot for Angel Flight, captained the aircraft, on what is his 68th flight for the charity organisation.

"We are volunteering our time and our aircraft.

"It's a mix of a love of flying and a love of helping people, like Lyla" he said.

"Strategic Aviation supports Angel

Flight by providing this TBM 850 aircraft, which is a high performance machine that flies at near jet speeds, and allows us to pick people up from remote locations much quicker than before."

Angel Flight Chairman Bill Bristow says pilots volunteering their services, such as Mr Aisen, are vital to the charity.

"The pilots are everything to us.

"They are the volunteers that make Angel Flight work.

"There is no way we could run this organisation without their help," Mr Bristow said.

"We receive no government funding whatsoever," he said.

Michael James, co-director of Strategic Aviation, is happy to be able to assist the charity by donating the first use of the company's new aircraft.

"Strategic Aviation is delighted to be able to support the community through the outstanding work of Angel Flight," Mr James said. To donate your time and skills to Angel Flight, visit www.angelflights.org.au.