

Clay County Commissioners enter into an Agreement with Air Methods for FREE medical helicopter memberships for all Clay County Residents

Release: IMMEDIATE

Date: April 24, 2018

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In an effort to provide Clay County critical care in the air without the financial burden, Union General Hospital and Chatuge Regional Hospitals reached out to the Clay County Commissioner's Office to provide medical helicopter membership through Air Methods Advantage program. We are very excited that we will be offering FREE Air Methods Helicopter Memberships. There are two helicopter companies that service Clay County, the first is Air-Life GA owned and operated by "Air Methods", which is the one being paid for by Union General and Chatuge Regional Hospitals as well as the Clay County Commissioner's Offices. The second helicopter company is Air Med Care also known as Life Force which charges a \$65 fee and is *not* affiliated with Air Methods Helicopter Membership. The Air Methods Membership is free and has no fee. The current year's Air Methods Membership for all county residents will take effect on June 1, 2018. Clay County residents do not have to sign up for or fill out anything to become a member of Air Methods Helicopter Membership program.

Air Methods provides emergency air medical transport to the nearest trauma center for patients in critical condition. Air Methods is the helicopter service based at Union General Hospital which is the membership being paid for by Union General Hospital, Chatuge Regional Hospital, and Clay

County Commissioners. This membership covers you locally, as well as in 48 states throughout the country, where Air Methods helicopters are based. For instance, if you are a resident of Clay County and go to Florida on vacation and need to be life-flighted, as long as you use an Air Methods Company Medical Helicopter, you would be covered under the membership being paid for by Union General Hospital, Chatuge Regional Hospital and Clay County Commissioner's Offices.

On average, a medical helicopter flight in this area costs in the range of \$30,000 - \$50,000.

Residents of Clay County will not have any out-of-pocket expenses for them to use an Air Methods Medical Helicopter in an emergency situation. Any resident of Clay County that use the Air Methods helicopter will receive a bill in the mail; however, the membership will take care of what the insurance does not cover. If someone does not have insurance this program will pay all of the costs. Proof of residency will be required to be sent in with the bill.

For questions regarding this **FREE** membership, please call or email Mark Pullium at (828) 389-0089 or mpullium@claync.org