1979 CareFlite begins flying with one Bell 206 Long Ranger shared between Methodist Dallas and Texas Health Harris Methodist. For the first time separate hospitals joined together to create an air medical program making CareFlite the first & oldest joint use air medical program in the US. About 100 patients were transported the first year with 15 employees.

1980 327 patients flown. 2nd helicopter purchased. Ground ambulance service established.

1982 First Emergency Care Update Conference held.

1986 CareFlight established in Sydney, Australia after visiting CareFlite in Dallas-Fort Worth.

1989 10th Anniversary. CareFlite flew 6,563 patients first 10 years.

1989 19th Anniversary. CareFlite flew 5,000th medical flight. Four helicopter bases (Dallas, Denton, Grand Prairie, Fort Worth). Operates one fixed wing aircraft and 24 ground ambulances. Has 200 employees.

1990 Purchases 4 Bell 222 helicopters. Completes 14,000th medical flight.

1992 Builds hangar and dispatch center at Grand Prairie Airport. Obtains FAA Air Carrier Certificate.

1995 Receives CAMTS accreditation.


1999 20th Anniversary Completes 50,000th medical flight. Four helicopter bases (Dallas, Denton, Grand Prairie, Fort Worth). Operates one fixed wing aircraft and 24 ground ambulances. Has 200 employees.

2000 Becomes 501(c)(3) not for profit company.

2003 First 911/EMS system (Johnson County).


2005 Receives the Texas Air Medical Service Award from Texas Dept. of State Health Services for outstanding achievement. Selected by Federal Government to organize repatriation of patients to the Gulf Coast who were evacuated for hurricanes, Rita, Katrina and Ike.

2006 Dr. Bob Simonson, Medical Director, receives the Marriott—Carlson Award at the Air Medical Transport Conference. Adds Granbury base. Last original employee retires.

2007 Initiates Great First Responder Program to honor outstanding performance in N. Texas with NCTTRAC. DFW Hospital Council later accepts Sponsorship. Membership program started, has 33,500 members after one year.

2009 30th Anniversary Over 475,000 patients are transported in total including over 80,000 by air.

2012 Mabee EMS Training Center and Stephenville ground base opens.

2013—2016 5 Bell 407GX & 2 Bell 429 helicopters replace entire fleet at a cost of $35,000,000.

2014 35th Anniversary Whitney air base opened joins CareFlite 911 in Hill County. Over 750,000 total patients transported since 1979

2017 Gainesville air base opens.

2018 103,196 patients transported, blood products and chest compression machines on all aircraft.

2019 40th Anniversary 1,178,357 total patients since 1979. 375,287 CareFlite Members. 661 Employees.

2020 Initiates Great First Responder Program to honor outstanding performance in N. Texas with NCTTRAC. DFW Hospital Council later accepts Sponsorship. Membership program started, has 33,500 members after one year.

2021 45th Anniversary Over 500,000 patients are transported in total including over 100,000 by air.

2022 50th Anniversary CareFlite celebrates 50 years of saving lives.

2023 51st Anniversary CareFlite continues to innovate and lead in emergency medical services.

2024 52nd Anniversary CareFlite looks to the future with optimism and dedication.

2025 53rd Anniversary CareFlite celebrates 53 years of making precious minutes count.