

Mercy Ships Australia Christmas Gift Catalogue

Releasing the Smile Within



Give the gift of hope and healing

Transforming lives through hope and healing

Around the world, billions of people live in fear and desperation with impure water, inadequate food and little or no access to health care. Our crew onboard the *Africa Mercy* are some of the finest in their fields and thanks to donations from generous donors around the world, Mercy Ships is able to provide world-class medical care to the forgotten poor, at no cost to those who suffer.

How does the gift catalogue work?

Each gift on these pages represents one of the most urgent problems facing the world's poor today. Every gift purchased helps to fund the work of Mercy Ships and will be carried out by a Mercy Ships volunteer to assist someone truly in need. You will receive a gift card for each gift purchased to give to a friend or relative this Christmas. This card will explain the work of Mercy Ships and the impact that your gift will have on the life of a person or community in the developing world.



You will receive a gift card like this one



The Africa Mercy

A major tool in accomplishing our mission is the *Africa Mercy*. Sponsored by corporate and individual donors, the customised *Africa Mercy*, with six operating theatres and a combined 78-bed ward, effectively doubles the annual medical capacity of her predecessors. The ship has meeting and work spaces, as well as berths for an average crew of 450.

The hospital is divided into quadrants: supply/services, six operating theatres, recovery/intensive care, and low dependency wards. Surgical capacity is expected to exceed 7,000 surgical interventions onboard in one year.

Did you know?

It costs **\$200 per hour** to provide the fuel our Mercy Ship needs to deliver hope and healing around the world. Fuel is not only essential for getting the hospital ship from one location to another, but is also necessary each day to run the generators for electricity onboard and steam for sterilisation of the equipment for the hospital.



Medical Aid



\$5 provides eyeglasses to a vision impaired person like Moore



\$50 supplies mosquito nets to protect a whole village from malaria



\$25 supports a patient for one day onboard the *Africa Mercy*



\$50 straightens crossed eyes



\$30 supplies a package of bandages



\$60 provides dental care

Vital to keeping surgical incisions clean and healing properly, bandages are an essential to recovery and healing. Mercy Ships needs 70,000 packages of fresh bandages for every medical outreach.





\$100 provides a wheelchair or leg braces



\$150 restores sight by removing cataracts



\$125 repairs a cleft lip



\$200 corrects a club foot for Maurel so he can now play soccer



\$125 gives one case of surgical gowns



\$250 removed Alfred's tumour, allowing him to eat normally and no longer feel ashamed



With 28 gowns in a case, Mercy Ships requires six containers to fully supply the medical team with the medical gowns, gloves and equipment they need to continue their work each year.

Community Support

Permanent Health Solutions

End starvation through agriculture

Little ones and parents don't have to starve. Wherever the *Africa Mercy* is docked, teams of Mercy Ships volunteers offer agricultural programs to local villages in order to help families and communities learn how to grow their own food and meet their nutritional needs. Agriculture training teaches people how to provide food for their family and others in their village.



\$55 gives agricultural training

Help sponsor a person to attend a Mercy Ships Agricultural Seminar, where they will be taught how to permanently provide food for their village community.

Generate clean, fresh water

Children are dying, but you can help to save them. Contaminated drinking water remains the single largest cause of preventable disease, resulting in thousands of needless deaths every day, primarily among children. No matter where we dock, Mercy Ships sends teams into nearby villages to help alleviate drinking water problems by providing training and assistance to local communities for digging wells, repairing existing water systems, building latrines and teaching villagers about waterborne disease.



\$500 digs a fresh water well

It is estimated that as much as 85 percent of all disease is waterborne in nature. A fresh water well can prevent death by giving the gift of abundant, clean, life-sustaining water. One in six people on Earth don't have access to clean drinking water. **That's 1.1 billion people!**



Stories of Hope and Healing – Richard’s Relief

Richard can clearly remember the day he became aware of his disfigurement. He was five years old when he began the struggle to deal with the birth defect that made him different from all the other children he knew. From that day forward, he felt ashamed of his cleft lip.

The following twelve years were difficult for Richard. He endured the divorce of his mother and father. Then he had to stop attending school because the fees became too expensive for his parents to afford – a tremendous disappointment for him.

Now a social worker helps care for Richard by making sure he gets fed and has some clothing. In the midst of all the tragedy and disappointment, the issue of his cleft lip persisted. “I felt ashamed when I was with my friends and even when I was around my parents,” he said. “I stayed in my room a lot.”

Richard thought that his cleft lip would never be fixed. When he was a baby, his parents took him to a hospital near his home village of Adja. The doctors there lacked the surgical skills necessary to repair his deformity. As he grew older, Richard hoped that his parents might try another hospital, but their dwindling financial situation eliminated that option.

Now a teenager, Richard sadly and reluctantly accepted his reality. And then, miraculously, hope suddenly appeared in the form of a radio broadcast. Lying on his bed during the heat of the day with the radio blaring, Richard’s attention was caught by the brief mention of a ship that had arrived in Benin and was offering free medical care. The announcement passed quickly, and Richard had not heard all of the details. “Was it true?” he asked himself. “Could it be possible?”

A few days later, Richard asked his social worker about the radio announcement. It was true! A hospital ship had docked in the port of Cotonou and was assisting people for free.

Richard was excited. But how would a boy without any sort of income or savings manage to finance a 140km journey? He presented the exciting news and the dilemma to his mother and father. Despite not having any guarantee of success, Richard’s parents faithfully provided their son with enough money to get him to Cotonou. He would, however, have to travel alone.

“When I finally stood in front of the ship, I was so happy,” Richard said.



Now, just two weeks after his surgery, he sits in the post-operative room onboard the *Africa Mercy*. The main stitches have been removed. The quiet, football-loving Richard examines his newly formed upper lip in a mirror – a look of astonishment on his face. “I cannot wait to see my parents’ reaction,” he says. “They will be even happier than me.”

A New Life



\$400 gives life-changing fistula surgery



\$30 provides a "new life" care package, like those given to Parra and Justin

This package of a new dress, headscarf and local jewellery is given to our restored fistula patients at their going away party.



Stories of Hope and Healing – Fistula Surgery

"I was eighteen years old when this happened to me," Rebecca says. She is speaking in her native dialect in front of dozens of people. She is wearing a new dress to symbolise her new life as she shares her story of suffering.

"I was in labour for five days, and finally I went to the hospital. The baby was dead. And I was wounded in [such] a way that I thought I would never walk again."

Rebecca, now 35 years old, travelled from neighbouring Togo to the Mercy Ship in Benin. She had shouldered the burden of obstetric fistula for seventeen years. This childbirth injury often occurs in areas without adequate obstetric care and leaves the mother incontinent. Often the woman is abandoned by her husband, and having more children becomes difficult or impossible.

At first Philip, the baby's father, did abandon her. For the next few months, Rebecca's family took care of her. Eventually, Philip returned. "It was God who brought him back," Rebecca says. Otherwise, she feels she might have been alone forever.

Rebecca and Philip were married and now have five children, but she still carried the shame of her condition and tried to hide it from everyone around her.

"I worried for so long," Rebecca says. "I was very discouraged, and because I didn't have enough money, I couldn't go to the hospital for treatment."

When Rebecca eventually came to the Mercy Ship, a nurse sat with her and asked her the standard questions to establish her medical history – questions that were painful for Rebecca to answer. How many children have you delivered? How many

are still alive? How long ago did the injury occur? Did your husband leave you? As the nurse paused in her questions and put her hand on Rebecca's knee, Rebecca began to cry.

Then, the night before her surgery, Rebecca lay in her hospital bed and tears formed in her eyes as she remembered the long years of suffering that lay behind her.

"I just remembered [the] past," Rebecca says. "For seventeen years, I have been like this." Those years were long and hard as she fought to forget her problem so she could be a good mother, trying to find the right answers when her children asked why she needed to layer cloth beneath her before she went to bed at night.

Now, as Rebecca shares her story, there is no sadness, because her surgery was successful. Her smile is constant and sweet. She is happy to be with her children, her husband, her family, and her neighbours. She is healed, in both her body and spirit.



Give the gift of hope and healing

How to order

You can pay by cheque, money order or credit card. Simply complete the form on the next page and return it to Mercy Ships by one of the following methods:

Mail to:

Mercy Ships Australia
PO Box 1080
CALOUNDRA QLD 4551

Fax to:

(07) 5437 2488

Or phone:

(07) 5437 2992

To give online visit:

www.mercyships.org.au/donate-online

If you have any questions about any of the gifts, please call our office. We would love to talk to you about how you can best help. Thank you for your heart of compassion.



Christmas Gift Catalogue Order Form

Item	\$	Qty	Total \$
Eye glasses	\$5		
Patient support	\$25		
"New life" package	\$30		
Bandages	\$30		
Mosquito nets	\$50		
Straighten crossed eyes	\$50		
Agricultural Training	\$50		
Dental care	\$60		
Leg braces or wheelchair	\$100		
Surgical gowns	\$125		
Correct cleft lip	\$125		
Remove cataracts	\$150		
Correct club foot	\$200		
Fuel for the <i>Africa Mercy</i>	\$200		
Remove tumour	\$250		
Fistula surgery	\$400		
Fresh water well	\$500		
Other donation to Mercy Ships	\$		
Total amount	\$		

General Fund - For those who do not need a tax receipt

Relief Fund - For those who may need a tax receipt

(Donations over \$2.00 to Relief Fund are tax-deductable)

Please note that each purchase credited to the Relief Fund is a tax-deductible donation to Mercy Ships Australia. Funds received in excess of project needs may be used where most needed. Donor designation will be honoured to the fullest extent possible.

Mailing Details (please print)

Name _____

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Email _____

Please specify how many gift cards you require _____

Payment Details

I enclose a cheque/money order payable to Mercy Ships Australia

Please debit my credit card

Card No. _____

Expiry Date ___/___/___

Signed _____

Date ___/___/___

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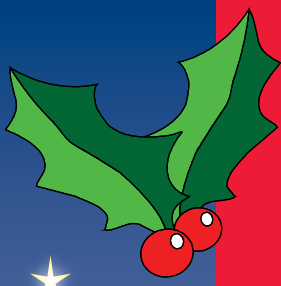
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Cards and receipt are sent to the gift purchaser.



You will receive a gift card like this one





Mercy Ships Australia Gift Catalogue 2009



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