

Mercy Ships Fact Sheet

Updated February 2010

About Mercy Ships



Ali, Sierra Leone
Cleft Lip Repair



Maomai, Benin
Tumour Removal



Alexis, Nadège, Ricardo,
Benin, Cataract Removal

Mercy Ships is an international Christian charity using hospital ships partnered with land-based programmes to deliver transformational health care at no charge to the world's forgotten poor. Since 1978, Mercy Ships has had more than 2.2 million direct beneficiaries. The countries served by Mercy Ships are ranked as the poorest in the world by the United Nations Human Development Index (UNHDI).

Founder & History

While living in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1977, Don Stephens began a journey that led to the founding of Mercy Ships. Don formed and led a team that surveyed suitable ocean liners for his dream of a hospital ship to serve the world's poor. In 1978, the dream became a reality with the purchase of the first ship, the *Anastasis*. Another milestone was reached in 2007 with the launching of the *Africa Mercy*, the largest of the four hospital ships operated by our organisation in its 32 year history. The book *Ships of Mercy* details this interesting and compelling journey.

Don and his wife Deyon and their four children lived onboard the first Mercy Ship, the *Anastasis*, for 10 years. Now based at the International Operations Center in Garden Valley, Texas, the Stephens have overseen the growth of Mercy Ships from its humble beginnings to an organisation that has in its history had thousands of professional volunteers. Don serves on the 21-member Executive Committee and the 30-member Mercy Ships International Board.

Ships and Field Programmes

Vessels & Locations

With offices in 16 nations, Mercy Ships operates hospital ships serving some of the poorest developing nations of the world. The *Africa Mercy* is the world's largest non-governmental hospital ship, and is dedicated to the continent of Africa. The success of the *Africa Mercy* project gives us confidence to further expand our fleet (in the coming years). With its integrated design, the *Africa Mercy* effectively doubles Mercy Ships capacity to deliver hope and healing to the forgotten poor. Mercy Ships has over 1,200 volunteer career staff and crew from over 40 nations and over 2,000 short-term volunteers annually.



Floating Hospitals



Surgeries & Health Care



Community Empowerment



Rehabilitation

Programmes & Services

Mercy Ships programmes promote health and well-being by serving the urgent surgical needs of the world's forgotten poor and empowering developing communities. Since 1978, Mercy Ships has provided services in developing nations valued at more than \$808 million, including the following:

- Performed more than 47,000 life-changing operations such as cleft lip and palate repair, cataract removal, orthopaedic procedures, facial reconstruction and obstetric fistula repair.
- Treated over 422,120 patients in village clinics with more than 456,400 procedures performed.
- Treated over 95,800 dental patients with more than 228,100 dental procedures performed.
- Trained over 15,300 local health-care professionals who have in turn trained many others.
- Taught 125,800 local people in basic health care.
- Completed over 1,085 community development projects focusing on water and sanitation, education, infrastructure development and agriculture.

Finances

Funding for Mercy Ships is provided primarily through private donations. Volunteers serving on the ships and field contribute monthly fees, enabling Mercy Ships to deliver medical and development services for a fraction of the usual cost.

Lives transformed through hope and healing...