



START YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN!

We've recently launched the "Start your own campaign!" program, which is designed to get kids and youth involved with Mercy Ships Australia by designing their own campaigns to raise awareness and funds. Take a look at our website to see what it's all about and please encourage the kids you know to take part! Below is the story of the children from K-OS Sunday School and how they raised \$621.

Dear friends at Mercy Ships

You may have noticed an online gift recently from Hope Christian Centre, Hobart in the amount of \$621.40. This amount was raised by the children of the church in their weekly Sunday School class called K-OS (Kids on Sunday). A photo is attached.



Each week the children brought coins to put in our money box - a Mercy Ships money box made from a toothpaste box, the funnel (toilet roll) holding the

money. Also, various older church members saved their silver coins in jars and brought them along periodically, always very exciting for the children.

We had a large poster of the Mercy Ships. For each \$10 raised one of the children stuck on the ship a small picture of a nurse, doctor, chef, cleaner, hospital bed, etc etc. They loved learning about the ministry of Mercy Ships and seeing the great laminated photos and video you had sent us. We also had my old black doll, Dinah (see photo), who we dressed in a bright new dress and headscarf after I had told the children (in very simple language) about the young women helped through fistula operations.

Each week the children also prayed for the ministry of Mercy Ships, and particularly for sick children in Sierra Leone to be cured and helped.

We were excited also to read of the challenge given by one of your very generous donors, to match dollar for dollar any donations given before 30th June. That means our donation is now valued at \$1,242.80! Could you please confirm this, and also send our grateful thanks to the kind donor.

Blessings and prayers

(Mrs) Alison Ferguson
Sunday School teacher

Breaking Shackles



productive life in their communities.

Thank you for your willingness to share your blessings with patients like Sally. With your generous donation many more will smile as broadly as Sally.

May God bless you as you join us in performing our life saving work.

Gary Regazzoli
Chief Executive Officer
Mercy Ships Australia

Our Annual "Breaking Shackles" Appeal

Over the last seven months, thousands of shattered lives in the West African nation of Sierra Leone have been restored.

The raised hands and broad smile of Sally in the picture opposite demonstrate the dramatic impact your donations have made possible in her life. The shackles of despair and hopelessness have been broken allowing Sally to experience the joys of a normal life.

Sally is just one of the thousands of patients touched by the healing work of Mercy Ships each year. Her story is typical of the thousands who

flock to our ship each year for life-changing surgery. These are the ones you can help by supporting our annual "Breaking Shackles" campaign.

This appeal is designed to fund the treatment of those who suffer from the pain and humiliation of disfiguring conditions such as facial tumours, cleft lips, cataracts, and club feet. Not only do these patients face the physical pain of their condition, but because of cultural superstitions, many are shunned and isolated by their communities. By correcting these conditions, Mercy Ships "breaks the shackles" of pain and superstition allowing these patients to return to a normal

PS. Please see the enclosed flyers for further information on our "Breaking Shackles" campaign and how you can support Mercy Ships through a Bequest in your Will.

IT'S COMING...THE MERCY SHIPS AUSTRALIA 2011 CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE



We know it's a bit early to be talking about Christmas, but we wanted to let you know we are again planning on sending out our annual Christmas Gift Catalogue. Mercy Ships has avoided the current trend to send out Christmas catalogues earlier and earlier each year, but this has led some of our donors to think one wasn't coming. So, we just want to let you know one is coming!

If you are interested in purchasing a gift from our catalogue for a loved one this Christmas, be on the lookout for it in November. It will again be filled with Mercy Ships gifts - from dental care to fistula operations, agricultural training to building wells - and we hope that this campaign will be as popular as it has been in previous years.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Go to www.facebook.com/mercyshipsaustralia or www.twitter.com/mercyshipsau



BREAKING SHACKLES UNCHAINING THE PAIN AND SHAME

Yes, I would like to give a life-changing donation to Mercy Ships

Enclosed is my donation (Cheque, Money Order, Credit Card) of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$ _____

[Empty box for donation amount]

I would like a Mercy Ships representative to come and give a presentation to our club, group, church, school

Please send me information on how to leave a gift to Mercy Ships in my Will

Please remove my name from your mailing list

Thank you for changing lives with Mercy Ships

Please return to: **Mercy Ships Australia** PO Box 1080 Caloundra QLD 4551
Phone: 07 5437 2992 Fax: 07 5437 2488 Email: msaust@mercyships.org.au

CREDIT / DEBIT CARD GIVING

Credit Card Number

[Credit card number input field]

Name on Card:

Expiry Date:/..... Signature:.....

Please credit donation to:

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-deductible)

I would like to make this my regular donation

Monthly Payment Yes

Australian Charity Number: 097037922

A LIFE IN GLORIOUS COLOUR

Fatmata sat quietly in the Admissions tent cuddling her sixteen-month-old daughter in her lap. She had been searching for over a year for someone to give her some hope that little Sidiatu might have a normal life. Born with congenital cataracts in both eyes, the baby's blindness required her mother's undivided attention. Fatmata's nine-year-old daughter watched the baby when her mother had to go to the market to sell her home-made soup. Like so many other families in Freetown, Fatmata's husband is currently out of work.



Sidiatu's cataracts were very obvious before the surgery

Fatmata had taken Sidiatu to a local hospital for cataract surgery, but it was not successful. A second hospital couldn't help either. Finally, she found a local doctor who referred her to an eye screening with Mercy Ships. After the ophthalmologist examined Sidiatu's eyes, Fatmata received the

precious appointment card for her daughter to have cataract surgery on the *Africa Mercy*.

Sidiatu had the surgery to remove the cataracts on both eyes. Very active and curious, the little girl kept trying to remove the protective bandage. The nurses wrapped her hands to ensure that the protection remained in place.

Early the next morning, the doctor removed the bandages. Those in the ward held their breath as the little girl surveyed the world around her – for the very first time. Anxious to grasp a balloon, she suddenly stopped. Sitting perfectly still, she stared straight ahead in an effort to take it all in. Then, quickly, she closed her eyes. The doctor said that this was a normal reaction. The child's senses were overwhelmed, and she was returning to a place of comfort – the familiar darkness.

Soon, Sidiatu opened her eyes again. A toothbrush was set before her, and then a toy that was just out of reach. She stretched out her hand to grasp the red and blue truck. A low gasp was audible in the ward. It was obvious – she could see! Tears welled up in the eyes of those who were privileged to witness this miraculous moment. The doctor grinned. A single tear ran down Fatmata's left cheek.

About an hour later, Sidiatu was dressed and ready to go home to a life that was now in glorious colour. Sidiatu's young life was forever changed. Her loving mother's hope had been fulfilled.

"It has taken a long time to find a solution," said Fatmata. "I walked around to many hospitals to find help. I am very, very happy. Mercy Ships is a very good place. They take care and encourage you. Nothing bad about that."



Fatmata helps her daughter adjust to her new vision by holding out toys for her to focus on

RECYCLING – THE AFRICAN WAY

There is an old saying – 'Necessity is the mother of invention'.

Nowhere is that more apparent than in the physiotherapy department onboard the world's largest charity hospital ship, the *Africa Mercy*, currently on a ten-month assignment in West African nation of Sierra Leone.



Anama threads polypropylene ribbon through holes in the sides

When patients undergo surgery to correct foot deformities, their legs are put in casts, they can't wear shoes, but they can't go barefoot, either. The Rehabilitation Team has found a suitable, inexpensive and easily available way to give each patient the foot protection needed during their recovery. The answer lies in an available resource, common to every country... used motorcycle tyres.

Anama, a day-worker engaged by Mercy Ships, makes shoes from tyres in various sizes to fit the patients. He gathers old tyres and begins by removing the wire



The tyre is cut to size

inside with a knife. Then he measures for size, large, medium, or small. He then cuts incisions to mark where he will use the scissors to cut through. Next, he cuts three holes on each side. Then proper lengths of polypropylene ribbon are used to tie the shoes on.

Anama says the tyre shoes are stronger than other footwear they might use, and they provide more protection on the sides of the foot. "When I was a child in Togo, I used to wear shoes like these to go to my father's farm," he said. "They protect better than thongs, and the leg cast doesn't get wet."

Tyre shoes last longer than ordinary shoes, and patients can walk easily in them. Anama says he enjoys making them. "This is the way I can help patients and the Rehabilitation Team, and I'm happy to make them."



The finished tyre shoe is fitted to the bottom of the cast of an orthopaedic patient

With your donation and support we can secure the future work of Mercy Ships

Send your gift today!

- **\$25** can support a patient for one day onboard the *Africa Mercy*.
- **\$50** can provide dental repair for one person.
- **\$125** can correct a cleft lip.
- **\$400** can cover a Life-Changing Surgery for one desperate person.

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