



## The Trial Run was amazing!

This month's newsletter is dedicated to all the people who made the Trial Run program an incredible success. We went in with conservative hopes and dreams and came out accomplishing so much more than we ever imagined possible. Our thanks to the Health Ministry on Tongatapu and Vava'u, Xavier and Amanda from Rebelle, Dr. Reynold 'Ofanoa, and our two incredible volunteers Grace Kyser and Amber Payne.

We came in with the agenda to make 5-6 stops and see 100-150 patients in 12 days, but with the help and support of Dr. Reynold and his staff, we visited 11 remote villages and treated over 300 patients in 6 days. Even more important, we built some incredible friendships and memories with the health care staff in Vava'u.

This issue will focus on several of the key volunteers, events, and relationships that not only made this Trial Run rotation such a huge success, but will help pave the way for our future rotations to reach even more patients. To all those who have been following us on Facebook, thank you for your prayers, thoughts and support. Believe me when I say it made a huge difference.

Take a look inside this issue as we share with you the experience and new understandings of what it will take for our continued success. *Thank you!*

*"We came in with the agenda to make 5-6 stops and see 100-150 patients in 12 days, but with the help and support of Dr. Reynold and his staff, we visited 11 remote villages and treated over 300 patients in 6 days."*

*- Richard Hackett*



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*Dr. Reynold 'Ofanoa counseling a patient during the Sea Mercy Trial Run*

## Amber Payne

Although the below pictures of Amber accurately captures the hard working mentality and caring heart that Amber Payne has, it is only a brief glimpse of who she really is. When she is with patients she is focused and deeply concerned for their welfare and care. When the day is done, she is the most gracious and caring souls you will ever meet. Her laugh is infectious, her smile will melt your heart, and her positive attitude is truly a gift from God that changes everyone who is around her.

We were so blessed to have her with us on Sea Mercy's Trial Run as a physicians assistant and look forward to seeing her on future rotations. Thank you Amber for being a part of the beginning of Sea Mercy.

## Volunteer Spotlights -

### Dr. Reynold 'Ofanoa - Tonga Health Ministry and Sea Mercy Advocate

There are people that God puts in your path "at just the right time" that not only can impact your immediate future, but end up creating a lifelong friend. Dr. Reynold is one of those individuals. He has become a great friend and advocate of what Sea Mercy is doing in the remote islands of Tonga. His dedication and love for his people is demonstrated in his interaction and personal dreams for them. When Sea Mercy came to Tonga, he not only supported our efforts, he engaged his whole hospital team to support our efforts. He also provided the tools and expertise needed to make a huge difference on not only our Trial Run, but paved the way for our future rotations continued success. We were truly blessed to have him and his team with us and look forward to the amazing things that will happen in Tonga as a result. **Thank you Dr. Reynold!**

### Xavier & Amanda Zeitoun - Sea Mercy Captains/Owners of Rebelle

Our company motto of "A single vessel can make a difference" has never proved more true than on this rotation. Probably the most unrecognized hero's of the Trial Run were our Sea Mercy Captain/owners, Xavier and Amanda. They put their very home, incomes and lives in play (and at risk) to help make the Trial Run rotation a success. With sailing, hauling, shuttling, fixing, cooking, washing, caring and protecting all of us from ourselves and the dangers all around, they made a huge difference to the success of the program. They would drop us off in the early morning, anchoring just off shore watching and waiting for our return at the end of the day.

With great flexibility and sacrifice, they put up with the sudden changes and surprises from wind, weather and schedules, and made each stop an incredible success. Without them, without Rebelle, the 2013 Trial Run and follow-up rotations would not have been possible. **Thank you!**



**Amber Payne - Volunteer**



## Grace Kyser

With over 10 medical missions (on 4 continents) under her belt, Grace was a gentle spirit that gave confidence to us all. She was always willing to tackle any role that was available or needed. Whether it was acting as backup for the pharmacy, front line care with the children and adults, or offering her expertise and wisdom with the doctors, she was invaluable to the team.

Her quick wit, faithful attitude, and expertise gave us exactly what we needed to overcome any obstacle with confidence, humor and persistence. She has been a joy to work with prior to the Trial Run and we look forward to her advice and wisdom as Sea Mercy continues to grow across the South Pacific. Thank you Grace for being a part of the beginning of Sea Mercy.



Grace Kyser—Volunteer



Some of the Sea Mercy Trial Run Team in their Sea Mercy Shirts - *Making friends for life*

## The Trial Run *Dream Team*

We could not have picked a more dedicated, hard working, positive, caring and joyful group of people to be a part of the Trial Run. As we hugged and laughed and said our goodbyes on the docks in Neiafu, you knew something incredible had just occurred and that there was an incredible potential waiting to be released.

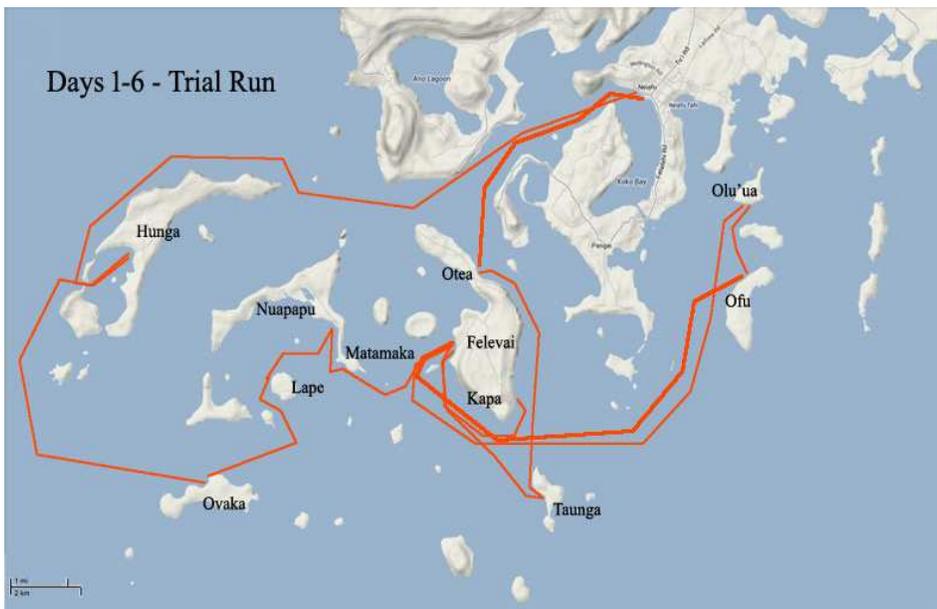
As the Sea Mercy volunteers packed and headed to the airports to return to their family and careers, you could see and feel that we had somehow been "changed" by this incredible experience. That we had participated in something magical or even historical that few could understand unless they were there, or perhaps until they took that same leap of faith. Like the hobbits returning home after their incredible adventure in the movie "Lord of the Rings", we all seemed different from the experience, yet the world around us had no idea what we had just participated in, nor understood the ramifications of its success, or its potential failure.

With four more rotations coming up in 2013, and 4 new vessels joining the Sea Mercy fleet in 2014-2015, we have committed to continue to make a difference through Sea Mercy for not only Tonga, but for Fiji, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, the Marianas, Palau and for the islands of Tuvalu as Sea Mercy continues to grow. It truly was a fellowship that we will never forget and one that we hope many others get to experience in their lives.

We invite you to join our fellowship on a future rotation, or perhaps as a Sea Mercy Captain, or as a partner organization, or simply an advocate for Sea Mercy and the programs we are offering and delivering across the South Pacific.

**Thank you *dream team* for such a wonderful experience!**

For more information on our programs, and pictures, and how you can help make a difference in the South Pacific, please visit our website at [www.seamercy.org](http://www.seamercy.org) or email us at [info@seamercy.org](mailto:info@seamercy.org).



**The 6 day, 11 Remote Villages Sea Mercy Trial Run Route**

## New Sponsors Spotlight!

### *Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation!*

There are organizations that come along that at first you are unsure how to include or fully embrace in your programs and initiatives, or to fully grasp how important their services and work is to our target community. The *Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation* was that organization for Sea Mercy.

We were unsure at the beginning how valuable the reading and sun glasses they provided would be for the people of Tonga. Now we know and we are looking forward to working more closely with them and their volunteers on how we can change the South Pacific. Visit their website to learn more.

<http://www.olshf.org>

## Trial Run Results

In a flash, the dynamics and possibilities of Sea Mercy's 2 week Trial Run rotation changed with the addition of eight members from the local hospital staff in Neiafu, Vava'u. Lead by Dr. Reynold 'Ofanoa, we suddenly grew from three medical staff (two from the USA and one from Vava'u) with the hopes to visit from 3-4 islands and perhaps reach 100+ patients in 12 days, to a team of eleven staff members, with 11 villages targeted, and a targeted patient outreach of 300+ in 6 days. The speed of the Trial Run suddenly changed dramatically.

### Results

11 remote villages on 8 different remote Islands were visited by Sea Mercy in 6 days. The total patients evaluated and treated was 302, of which 113 were children, 137 women, and 52 men.

### Perspectives/Observation on the Trial Run

With the additional 8 health care workers provided by the local hospital supporting us, it was not an accurate reflection of how our future rotations (3-5 health care workers) will operate, but it did provide an incredible opportunity to see how they have operated in the past. The Trial Run schedule was also not reflective of what our future rotations will look like. Instead of visiting 11 villages in 6 days, we will be targeting 5-6 villages in 12 days. This will provide us with more time to meet all the needs of all the villagers (men, women, children, etc.) and increase the number of patients seen at each stop.

### Two Vessels Required

After sailing through the Ha'apai group, we realized that one vessel operating out of Vava'u could not reach all the remote islands in the Vava'u and Ha'apai island groups in an effective and consistent timeframe. As a result, we will be keeping *Rebelle* in Vava'u during the 2013 rotations, and then in 2014 make plans to have two vessels simultaneously serving either the Ha'apai or Vava'u groups.



**Sea Mercy's Eye Care Program**

## Final Thoughts on the Trial Run

The Trail Run was a great experience that showed us what we were capable of when working together with a health ministry that is totally engaged. It also showed us how effective we can be should emergency needs arise.

There is a great need for Sea Mercy and our service delivery vessel for the remote islands of not only Tonga, but all the South Pacific. The Trial Run gave us a better understanding as to what is realistic and feasible for a typical rotation and how to maximize the results of each island/village visit that we make. The expansion of the eye care and dental care services has become even more important.

We are very excited about our future rotations, about our working relationships with the health ministry and the delivery of health care services to the remote island children, women and men across not only Tonga, but the potential it has for the entire South Pacific.

We hope you join us to help make a difference in the South Pacific.



*Sea Mercy Volunteer Amber Payne working with a Tongan Child*

## Trial Run Results Continued

### Delivery Processes

With such a tight schedule at each stop, our window of service was designed more for those needing direct care (the very sick or those in need of medicines refilled) than for preventative care. Spending at least a full day at each village will give us a bigger window of opportunity to get the word out to the entire village and the surrounding schools.

### Number of Patients and Level of Care

With a tight schedule at each stop, our window of service was designed more for those needing direct care (the very sick or those in need of medicines refilled) than for preventative care. Spending at least a full day at each village will give us a bigger window of opportunity to get the word out to the entire village and the surrounding schools.

We now have a much better understanding of the type and level of care we can offer and deliver to the remote islanders at each stop. Focusing more energy and resources on preventative medicine and ongoing care, not just emergency medicine. With the dedicated vessel to each island group, we will also be able to deliver consistent care within a 20-30 day cycle, instead of 60-90 days with a single vessel.

### What we missed

The Eye Care program (reading glasses) was an afterthought as we threw in 100 pair of reading glasses provided by the **Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation**. What we did not realize was how desperate the need is for eye care and glasses to help the school children and adults to be able to see to read and learn. We will be increasing the number and types of eye related services that we will be offering on future rotations and exploring additional partnerships and sponsors in the eye care and educational arenas. If you know of such services, please introduce us to them so that we can build the bridges needed for the remote islanders across the South Pacific.



*Making a difference in a life*

## Solar Power

### *Making a difference in the Remote Islands*

At each remote island or village stop during Trial Run program, we saw solar panels scattered across the islands. Some were working and some were waiting to be activated. What we take for granted in the 1st world, is a minor miracle for the remote islands.

At Sea Mercy, we are very excited about the potential solar power holds for both the health care and educational needs of the remote islanders and look forward to working with like-minded partners who are willing to help make a difference.



## Sea Mercy Data Tracking

### Every Patient

The importance of patient care and medicine tracking is vital to a successful program. With no computer or internet access available to us during our visits the remote islands, we instead use our Sea Mercy tracking forms (see above picture) to gather patient data, evaluations, treatments and medications prescribed and given at each stop. This information is then transferred to a computer on our FHCC vessels for ongoing patient tracking and care. After each rotation, the patient information is sent to the nearest hospital and health ministry for their files should the patient visit the hospital for care in the future. This data also helps our future and ongoing staff rotations to follow-up with each patient and update their medical records and medicines with each visit.

This ongoing gathering of patient data allows Sea Mercy, our island nation partner's Health Ministry, and our program partners to better understand the most prominent needs and issues we are facing, but also tracking Sea Mercy's use of the supplies and medicines to treat the remote island patients.

### The Future

With the gradual addition of solar power and eventually even internet access on the remote islands, we hope to be able to have immediate access to patient data that will allow us to not only share the data gathered with the local health ministry, but actual pictures and video with the remote hospital staff and experts around the world for advice and treatment recommendations.

There are so many opportunities for technology to change the way we provide care and we look forward to establishing partnerships with those willing to help make a difference. Please support us as we strive to bring 1st world care to these remote islands!



Solar Panels at a school



Solar Panels on Hunga Island

# Ready To Make A Difference?

With a goal to provide a Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC) for each of our eleven targeted island nation partners in the South Pacific by 2017, we are reaching out to health care volunteers, vessel owners, foundations and corporations to help support our growing fleet of Sea Mercy Floating Health Care Clinics (FHCC).

## Current Goals for Sea Mercy

SEA MERCY Projections	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Partner Nations Targeted	1	2	4	7	11
# of available 2 Week Rotations	5	45	120	210	330
Volunteers Needed	20	180	480	840	1,320
Registered Volunteers	320	NA	NA	NA	NA
FHCC Vessels Current/Needed	1/1	3/4	5/8	5/14	5/22

## Partner Nations

We will be adding one partner nation in 2014 and then steadily adding additional island nations as FHCC vessels and volunteers become available. This not only gives our returning volunteers the opportunity to experience other island nation cultures, but also our Sea Mercy Captains the ability to sail new waters every year. Visit our Island Partner section on our website to learn more about which islands we are looking to work with in the future.

## Health Care Volunteers

With the addition of each new island nation and FHCC vessel, the need for health care volunteers around the world willing to give of their time and talents will grow quickly. We are currently in discussions with medical schools for shared internship programs, organizations providing continuing education credits, and health care job boards who can put us in front of those looking to serve. Help us get the word out to your co-workers and friends so that we can meet those needs and register online to be a Sea Mercy volunteer.

## Sea Mercy Captains

With five FHCC vessels already committed through 2015, our need for more Sea Mercy Captains becomes more urgent with each year. We believe that as more and more vessels begin "sailing with a purpose" and the experience for them is rewarding and encouraging, that the word will get out and the number of Sea Mercy Captain applications and approvals will grow as needed.

## Corporate Sponsors & Partners

Our volunteers are currently expected to cover their costs during the rotation (including food, fuel, travel, etc.). Our goal is to develop partnerships, sponsorships, and scholarships that will help reduce the costs to the volunteers desiring to go (but unable to afford it) and thereby increase the number of volunteers who can afford to go on one of our rotations. Complete our online Partner Contact Form for more information on how you can help make a difference.

## Contact Us

Send us an email for more information about our programs

### Sea Mercy

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Visit us on the web at

[www.seamercy.org](http://www.seamercy.org)

## Volunteer

To be a Sea Mercy Volunteer, visit our website and click on the button link



## Donate

To donate to Sea Mercy visit our website and click on the button link

