



The Real Call Of The South Pacific

Fiji, Vanuatu, Tahiti, Palau, Tonga, Samoa... Just hearing the names of those islands conjures up travel brochure images of a warm tropical sun setting in the distance over blue turquoise waters, palm trees leaning towards the ocean, luxurious air conditioned hotels and honeymoon getaways nestled on secluded white sandy beaches calling to your inner most desires. As real and appealing as those images may be, there is another calling in the South Pacific that few hear or know about. One that is so far away and remote that our hearts fail to hear and feel with the same intensity and clarity. It's an urgent call for medical help.

Answering the call

In the South Pacific, there are no roads, power lines, or phone systems to connect the smaller, less populated, islands to the same services offered on the more populated, primary islands. Sadly, these remote islands are left without even the most basic of health care services. Sea Mercy (www.seamercy.org) is a non-profit organization providing Floating Health Care Clinic's for the remote island citizens of the South Pacific. Our vision and mission to "stand in the gap" with trained health volunteers, support equipment, and critical care services until island nations develop their "outer island" health care infrastructure. We will deliver preventive, curative, educational and rehabilitative services.

"With all the medical discoveries, new technologies, teachings and staff training now available, if we are unable to deliver them to 30-40% of a targeted community, can we call it a success?"

- Richard Hackett

When the difference between
Hope & Mercy is measured
by a single vessel.



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Hope is growing in the South Pacific!

Volunteers answered the call

From the beginning of our volunteer outreach campaign, we have had an incredible response. From recent graduates, to seasoned volunteer veterans, we are assembling a volunteer database of extraordinary people and talents willing to volunteer their time to serve from 2 weeks to 6+ months on an Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC) in the South Pacific.

As the number of FHCC's serving other island nations grow, we will have a growing need for even more volunteers. So please spread the word to other potential Sea Mercy volunteers.

Volunteer Spotlight

Fusi Kaho — Nurse Practitioner, Kingdom of Tonga

Local Island Volunteers

Sea Mercy's volunteers are crucial to the success of our Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC) programs and hero's to our organization and our island partner nations. But far too often, the stories of the local island nation's health care staff are lost in the hustle. At Sea Mercy, we want to recognize the "local" health care hero's who put their very lives at risk every day to help their fellow islanders. One such hero in Tonga is Fusi Kaho, a Nurse Practitioner with the Health Ministry of Tonga (see pictures to the right).

Whenever an opportunity presents itself for her to "hitch a ride" on a small boat that is traveling to one of the remote islands, Fusi is there to climb aboard with her supplies and medical kit to try to meet the many needs. Although she rarely finds a life jacket or emergency floatation device onboard, she still braves the miles of open (and often rough) waters in order to reach these remote islands.

One person making a difference

In Tonga, there are health care staff (nurses & midwives) willing to travel to the remote islands to deliver basic health care, but there are no funds or vessels to deliver them to the islands safely and consistently. Sea Mercy is designed to not only provide the vessel, but also consistently deliver the needed supplies and experienced health care professionals so desperately needed.

Working with Hero's

As a Sea Mercy volunteer, you will be working side by side with local health care hero's like Fusi who will teach you about Tonga, introduce you to the people and their culture, act as translators when needed, and help to grow the same heart she has for her people inside of you.



Fusi crossing the open oceans



Fusi with remote island children

The Kingdom of Tonga

Tonga, officially the Kingdom of Tonga, is a sovereign state and an archipelago in the South Pacific Ocean, comprising 176 islands scattered over 270,000 sq miles of ocean in the South Pacific. Fifty-two of the islands are inhabited.

Capital: Nuku'alofa
Population: 103,036 (2011)
Land Area: 289 sq miles
Number of islands: 176 islands
GDP/capita (US\$): 4,220
Currency: Pa'anga
Official language: Tongan, English

Health Workforce:

Physicians: 5.6/10,000 people
Nurses & Midwives: 38/10,000
Dentistry: 2.2/10,000



Remote islander living - no phones, no power... no health care services

The Kingdom of Tonga!

You will be hard pressed to find a more beautiful island nation or people than in Tonga. With the primary island of Tongatapu in the south and Niuatoputapu island 400+ miles to the north, there are over 170 islands scattered between them. On one hand the distance and remoteness of these islands has left them relatively untouched, but on the other it has left them without access to even the most basic health services.

With 70% of the population living on the primary island of Tongatapu, Tonga is striving to build a modern health care infrastructure on it with a primary hospital and the vast majority of the health care staff working there. The challenge they are facing and trying to address is how to support the health care needs of the other 170+ islands. The cost to build and staff a health clinic on every remote island, is beyond their financial means, let alone the available trained staff.

An answered prayer

When Sea Mercy approached the Health Ministry of Tonga, it was an answer to their prayers and began working closely with us to help develop the best program to meet their needs. The professionalism of their staff and leadership has lead to a smooth and effective development process for the Sea Mercy FHCC program and what we feel will be a long and successful relationship.



“The true beauty of the South Pacific islands are the people... not the palm trees.”



Making a difference with every donation!

New Sponsors Spotlight!

MedShare

According to Healthcare Without Harm, U.S. hospitals generate more than two million tons of medical waste each year. Much of that waste is unused medical supplies and equipment. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization estimates that more than 10 million children under the age of five die in the developing world due to inadequate medical care.

So what can be done?

MedShare is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving healthcare and the environment through the efficient recovery and redistribution of the surplus of medical supplies and equipment to those most in need. They collect surplus medical supplies and equipment from hospitals, distributors and manufacturers, and then redistributes it to qualified healthcare facilities in the developing world. They also outfit medical missions and safety net clinics in both the U.S. and abroad.

www.medshare.org

In-kind Sponsors

At Sea Mercy, every relationship matters and makes a difference. We have been incredibly blessed this year with outstanding in-kind sponsors that help us offset the operating costs of a Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC). Every in-kind sponsor donation allows us to free up our financial resources to meet other operational needs. Here are a few examples:

MedShare

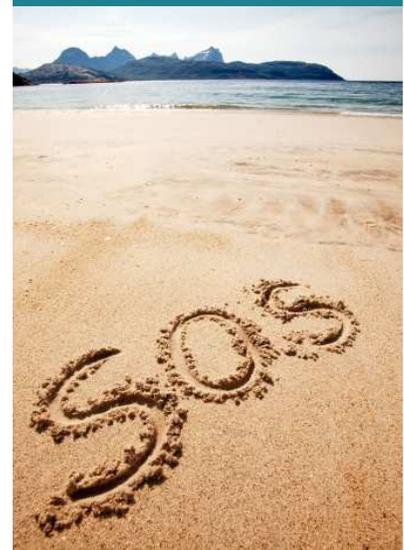
One of our greatest needs is for ongoing medical supplies to support our FHCC operations. Our partnership with MedShare has reduced our yearly medical supplies costs from over \$200,000 to under \$30,000.

Affiniscape

The advertising cost to reach even a small targeted group of potential health care volunteers across the nation would cost from \$10,000 to \$25,000 range. Our partnership with Affiniscape and their nationwide network of 300+ state and local health care associations (reaching over 400,000 health care professionals) has allowed us to build a deep and talented pool of health care volunteers (nurses, physicians, dentists, pharmacists, physician assistants, ophthalmologists, etc.)

In-kind Advertisers

We have an ever growing number of advertising partners (*SuperYachtTimes.com*, *CruisersForum.com*, etc.) who have taken on the same heart and spirit to help us reach their readership and members who can contribute their talents, their goods, or their financial resources to meet the incredible needs in the South Pacific.



The South Pacific is calling!

Grassroots Funding

Our goal is not to provide a single Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC) for Tonga, but to deliver and staff an FHCC for each of the 11 island nation partners across the South Pacific. Because the organizational leadership and support structure of Sea Mercy is volunteer based (no salaries), we've reduced our payroll overhead to zero. By establishing medical supply, shipping, volunteer, advertising, and accounting partnerships, we have greatly reduced many of the operational costs of each FHCC. But just like operating a hospital, the support cost of operating an FHCC (let alone 11 FHCC's) thousands of miles away, is not cheap. Each FHCC has ongoing fuel, food, licenses, mooring fees, vessel lease/rental, maintenance and insurance expenses, and volunteer travel costs in order to operate and maintain each vessel (about \$300,000 per FHCC per year). We need help!

We need your help

Sea Mercy is not a one time program, but an ongoing program that we anticipate operating for 5-10+ years. Grant by grant, foundation by foundation, we are striving to develop the ongoing resources needed to support and expand the services offered through this program. But with major grant approval cycles ranging from 12-24 months (many requiring a minimum of 2-3 years prior operations), our need for short-term funding is crucial.

We are asking our volunteers and friends to "spread the word" about Sea Mercy. We have several ways that you can help us make a difference:

1. Email a friend. Go to the "[Volunteer Resources](#)" page on the Sea Mercy website and select the various fundraising tools available
2. Reach out to your employer and ask them to support your volunteer efforts by going to the website to donate, or mailing their donation
3. Personally donate to Sea Mercy. We feel your donation of time as a volunteer is enough, but if you can help financially, it would be greatly appreciated.

Fundraising rewards

We like giving credit where credit is due. We will be providing the following "perks" for those who give:

1. **\$25** - 2013 donor listing on the website and 2 e-books on Amazon.com (see the "[www.seamercy.org/node/51](#)" page for more info)
2. **\$100** - Permanent Founding Donor listing on website (and the 2 e-books)
3. **\$3000** - They are invited to spend 2 weeks on the FHCC (just like one of the crew) as we travel between the islands

"Spread the Word" reward

For those who help "spread the word", we have a special reward, so be sure you ask them to include your name when making a donation. For registered volunteers who help raise **\$10,000** or more in donations, we will cover your future travel costs to the FHCC.

Contact Us

Send us an email for more information about our programs

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Visit us on the web at
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

