



## Are you ready to be amazed?

This month's newsletter is dedicated to all the people who have made the Sea Mercy Floating Health Care Clinic program such an incredible success in such a short time. Without your advice, support and sacrifice, the remote islanders of Tonga would not be seeing the sails of Sea Mercy and her health care volunteers arriving in their lagoon in 2013. What you have helped accomplish, is truly amazing and faith building in the non-profit sector.

Although we were told that it would take at least 2-3 years to pull together the talent and resources needed for a single floating health care clinic. Thanks to the hearts of our volunteers and supporters, in less than 7 months we have two ready and two more waiting.

This issue will focus on a few of the amazing things that are happening with Sea Mercy and the people who have made it all happen. We have people in Tonga, people in Australia, Tongan's living in the US, volunteers joining a 2013 rotation, hundreds of volunteers working toward a 2014 rotation, and companies and organizations that have offered support in ways we never imagined.

Take a look inside this issue and be amazed by the hearts of so many who are working with Sea Mercy. *Thank you!*

*"We were told that it would take at least 2-3 years to pull together the talent and resources needed for a single floating health care clinic. Thanks to the hearts of our volunteers and supporters, in less than 7 months we have two ready and two more waiting."*

*- Richard Hackett*



One vessel can make a difference

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Simione & Susi Malohifo'ou - Opening the doors to Tonga!

## Volunteer Spotlight - Simi & Susi Malohifo'ou

Whenever Sea Mercy has faced a difficult challenges, God seems to always bring the right people to us at just the right time to help us overcome them. Simi and Susi Malohifo'ou are the perfect example of such blessings. Their deep roots, cultural knowledge, and family relationships in Tonga has helped to open doors and opportunities month's if not years ahead of our target goals.

### When “Who You Know” Means Everything

**Simione Malohifo'ou** was born in Neiafu, Vava'u, Tonga, son of Tonga Poteki from Neiafu, Vava'u and Anna Toki from Tu'anuku, Vava'u, raised by his Fathers Brother, Tuiniua Pota, and moved back to Vava'u to help his Uncle who was the Mayor of Neiafu. **Susi Felch-Malohifo'ou** was born in Viola Hospital in Tongatapu, Tonga. Daughter of Teiapa'a Bloomfield from Fatai, Tongatapu and Teleita Vaitai from Taunga, Vava'u. She sits on the Board of Directors for the National Tongan American Society (NTAS).

As you can see, family history and lineages are very important in Tonga and Simione and Susi's families are very involved and respected. This deep lineage and love for their remote islanders has helped quickly advance our Sea Mercy program.

### And “What You Do” Is Also Important

Susi has worked for several airlines, owned several Travel Agencies, presently works for American Express Travel as a Centurion Card Travel Consultant and as a consultant for several Travel Agencies including her husbands Travel Agency, **Above & Beyond Travel** which is the official Travel Agency for the NTAS and for Sea Mercy. No one can navigate the challenging air schedules of Tonga like Susi, so if you're booking your flights to Tonga, call her office at **(801) 793-4639** or email her at [susi@ntasutah.org](mailto:susi@ntasutah.org).

## Volunteers Making a Difference!

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the below picture of **Jonathan Benak** will tell an epic novel's worth of one of the most incredible hearts of a Sea Mercy volunteer.

As physician assistant, he watched as medical supplies and medicines that are desperately needed in Tonga, were being tossed out by clinics and hospitals due to storage issues. Knowing first hand from his work in 3rd world nations that *“one man's trash is another man's treasure”* or in this case, life saving medical supplies, Jonathan simply asked if he could put these valuable, life saving items to use for Sea Mercy in the South Pacific. The rest is history as boxes of life-saving medical supplies began to arrive.



Jonathan Benak - Volunteer

*“In third world nations, the idiom of ‘One man's trash is another man's treasure’ has never been more true. What we throw away, is literally a life saving treasure for them.”*

Jonathan Benak

## Nick & Mira Borg

Nick a classically educated musician received his Diploma from the Sydney conservatorium of Music in 1988, he commenced his career in Education, and high school music teaching in 1990. Nick was lead guitarist of Chicken foot a well known Sydney music band, and performed in many of the best known venues in Sydney in the 1990s.

Mira comes from background is in Education, initially studying primary education at Sydney University and then completing her degree in Adult education at the University of Technology Sydney.

Nick and his wife and three boys, enjoy travelling extensively, Sailing and discovering new cultures, this was made possible due to their committed to home schooling their children who simply took their studies with them wherever they travelled. The Borg's reside part of their time in Vava'u, The Kingdom of Tonga. They have many friends and networks which are instrumental to Sea Mercy's service in the Kingdom of Tonga.

Mira and Nick divide their time between living on their acreage in Dural, Sydney and their acreage in Vava'u, Tonga.



Port Maurelle , Vava'u - Where Nick & Mira Borg's home is and Sea Mercy's Tonga HQ

## The Borg's - Our Tonga HQ

For you Star Trek fans, no you will not be assimilated, but Nick and Mira Borg do want to help you become acclimated to the beauty of Tonga and her wonderful people. As Sea Mercy's *Australian Directors*, they split their time between their home in Sydney and in their wonderful home in Tonga on the island of Kapa in the Vava'u island group. The above picture is of Port Maurelle, the incredible lagoon that their house faces (a pretty tough vision to have to wake up to each day).

From the moment Nick and Mira began working with Sea Mercy, they opened up their hearts and now their very home to help meet the needs in Tonga. Knowing first hand the medical hardships that the remote islanders experience, they have been instrumental in helping us establish our medical re-supply center and our Sea Mercy Tonga Headquarters for our FHCC vessels. Having a northern located re-supply center for our FHCC vessels allows us to spend more time where the need is, verses losing 2 days sail (each way) to pick up supplies and volunteers on the main island of Tongatapu. It does require our volunteers to take an extra 1 hour interisland flight to Vava'u, but we feel being able to spend more time "in the islands" verses on the "open sea" is well worth the extra step.

## Welcome to Tonga Party & Thank You Feast!

As an example of the incredible hearts of the Tongan people, Nick and Mira have arranged a welcome party for every arriving Sea Mercy rotation. After arriving in Vava'u on Monday, your first night will be in Port Maurelle where the local islanders on Kapa will throw a welcome party just for you! If that is not incredible enough, they will also be throwing you a "thank you" feast at the end of your rotation the Friday evening before you leave. We know that it will be a memory you will never forget, and one that we hope will bring you back on future volunteer rotations on Tonga, or on one of our other island nation FHCC vessels.

***Our thanks to Nick, Mira and the wonderful people of Tonga!***



Mira & Nick Borg



The Remote Islands of Vava'u Tonga

## New Sponsors Spotlight!

### *Friendly Island Shipping Agency (FISA)*

FISA is Tonga's new inter-island ferry and they have graciously offered to deliver Sea Mercy's medical supplies arriving in Tongatapu, to our northern HQ in Vava'u at no charge. This is a huge logistical blessing and operational cost savings to our efforts in Tonga and a further example of the hearts of the people in Tonga.

For those volunteers joining us in Tonga early, or desiring to stay later, FISA also offers comfortable cabin accommodations for those who desire to travel between the islands by vessel (vs. plane). A great way to see the other islands during your visit. Take a look online for more information.

<http://www.fisa.to/>

## In-kind Sponsors

When you are hundreds of miles from a hospital and major supplies, every relationship matters and makes a difference to the success of Sea Mercy's programs. We are continually blessed 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, like medical supplies. Here are a few of our in-kind sponsors:

### National Tongan American Society

In 1995, a handful of community leaders acknowledged the growing Tongan-American community and their struggle to meet the daily challenges of living in America to successfully obtain their American citizenship. Today, the Society services and touches thousands of Tongan lives, other Pacific Islanders, and their friends through various programs it provides.

The National Tongan-American Society ([www.ntasutah.org](http://www.ntasutah.org)) seeks to fulfill its mission to create and maintain programs that meet the needs of the Tongan-American community, their families, and their friends. In addition, it seeks to encourage the Tongan "ofa faka-kāinga" (extended-family love and care) that crosses ethnicity, national origins, gender, and religious boundaries.

### In-kind Advertisers

We have an ever growing number of advertising partners (*Multihulls Magazine*, *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.



FISA Inter-island ferry

## Volunteers!

### **Get \$100 credit (per box) on your rotation!**

If you're planning on joining us in 2013 or 2014 and you're looking for an easy way to lower the rotation cost of volunteering, we have a great solution. Until August 1, 2013, we will provide our volunteers with a \$100 Rotation Credit for each full box of medical supplies donated to Sea Mercy either by you, or in your name.

Donations that are not used on board the FHCC, we will use to assist Tonga's underfunded remote health clinics (and workers) that do not have even basic medical supplies and equipment.

If your employer/office has any excess medical supplies, medicines, and medical equipment that can donate to Sea Mercy (we are a 501(c)3 for tax purposes), we will ensure it reaches those who are in need and provide you with a \$100 credit (per box) toward your next rotation in 2013 or 2014.

For more information email us at:

[info@seamercy.org](mailto:info@seamercy.org)



*Remote island home*

## Donation Requests

The beauty of the South Pacific can be fleeting once you leave the blue waters and sand beaches and step into a remote village. It is the same with the level of medical care and medicines that are available. The medical needs in a third world nation are beyond our imaginations and without someone to champion the cause and deliver these services, it can often seem an overwhelming task. That is where Sea Mercy steps in, but we still need your help if we are to succeed.

Below is a link to the **Sea Mercy Donation Request List** of items that are in desperate need in remote islands of Tonga and across the South Pacific. Please know that we are not expecting any one individual or organization to provide all that we are requesting, we are only asking for what you can give, or for what you might be wanting to "get rid of" or that might be antiquated from your perspective and/or recently replaced. We promise you that whatever you give will be a valuable treasure for our Sea Mercy volunteers, or patients and/or for island nation partners and their remote clinics.

We will primarily be working and operating "on vessel" so our needs are more in the "small footprint" items that can be easily re-stocked at the end of each 2 week rotation. Additional "larger footprint" items that are donated will be delivered to the nearest remote land based clinics for their use. So any item you donate will be utilized either directly by Sea Mercy, or indirectly through the remote island health clinics.

### Our three primary areas of need:

1. **Medical Supplies**
2. **Medical Equipment**
3. **Pharmaceuticals/Medicines**

Link: <http://www.seamercy.org/node/78>



**Glucometers for Tonga!**

## Sea Mercy shirts for our volunteers!

### *Help us spread the word!*

Every year Sea Mercy will be creating new commemorative shirts for our volunteers in appreciation of their service and as a memento of your time on the FHCC and in recognition as to where you served. So if you are joining us this year, we have one waiting for you!

For those that cannot make it this year, but would like a commemorative shirt to help spread the word about Sea Mercy, visit the website before May 24th and place your order for one before the deadline.



Front of Shirt



Back of Shirt



## Sea Mercy Volunteer Shirts

This years Sea Mercy commemorative shirt honors the **Kingdom of Tonga** with a colored map on the back showing the remote islands of Tonga and the people our volunteers served during the 2013 rotations. As we were preparing to order our volunteers shirts, we had several supporters, volunteers and staff members also express a strong desire for a Sea Mercy shirt. Not wanting to miss anyone else, we decided to postpone the order until May 24th to allow our other volunteers and supporters the time to place their order request and size of shirt in time.

### Help us “Spread the Word” about Sea Mercy

If you desire a commemorative shirt, be sure to visit our website and click on the **Sea Mercy Shirt** link on the right side column. Complete the online order form and your shirt will be added to our print cycle and shipped to you directly (plan 2 weeks after the order is placed for printing and shipment arrival). Thank you for helping us to spread the word about Sea Mercy and our Floating Health Care Clinic programs in the South Pacific.

# Sponsorship & Fundraising

With a goal to provide a FHCC for each island nation partner in the South Pacific at the earliest opportunity, we are reaching out to foundations and corporations to help support the fleet of Sea Mercy Floating Health Care Clinics (FHCC).

Operating a floating health clinic in the South Pacific for a year is not an easy or inexpensive endeavor. A 2-week FHCC rotation of 5 volunteers costs on average \$3,020 per volunteer to operate (see below). This includes the volunteers food and housing, and all costs of medical supplies and operational expenses of the FHCC. Although our goal is to gain enough support from corporate and foundation sponsors to cover the operational costs of every FHCC vessel in our growing fleet, it is the sacrifice of our FHCC vessel owners and volunteers that allows Sea Mercy to meet the needs of these remote island citizens.

	<u>2 week</u>	<u>4 weeks*</u>	<u>12 weeks</u>
Food	\$ 550	\$1,100	\$3,300
Fuel	\$ 195	\$ 390	\$1,170
Medical Supplies	\$ 400	\$ 800	\$2,400
Captain/Crew	\$1,135	\$2,270	\$6,810
Miscellaneous	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$1,500
FHCC Costs**	\$ 490	\$ 980	\$2,940
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,020</b>	<b>\$6,040</b>	<b>\$18,120</b>

\* Volunteers who are committing to 4+ week assignments can schedule in advance additional 2+ week rotations on other FHCC vessels

\*\* FHCC insurance, moorage, repairs, maintenance, local storage facilities for medical supplies

## FHCC Vessels

Understanding the urgency and needs of the remote islanders, each Sea Mercy FHCC owner left behind successful charter businesses to partner with Sea Mercy and "sail with a greater purpose". This partnership eliminates the need for Sea Mercy to purchase an FHCC and focus instead on covering operational costs.

## Volunteers

To be clear to our Sea Mercy health care volunteers, your 2 week rotation is not a vacation. In addition to treating patients, you will be helping sail and anchor the vessel, loading and unloading supplies, preparing for and cleaning up after each visit, and helping with meals. So if you enjoy serving people and applying your talents and skills, then consider this the most incredible "working vacation" of a lifetime that also allows you to visit the beautiful South Pacific islands and interact with their people.

## Join Us in Making a Difference

If you are willing to participate in personal fundraising efforts (or pay your own way) to help offset operational costs, we will move you to the top of the volunteer assignment list and provide you with first choice of location, length of service and even your preferred vessel assignment. Whether you're shooting to raise enough funds for a 2 week rotation, or multiple rotations with multiple island nation partners, we can help you succeed in reaching your dreams. Contact us about the available tools and rewards we have waiting for you on the next page.

## Contact Us

Send us an email for more information about our programs

### Sea Mercy

#### US Offices

25075 West Demming  
Elmira, OR 97437  
541-935-5846  
info@seamercy.org

#### Australia Contact

Sydney, Australia  
ausinfo@seamercy.org

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

