



## Hopes and Dreams Fulfilled in 2013

This newsletter is dedicated to all the people who made Sea Mercy's 2013 program in Tonga such a tremendous success. What started as an idea and a dream in September of 2012, became a reality in July of 2013. During four 2 week rotations and over 500 miles of sailing, our Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC) **Rebelle** safely carried our volunteers, local health ministry staff, and medical supplies and medicines to 37 remote island villages and treating over 870 patients.

In addition, we have formed some dynamic and powerful partnerships with organizations that want to work with us to help make a difference in the South Pacific. From airlines, health care volunteer associations, transportation companies, and even a winery (read more inside to understand more), and individuals of influence. Each brings something special to Sea Mercy and her volunteers and partners. We have also added an Ambassador program that can help you not only spread the word about Sea Mercy, but reward you also!

With the arrival of **Dragonfly** and **Sea Raven** in June of 2014, we will have three FHCC's operating in two different island nations (Tonga and Fiji)! Growing from 4 rotation in 2013 to 33 in 2014, we are looking for 130 to 180 volunteers to join us in the South Pacific, so help us spread the word to those who have the heart and ability to help make more dreams come true for these neglected remote islands!

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*“Over an 8 week period, our Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC) **Rebelle** safely carried our volunteers, local health ministry staff, and medical supplies and medicines to 37 remote island villages and treating over 870 patients.”*

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One vessel can make a difference...

...A fleet can change the world!



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*Dr. Paul Andelin—Sea Mercy Volunteer making a special house call on a remote island*

## Yoga, Zumba and Tonga!

A couple of new exercise programs were introduced to the local populations to encourage healthy lifestyles... Yoga and Zumba!

Amanda Zeitoun, the wife of our Sea Mercy Captain Xavier, and Savannah Andelin (daughter of Dr. Andelin) introduced Yoga and Zumba as exercise programs with the goal of increasing flexibility and energy for the local islanders. We hope the program will encourage more activity and healthier citizens and help offset the effects and/or occurrence of diabetes.

From the reports we have received, both programs were a huge success and will be continued with each rotation.

## The Best Medicine

By **Dr. Paul Andelin** - 2013 Sea Mercy Volunteer in Tonga

Juan Ponce De Leon died in Cuba in 1521. He was returning home after a failed search for the legendary "fountain of youth". He may have done better to search in the South Pacific for the "fountain of happiness".

This past summer my sixteen year old daughter and I visited the Kingdom of Tonga as part of the "Sea Mercy" medical team. Our first visit was to the small village of Ofu - population 200. The people live without cars or "modern conveniences". Yet, they are rich in mirth. Our first patient was an 87 year old bedridden woman. She smiled, she thanked us, she laughed.

Then came visits to other tiny islands. The natives came with diabetes, hypertension, ruptured ear drums, and pneumonia. Then there was roast pig, fish, octopus, papaya, bananas. And for dessert...we had laughter.

Sunday came in the village of Hunga. They went to church; they sang, loud and in harmony. The minister's text was Psalms 81:1: "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord". Then they sang more. No piano, no guitar, just beautiful voices that could bring a tear to the eye of even a non-believer. Next came handshaking, hugging, smiling and more laughter.

They laugh when they are happy. They laugh when they are sick. They laugh with strangers. They laughed when I was trying to sleep. I was told they even laugh at funerals.

Yes, Juan Ponce De Leon should have searched the South Pacific. He may have found the Kingdom of Tonga. Perhaps he would not have lived any longer, but at least he would have died laughing.

*Thanks for sharing this article Paul!*



**Paul & Savannah Andelin**



## Chris & Susan Pearmund

Chris is one of Virginia's most widely recognized and well respected winegrowers and winemakers. He has over 25 years experience as a winemaker, vineyard manager and winery operator. Chris is the "go-to" guy if you want to understand the wine industry from berry to bottle. He has taught and mentored numerous professionals in the industry.

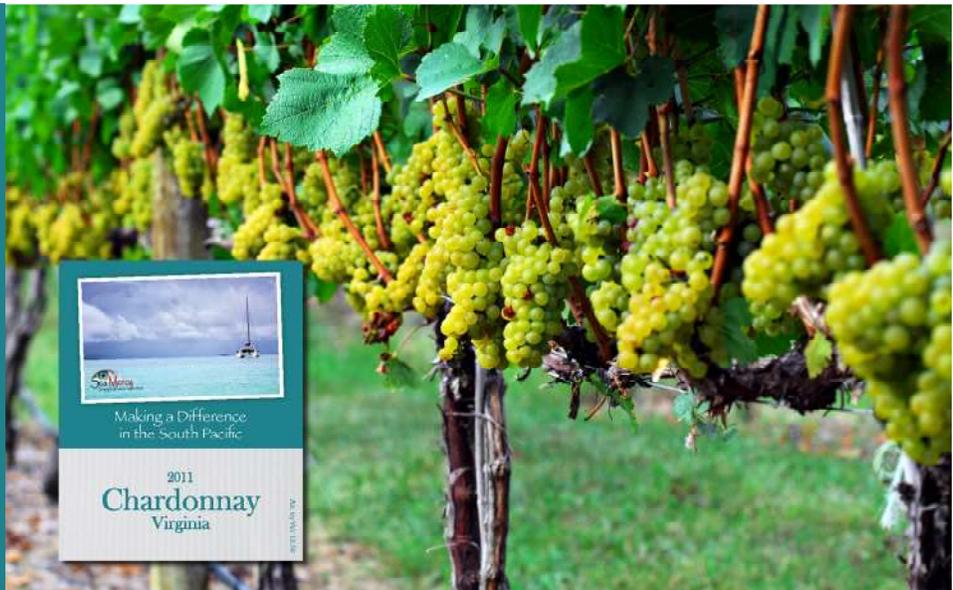
Susan is a well known author (*Confessions of a Counterfeit Farm Girl*), musician, humorist, and writer for *The Huffington Post*.

Chris and Susan are joining *Dragonfly* on one of her 6 transit legs to Tonga. It is great to have them a part of Sea Mercy.

*Let us know your great ideas for Sea Mercy!*



Chris & Susan Pearmund



The Pearmund Cellars "Private Label Chardonnay" for Sea Mercy

## Pearmund Cellars & Sea Mercy

We believe we have some of the most amazing and creative volunteers of any organization with the hearts to always go the extra mile to meet a need. One such couple is Chris & Susan Pearmund. When a volunteer says that they would like to help Sea Mercy, you never know what that means until you know who they are. Chris and Susan own a very successful winery in Virginia called **Pearmund Cellars**. Their wines have not only won wine competition awards up and down the East Coast, they were voted the **#1 Best Winery** in Virginia and have the oldest chardonnay vineyard on the East coast.

They also have a love for sailing and believe in the health care goals that Sea Mercy has for the people of the South Pacific. So much so that they have provided two wonderfully creative and tasty promotions for Sea Mercy to meet those needs.

### **Private Label Chardonnay for Sea Mercy**

Pearmund Cellars recent release of their 2011 'Old Vine' Chardonnay has a special bottling available at \$25 per bottle, with \$5 per bottle going to Sea Mercy.

### **Sail the Chesapeake Raffle**

If you spend \$100 for the bottle, Chris and Susan will sign it, and you will be entered into a raffle to have a day of sailing with Chris and Susan on the Chesapeake and dinner, and spend the night in Annapolis.

*The entire \$100 donation will go to Sea Mercy.*

If you love great wine and are looking for something special to give to those you care for during the holiday season, then both would make wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts that can be shipped directly to you and your friends! Visit them online or call today to place your order while this special bottling offer lasts!

### **Pearmund Cellars**

[www.pearmundcellars.com](http://www.pearmundcellars.com)

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540-347-3475



Helping Sea Mercy make a difference in the South Pacific

## Calling all Ambassadors!

We are very excited about our new Sea Mercy Ambassador Recruitment & Training (SMART) Program and the opportunity it provides for our volunteers and organizations who desire to engage their communities and relationships. Sea Mercy is a grassroots organization that has seen incredible and unprecedented growth, partnership development, and remote island patient results in its first year of operation (exceeding all of our 2013 thru 2015 goals). What is even more amazing is that we accomplish this without any paid staff.

### Get SMART with Sea Mercy

Our goal with the SMART program is to provide our volunteers and corporate relationships with the tools and resources they need to be effective "ambassadors" for Sea Mercy, to help us spread the word to others who have that same heart, and to reward our ambassadors accordingly. As professed ambassadors for Sea Mercy, they simply wanted to know how to work smarter, not harder. We have an ambassador program for volunteers, individuals and organizations, and a reward structure designed for each type of ambassador.

Here are some of the ways we help our ambassadors:

- How to effectively and clearly reach out to your local health care communities, employers, and co-workers.
- How to effectively engage and communicate the Sea Mercy program and message to your local media outlets.
- How to help volunteers who desire and dream about volunteering for an upcoming rotation, to easily raise the funds they need.
- To have clear objectives and goals and be rewarded for achieving them.
- Help evaluate and develop a mutually beneficial fundraising program best suited for an organization within a specific industry.

### Interested in becoming a Sea Mercy Ambassador?

Go to our website and select the "Ambassadors" link under the "Programs" main menu. Here you will find more information about the program and how to register to be a Sea Mercy Ambassador.

### Your Ambassador Toolbox

There is an online request, review and approval process for our ambassador program. Each selected ambassador will receive the following initial "tool box" to work and build their local program with:

- Professional Sea Mercy Shirt
- Personalized Sea Mercy business cards (500)
- Personalized Sea Mercy Email (xxxx@seamercy.org)
- Personalized Sea Mercy Ambassador Page on website (for your territory/region)
- Personalized 11x17 Sea Mercy Color posters (Qty 10)
- Personalized Sea Mercy Color Flyers (Qty 50)

Please visit us online to submit your request for consideration as a **Sea Mercy Ambassador!** We look forward to working with you and helping you make a difference in the South Pacific.



Personalized Business Cards



Our black polo with white lettering

## Build a "Team" and Save!

At Sea Mercy, we are always looking for new ways to maximize our volunteers experience during their rotation while at the same time minimizing their costs. With each new discovery, we immediately share it with our volunteers. Our most recent opportunity is the "Team Building" program that will increase your fun, strengthen your current inner and outer office relationships, and reduce individual costs. How much more fun would it be to volunteer in the South Pacific with your friends and co-workers!

To encourage volunteers to "build their own team" of 4 or more volunteers consisting of health care co-workers, family and friends (each rotation team must consist of a minimum of 2 health care professionals), in return we are able to reduce the overall "per volunteer" cost on each rotation considerably.

To get your Sea Mercy "team" rotation started, simply complete the online **2014 Assignment Request** form and mention that you are looking to build a team to join you on your rotation. All "team" requests will receive an email packet of information on how to organize, reach out and involve potential team members, and if the help is needed, to use Sea Mercy's fundraising tools in order assist those team members needing a little financial help.



Build your own rotation team!



Sea Mercy Flag Flying Proudly in the Kingdom of Tonga

## 2014 Program (Fiji & Tonga)

2014 will be an incredible year for Sea Mercy. With the arrival of *Dragonfly* and *Sea Raven* in June, we will have three Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC) vessels in operation. Our expanded fleet will also allow us to add our next island nation partner. This will increase the number of 2 week rotations to 31 and the number of potential volunteers opportunities to nearly 200. We will dedicate one vessel for Tonga to cover the Ha'apai and Vava'u island group (28 targeted remote islands) and move the other two vessels to Fiji to serve their 60+ remote islands.

### Dental & Ophthalmology Rotations in 2014

In 2014 we will also be adding dental and ophthalmology focused rotations to our medical focused services. Like medical, dental and eye care services are almost non-existent on our island nation partners more remote islands. The number of these rotations will be based on the number of available dental and ophthalmology volunteers that are available to join us.

### Volunteer Staff Selection

Our goal is to operate each FHCC in a breakeven structure and currently requires our volunteers to cover their own costs until outside sponsorship can either eliminate or help offset those costs. Although this will be the most incredible all inclusive "working holiday" you will ever experience, please understand that this is NOT a chartered cruise. A chartered cruise of this nature would cost from \$6,000 to \$12,000+ per person for the same 2 week period. By operating each FHCC vessel at cost, allows us to expand our available fleet and the number of remote islands we can serve in the South Pacific.

### Register Online

For more information on the 2014 program and to begin the pre-screening and island nation approval process, be sure to review the [2014 Program Schedule](#) and then register online for your desired rotation.

## Approval of Volunteers by our Island Nations

### Getting the “okay” from them to practice

As a health care professional, to volunteer on one of our Floating Health Care Clinics requires more than just a desire. Each of volunteer must complete a full application that includes a copy of your license. This is then submitted to the island nation where you will be practicing for their prior approval.

This protects and indemnifies you personally from patient liability issues. Because there is a Health Ministry official working with each rotation, that further helps to insure our efforts and volunteers are protected and supervised.

This full application may seem overly comprehensive, but it is a required of each volunteer\* prior to their joining a Sea Mercy rotation. Approval usually is granted within 2-4 weeks of submission.

*\* Although a non-medical guest or family member does not require island nation approval, they are still required to complete an application.*



## Air New Zealand & Sea Mercy

### Partnering in the South Pacific

One of the greatest challenges of serving our island nation partners in the South Pacific is the high cost and flexibility challenges that our volunteers often faced when trying to book their flights. After sharing those challenges with the key staff at Air New Zealand, we are excited to announce a program that they have developed that not only provides our Sea Mercy volunteers with greater flexibility, service, and affordability, but a dedicated staff member who works specifically with our Sea Mercy volunteers.

We are grateful to Air New Zealand for taking the time to listen to our many needs and requirements and providing us with a way to simplify our volunteers travel process. When booking your upcoming travel arrangements for your 2014 rotation, be sure to connect with them first. All Sea Mercy volunteers who have registered for a 2014 rotation will be sent the Air New Zealand contact information.

### Air New Zealand Partnership Program

Air New Zealand has reserved a protected block of seats for our volunteers. These protected seats are not only offered at a reduced rate, but they also allow our volunteers the freedom to book a lower rate Air NZ fare that they might see online for the same flight. You simply contact Sea Mercy's Air New Zealand representative and they will book the flight at the lower rate for you.

Simply follow the instructions that are provided when you register online for a 2014 rotation, or email us directly with any questions.

A special thank you to our friends at Air New Zealand!



Sea Mercy Application

# Supporting Sea Mercy

There are so many ways that an individual, company, or organization can support Sea Mercy and our goals to deliver free health care services to the remote islanders in the South Pacific that do not have access to even basic services. Here are the primary ways you can help:

1. **Sponsor a Volunteer**
2. **Sponsor a Rotation**
3. **Sponsor a Vessel Refit Item**
4. **Open Gift & In-kind Donations to Sea Mercy**

## Sponsor a Volunteer

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of Sea Mercy. They literally donate their time, talents and money for 2 weeks in order to serve those in need. Each volunteer pays their own airfare and the room and board for the 2 weeks they are on one of our FHCC vessels. If you would like to help make a volunteers dream of serving with Sea Mercy in the South Pacific come true, then visit our list of **Volunteers Personal Fundraising** pages and make a donation to one or more of them (anonymously or public).

## Sponsor a Rotation

In our continual goal is to find ways to reduce the per volunteer cost for each rotation while operating at a break even structure for each rotation. Individuals and employers can help sponsor a rotation(s). All sponsor donations are used to reduce the per volunteer costs on that the selected rotation. In return, we provided a sponsor listing in the Rotation Sponsor section of our website and also announce it on our Facebook page. This is a great way to say thank you to a group of volunteers.

## Sponsor a Vessel Refit Item

Our Sea Mercy Captains/Owners have given up very lucrative charter businesses in order to "sail with a greater purpose" with Sea Mercy. With less charter income available, there are planned and emergency needs that arise that require additional personal funds for their vessel and Sea Mercy to operate effectively. As a result, we have created a Vessel Refit Assistance page for people to contribute to. Visit the Refit Assistance page to see where you can help with a future need.

## Open Gift & In-Kind Donations To Sea Mercy

There are so many needs that each open gift or in-kind donation can be used to meet that we cannot list all of them here. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, what we can promise is that the open gift and in-kind gifts will be used to the best of our ability to meet the needs at hand. Whether medical supplies, solar panels, generators, beds, boats, etc., we will evaluate each donation to determine how best to maximize the use or value of it. If you would like to contribute to Sea Mercy please use the our PayPal link (website) for online cash donations, or contact us directly to arrange for donations through other channels.

## Contact Us

Send us an email for more information about our programs

### Sea Mercy

#### US Offices

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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

