



EYE CARE PROGRAM

for the remote islands

CURRENTLY SERVING:
THE KINGDOM OF TONGA
AND THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

FREE FLOATING HEALTH CARE CLINICS

FOR THE REMOTE ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC



A single vessel can make a difference
and a fleet can change the world

www.seamercy.org

OUR PROGRAMS

OUR MISSION

In the USA, we are blessed with the medical infrastructure and staff that is available to the majority of our population, but in the South Pacific, there are no roads, power lines, or phone systems to connect the smaller, less populated islands to the same health care services offered on the more populated, primary islands. Sadly, these remote islands are left without even the most basic of health care services, creating an incredible disparity between the remote islands and primary islands in terms of overall health, infant mortality and immunization rates, and longevity.

SEA MERCY

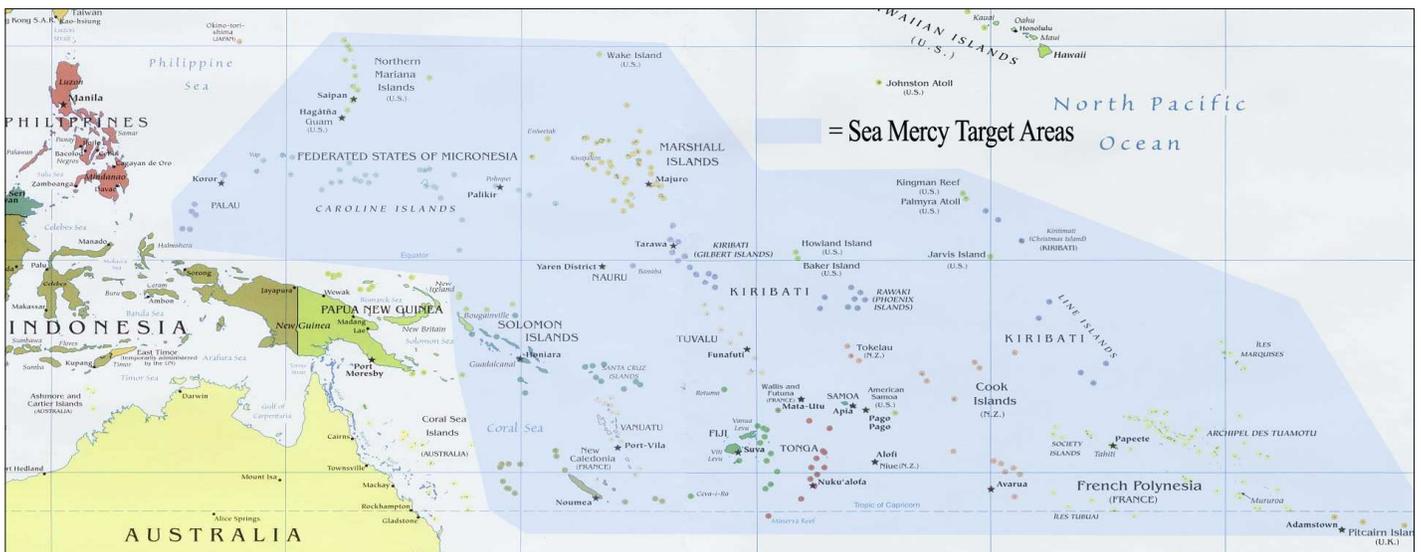
Sea Mercy (www.seamercy.org) is a US based 501(c) 3 non-profit organization with a simple vision and mission to "stand in the gap" with a service delivery vessel, trained health volunteers, support equipment, and critical care services as our island nation partners develop their "outer island" health care infrastructure. Operating from a fleet of large sailing catamarans, Sea Mercy provides and staffs free **Floating Health Care Clinics (FHCC)** for our island nation partners remote islands.

OUR TARGET ISLAND NATIONS

There are eleven island nation communities that Sea Mercy will be targeting for this program, each in desperate need for health care assistance for their large number of remote islands. They are listed below with their number of primary islands and number of remote islands:

- The Kingdom of Tonga** - 1 primary, 176 remote
- The Republic of Fiji** - 2 primary, 332 remote
- Solomon Islands** - 5 primary, 900+ remote
- Federated States of Micronesia** - 4 primary, 607 remote
- Palau** - 3 primary, 250 remote
- Vanuatu** - 2 primary, 81 remote
- The Marshall Islands** - 1 primary, 34 remote
- Kiribati** - 1 primary, 32 remote
- The Cook Islands** - 2 primary, 13 remote
- The Mariana Islands** - 1 primary, 14 remote
- Tuvalu** - 1 primary, 8 remote

With 11 island nations targeted, we plan to add from 2-3 additional FHCC's per year based on available volunteers and funding, with a goal for providing an FHCC program for all 11 nations within 4-7 years.

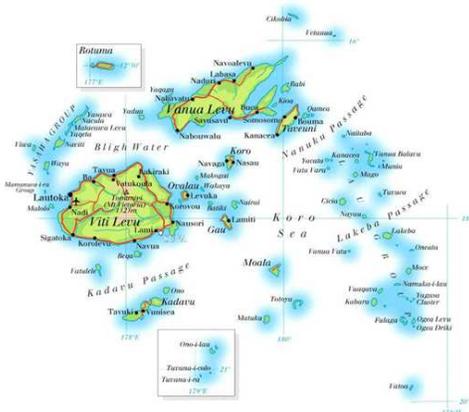


CURRENT SEA MERCY ISLAND NATION PARTNERS

REPUBLIC OF FIJI

With a population of nearly 1 million and over 300 remote islands, of which over 100 are permanently inhabited, Fiji is one of our largest island nation partners. Due to size and distance, we will be operating two FHCC's in order to effectively serve their remote islands citizens.

There are three remote island groups that Sea Mercy will be focusing on in Fiji; the islands south of Lakeba Passage, the islands south of Nanuku Passage (but north of Lakeba Passage), and the Yasawa Group northwest of Viti Levu. We depart Sunday evening from Suva on the main island of Viti Levu, and make our first landfall on our furthest targeted island. Over the next 12 days we will sail our way back, stopping at each scheduled remote island to evaluate and treat patients as needed.



KINGDOM OF TONGA

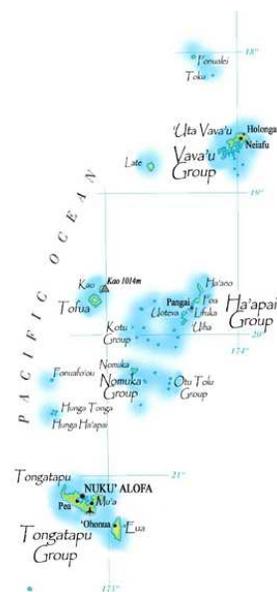
Although smaller in population (100,000), Tonga has over 170 remote islands, of which 50 are permanently inhabited. After spending 2013 in Tonga, we have determined that one FHCC vessel can reach all the remote islands within our desired 45-60 day time period.

There are two main remote island groups that Sea Mercy will be focusing on in Tonga; the Ha'apai Group located 100 miles north of the main island of Tongatapu, and the Vava'u group located 250 miles north of the main island. Each rotation will be starting in either Pangai in Ha'apai, or Neifu in Vava'u where the rotation will spend the next 12 days visiting as many remote islands as possible in each island group.

OUR 2 WEEK ROTATIONS

With three FHCC vessels operating in 2014, our rotation types and volunteers will be medical (60%), dental (30%) and ophthalmology (10%). Each consisting of a balanced team of 4 to 8 professionals for each rotation (i.e. doctor, nurse, physicians assistant, and pharmacist) and will include two local island health care professionals who will be working with you and acting as translators when needed.

Volunteers are selected based on experience and ability and submitted to the island nations for work approval. Each rotation is a balance of patient care, sailing, and enjoying the incredible sights, people and culture of the South Pacific. It is the best "working holiday" that you will ever experience.



UNDERSTANDING THE NEED IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

EYE CARE PROGRAM DIRECTORS



Dr. Royce Fonken (Comprehensive Ophthalmology, Advanced Cataract Surgery) and his lovely wife Loriana have taken on the design, implementation and leadership role for the Sea Mercy Eye Care Program in the South Pacific. With their deep knowledge and experience in the field of Ophthalmology, they have developed a program that will help meet the unique and comprehensive needs of the remote islanders that Sea Mercy visits. Evaluation and treatment services that includes:

- **Cataract Surgery**
- **Corneal Disease**
- **Pediatric Ophthalmology**
- **Glaucoma**
- **Retinal Disease**
- **Ophthalmic Reconstructive Surgery**

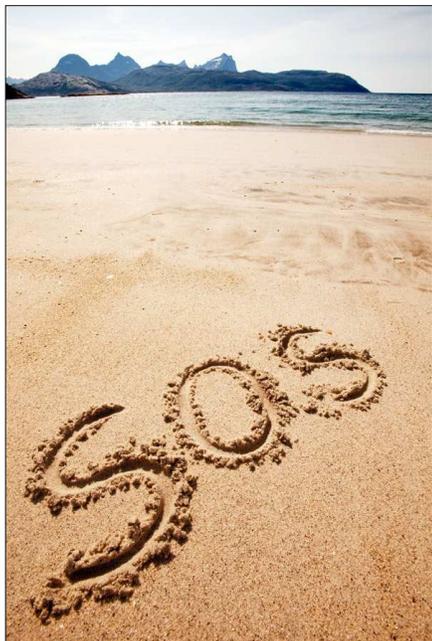
Royce and Loriana have been around water all their lives. They currently live on a houseboat in Portland, Oregon. Dr. Fonken, a board certified ophthalmologist, has dedicated his career to bringing surgical eye care to those who have no access to quality care, especially those who are geographically isolated. Surgical trips have carried Dr. Fonken from the Amazon to the Himalayas, but there is probably no place on earth farther from eye care facilities than the tiny islands on the fringes of the island nations of the South Pacific. Looking for a way to combine their love of sailing and their lifelong mission of bringing eye care to remote areas, Royce and Loriana discovered Sea Mercy. “We were so excited!”, says Loriana. “We are honored to be included in this fine organization and the goals we have for the South Pacific. Never in my wildest dreams would I have expected to find an organization so tailor-made for us.”

DIABETES AND CATARACTS

With Diabetes so prevalent in the South Pacific, the importance of early diagnosis and treatment can help prevent or save the eye sight of hundreds, if not thousands of remote islanders. Cataract blindness is all too common around the world, especially in areas far from medical care. It causes a lifetime of incredible misery to those affected and their loved ones. Fortunately, complete and permanent restoration of vision is possible with a 15 minute surgery which can be performed anywhere in the world. “Nothing is more satisfying to me than introducing a father to his daughter he has never seen; to see the smile on his face and the tears streaming down his cheek when he can finally see the face he has only touched. This drives me”, Dr. Fonken says.

OUR EYE CARE PROGRAM FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC

OBJECTIVES OF THE EYE CARE PROGRAM



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

There is definitely a need for help on the remote islands of the South Pacific, and Sea Mercy has created a Eye Care Program for these High-Risk Underserved Populations to establish and/or enhance eye care where populations exhibit substantial risk for treatable eye care health problems because of lack of access.

Objectives:

1. To enhance eye care promotion, prevention and corrective activities to remote island populations
2. To provide remote populations with a point of entry into the eye care health system, and
3. To identify effective interventions to suit the community needs, mobilize resources to implement the activities, and evaluate the outcome of these activities including methods to monitor progress toward a healthy remote island population

HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer - You can join a current 2-week eye care rotation (ophthalmologists, optometrists, assistants) on one of our FHCC vessels operating from April through October, or build your own team. Each rotation is a balance of patient care, sailing, and enjoying the incredible sights, people and culture of the South Pacific. It is the most rewarding and inspiring “working vacation” that you will ever experience.

In-Kind Donations - The ongoing needs in the South Pacific are huge and your donations of recently replaced/used equipment, glasses, tools, and excess supplies will help meet the needs of thousands across the South Pacific. Please call or email us to arrange any equipment or medicine donations.

Financial Support - What we do not receive from in-kind donations (tools, equipment, medicines, and supplies), we purchase and ship to our vessels in the South Pacific. Your financial assistance is so important for us to support our eye care teams volunteering their time and talents. You can send a check directly, or donate online through our website.

Sea Mercy is a US based 501(c)3 non-profit charity and all US based in-kind, financial and volunteer rotation donations are tax deductible.

THERE IS
AN **INCREDIBLE NEED**
IN THE **SOUTH PACIFIC**

THERE IS ALSO
AN **INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY**
TO MAKE **A DIFFERENCE**

COME AND **JOIN US**



Visit us online to learn more about our programs:

www.seamercy.org

Facebook: [Sea Mercy](#)

Twitter: [SeaMercy1](#)

Sea Mercy

25075 West Demming Road

Elmira, OR 97437

541-935-5846 * info@seamercy.org