The Africa Mercy in Togo, West Africa.
Mercy Ships Overview

• Established in 1978.
• Impacted over 2.35 million people with life-transforming surgeries and ongoing community development.
• Performed more than 61,000 operations such as cleft lip and palate, cataract removal, orthopaedic and facial reconstruction, and birth injury surgeries.
• Treated over 539,000 patients in village medical and dental clinics.
• Mentored/trained approximately 29,400 local health care professionals in their areas of expertise (ophthalmology, anesthesiology, dental, orthopaedic, midwifery, medical equipment sterilization, leadership.)
Mercy Ships Overview

- Taught basic health education skills to more than 150,000 local people.
- Completed approximately 1,100 community development projects focusing on water and sanitation, education, infrastructure development and agriculture.
- Completed over 575 port visits in 53 developing nations and 17 developed nations.
- Mercy Ships has approximately 1,200 volunteer crew from more than 30 nations annually.
- Worked in West Africa since 1990.
West Africa Overview

- Most countries in West Africa rank in the bottom third of the UN Human Development Index with the majority of the populations living on less than two dollars per day.
- There are, on average, only 23 physicians and 100 nurses/midwives for every 100,000 people. [ii]
- Many existing medical structures are severely inadequate; water and electricity supplies are sporadic and unreliable; equipment and supplies are limited.
- Experts have equated the condition of some present-day West African hospitals to US Civil War-era standards. [ii]

[i] Calculated using the WHO 2004 Health Workforce and population numbers.
Africa Mercy

• Retro-fitted 498 ft, 16,500 ton former Danish rail ferry
• Purpose-built hospital and crew accommodations
  • 78 bed ward
  • 6 state-of-the-art operating suites
  • Living quarters for 450 crew
  • Fully accredited K-12 school with about 55 students – children of Mercy Ships crew.
• Catalyst to help revolutionize the health care systems of the western Africa region
Why a hospital ship platform?

• To avoid becoming long-term competition to the local health care system, as foreign operated, land-based facilities often do – *The Africa Mercy* is typically only in a given port for 10 months.

• *The Africa Mercy* platform is a first-world hospital in a self-contained, controlled environment which provides for excellent surgical outcomes and which can be quickly removed from political unrest or other danger, if necessary.

• Provides a setting in which western health care professionals are accustomed to working in while offering the benefits of portability.

• The arrival of a Mercy Ship is a high profile event and as such affords interaction with a country’s leadership which fosters participatory development at the highest governmental levels.
Mercy Ships regional strategy

- Mercy Ships works primarily in a 17 country coastal region of western Africa ranging from Senegal in the North to Congo in the South.
- Goal: Improvement of internationally recognized health indicators.
- Mercy Ships engagement with each country is a phased approach that includes:
  - country assessment
  - pre-ship program activities
  - ship deployment
  - post-ship program activities
  - program evaluation
History of Working with Rotary

- Mercy Ships has partnered with Rotarians since 1987
- Rotary funding of Mercy Ships is over $4 M USD and includes:
  - Rotary International of the British Isles (RIBI) charity of choice 2005-06
  - 12 grants – funding surgeries and health care capacity training (8 matching grants, 1 competitive grant and 3 global grants)
- Mercy Ships is currently 1 of 3 strategic partners with Rotary as a part of Rotary’s “Future Vision Campaign”
Ways to get involved

• Form a Mercy Team with your club to serve in Africa.

• Volunteer your professional skills – we need everyone from physicians to plumbers, cooks to clinicians, teachers to technicians.

• Help fund a Mercy Ships program area.

• Volunteer locally at the Mercy Ships headquarters in Garden Valley, TX or just stop by for a tour and a great cup of coffee!

• Contact us at civic.partners@mercyships.org with questions regarding opportunities for your club to get involved with Mercy Ships.
Thank you, Rotary!

www.mercyships.org