



Annual Report
2013



MISSION

Mercy Ships follows the 2000-year-old model of Jesus, bringing hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor.

VISION

Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to transform individuals and serve nations one at a time.

VALUES

Following the model of Jesus, we seek to:

- Love God
- Love and serve others.
- Be people of integrity.
- Be people of excellence in all we say and do.

Lucrech receives physical therapy exercises to strengthen his hand. Read his story in this report.



*"No act of kindness,
no matter how small,
is ever wasted."*

*– Aesop,
ancient Greek storyteller*

Dear Friends,

This past year was one of the most fruitful in the 35-year history of Mercy Ships. In fact, 2013 was a year of "headlines."

The *Africa Mercy's* dedicated crew served the people of Guinea and then sailed to the Republic of Congo for our very first field service to serve the poor in that nation. During the year, 1,490 eye surgeries and 1,373 other surgeries were performed, as well as 37,463 dental procedures and 12,004 eye evaluations.

At our May 2012 board of directors' meeting aboard the *Africa Mercy* in Togo, the board embraced the vision for more than doubling the impact of Mercy Ships in Africa by building a second vessel. Upon completion, the new purpose-built ship would serve the poorest of the poor in Africa for the next 50 years. Our prayer was that we would be able to raise over US\$50 million by August 2013 so we would be able to award a shipyard contract.

At our August 2013 meeting in the Republic of Congo, the board approved the design and specifications for the ship and the contract terms with the shipyard. Importantly, the board acknowledged the US\$57 million of firm commitments to begin the construction process with a mid-2017 completion date. The generosity of our board members was critical to our ability to move forward with nearly US\$30 million donated by members of the board.

During 2013, the national awareness of Mercy Ships was greatly enhanced by the airing of a 12-minute segment by CBS *60 Minutes* featuring the tireless work of our crew and the life-changing "hope and healing" impact of Mercy Ships. The exposure has led to increased staff volunteers and increased charitable giving. The most notable gift was a US\$20 million donation by Bill and Sue Gross, who learned of our work by viewing the CBS *60 Minutes* segment.

Another highlight of the past year was a very special evening in Dallas with President George W. Bush and Laura Bush at a dinner for 80 couples. Dana Perino, President Bush's former press secretary, served as moderator as the Bushes shared their passion for the people of Africa. Dana also assisted as we revealed the plans for a second ship. A number of attendees have indicated their interest in being an integral part of bringing the vision for a second ship to reality.

On behalf of the board and the talented people who serve with our organization, I thank you for your support for delivering desperately needed medical care to those with no other avenue of help.

Sincerely,

Myron E. Ullman, III
Chairman of the Board
Mercy Ships International



Dear Friends,

2013 was a remarkable, game-changing year for this 35-year-old organization!

The *Africa Mercy* set sail for the first Mercy Ships field service in Central West Africa. It was a beautiful sight as the big white ship sailed through the morning mist, navigated around the breakwater and docked in Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo. President Sassou N'Guesso was an enthusiastic partner, donating all fuel for the 10-month field service. Over 7,000 Congolese started forming long lines long before dawn on the patient selection day.

2013 also brought about a great increase in public awareness of Mercy Ships. On two occasions, *CBS 60 Minutes*, with Scott Pelley, aired a 12-minute segment highlighting Mercy Ships. The response was most encouraging, both in volunteer applications and donations. In August, Dana Perino of *The Five* on Fox also joined us onboard and reported her experiences via social media, a live Skype call and a special report when she returned.

The *Africa Mercy*, also brought hope and healing to Guinea earlier in the year. Mercy Ships strategy is to focus on immediate medical needs and simultaneously build local healthcare capacity through training and education. Guinea is 98% Muslim. We follow the 2000-year-old model of Jesus. Mercy Ships does not proselytize, but serves the forgotten poor regardless of faith, race, gender or ethnicity. As we prepared for departure, two officials mentioned, "It looks like Jesus is packing up to leave. You have brought Jesus to our city and nation."

The heart of Mercy Ships is in the partnership of our supporters, staff and professional volunteers onboard ship. In this report, you will read the story of an 11-year-old orthopedic patient named Ravette. One morning, Ravette hobbled, with casts and crutches, into the common area called the café. She quickly snagged everyone's attention. Crew members began to clap and cheer for her as she walked past their tables. The huge smile on her face clearly reflected their love.

On December 14, 2013, after a unanimous resolution by the Board of Directors, I signed a contract to purpose-build a new hospital ship based upon the *Africa Mercy*. This historic step was the result of five years of planning and thorough due diligence. Many more lives will be transformed as two ships deliver hope and healing.

Following the model of Jesus,



Don Stephens
President/Founder



Pointe-Noire, CONGO

In The National Spotlight...

with CBS 60 Minutes

In February and August, CBS 60 Minutes aired a wonderful segment about Mercy Ships, highlighting the tireless and dedicated efforts of our volunteers and staff. The flood of response included increased volunteer applications and donations. One notable contribution came from Bill and Sue Gross, who first learned of Mercy Ships from the 60 Minutes broadcast and decided to donate \$20 million. All gifts, large or small, help bring hope and healing to the poor in Africa.

Acts of Mercy

Since 1978 Mercy Ships has provided services and materials in developing nations valued at over **\$1 billion** impacting more than **2.48 million direct beneficiaries.**



"Spend a few days, as we did, aboard the Africa Mercy, and you will see how two worlds meet at the intersection of courage and compassion."

Scott Pelley, CBS 60 Minutes



2,487,000 +
Direct Medical Beneficiaries



608,200 +
Village Patients Treated
with medical and dental procedures



74,400 +
Life-Changing Surgical
Procedures Performed



34,500 +
Health Care Professionals Trained
in their field of expertise



5,850 +
Health Care Professionals Trained
to train others



1,100 +
Community Development
Projects Completed



581
Port Visits



57
Nations Visited



Partnering Together

Corporate Donors

The Henry Schein Cares Foundation has supported Mercy Ships for many years through donations and by supplying product for medical and dental programs. Recently, the foundation has offered another creative way to help – by providing scholarship funding to go toward travel and crew fees (room and board) for up to three crew members to serve in either a dental or medical role on the *Africa Mercy*. *“We believe that building the capacity and sustainability for wellness, prevention, treatment and education programs is essential to empower a community. Mercy Ships is an excellent example with a proven track record.”*

– Steve Kess,
Vice President, Professional Relations,
Henry Schein Inc.

Day-Crew

Essah Mawutohou Emmanuel has served with Mercy Ships in various capacities since 2009. He is returning to the *Africa Mercy*, where he will maintain and repair essential medical equipment onboard, thanks to Mercy Ships-sponsored training at MediSend International in Dallas, Texas. He recently graduated as valedictorian of the Fall 2013 MediSend Biomedical Equipment Technology Program™. He is now capable of managing a biomedical repair laboratory, as well as maintaining and repairing the often life-saving equipment. His proficiency will mean that vital equipment onboard the *Africa Mercy* can be repaired immediately rather than waiting for technicians to come from long distances at great expense.

Volunteers

“It’s different because here it’s not just about getting a task done; it’s about sharing in patients’ lives. It’s about journeying with them. It’s about relationship.”

– Brenda Howson,
Dietician/Infant Feeding Program Coordinator

Individual Donors

*“An individual donor who was prevented from serving onboard the *Africa Mercy* due to health issues wrote:*

“My osteoporosis has now advanced to the point where my bones are going to start breaking. So, my dream of giving myself in person to Mercy Ships must end. Instead, however, with real joy, I have calculated the amount I intended to spend on coming to Texas [for training] and contributed that amount to Mercy Ships. Delightfully enough, the amount involved allowed me to pay for one orthopedic surgery. My heart is laughing and lifted by the idea that, as my old bones are disintegrating and my mobility is being limited, someone in Africa will be able to have his or her bones repaired and mobility enhanced. Bone for bone, steps for steps! There’s no doubt in my mind that this is meant to be!”

– Name withheld upon request

Our Hospital Ship

M/V Africa Mercy



In August, *Africa Mercy* and crew sailed to Pointe-Noire, Congo.



A New Ship On the Horizon...

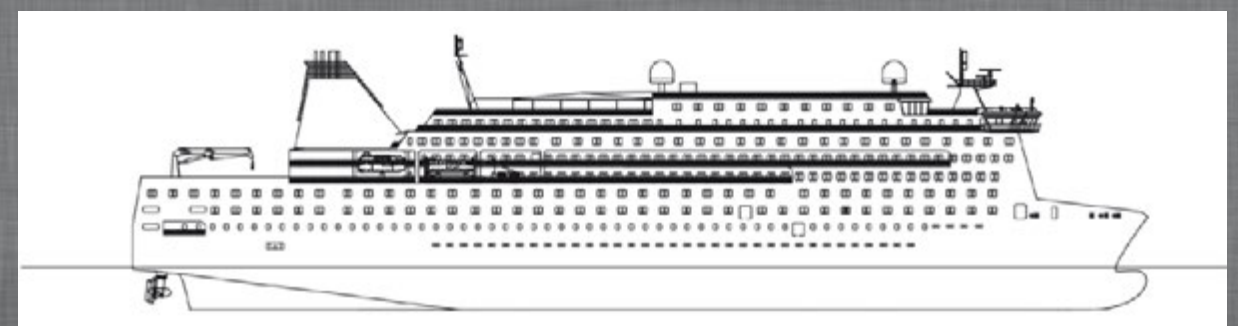
There's going to be an addition to the Mercy Ships fleet! On December 15th, Mercy Ships signed a contract with China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC) to purpose-build a new hospital ship for Mercy Ships. It is clearly a global collaborative project. The ship will be designed by the Finnish firm Deltamarin, the Swedish firm Stena RoRo will manage the actual project construction, and French ship brokerage company Barry Rogliano Salles negotiated the successful contract. The new ship will be classed by Lloyd's Register of the UK and flagged by Malta. Delivery from the shipyard is planned for July 2017, and then the ship will be equipped and staffed for its first field service in 2018.

The *Atlantic Mercy* (working title) will more than double the annual medical capacity of Mercy Ships. It will be capable of serving anywhere

in the world but will initially expand Mercy Ships activity on the African continent. The hospital area encompasses 7000 square meters and includes dedicated classroom/conference spaces as well as simulator labs for more effective training. It allows for all pre-operative and post-operative work to be done onboard rather than ashore.

"Our goal with this second Mercy Ship is to more than double the hope and healing through life-changing surgeries provided to those with little access to specialized healthcare and to increase the partnership of training and educational support of health professionals within the developing nations our ships will continue to serve."

– Don Stephens,
Mercy Ships President/Founder












AFRICA MERCY

2013 Field Service at a Glance

Conakry, Guinea

Bintou , born with congenital cataracts, received a free surgery to correct her vision and rejoices upon seeing her twin brother for the first time in her life.

 37,463 Dental Procedures	 2,863 Life-Changing Surgeries	 7,114 Medical Consultations
 908 Health Care Professionals Trained and Mentored	 1,143 Trained Through Mentoring and Leadership Courses (non-healthcare professionals)	 1,971 Patients & Care-givers Trained in Community Health Education
 64 Trained in Nutritional Agriculture	 34,932 Direct Beneficiaries	

Surgeries

Specialized and General



Goals

To improve the quality of life for patients suffering from the effects of neglected trauma and disease by providing life-saving and life-enhancing surgeries and by building local capacity.

+ 186

Cleft Lip & Palate Surgeries

+ 477

Maxillofacial Surgeries

+ 3

Surgeons Mentored in General Surgery

+ 173

Plastic Reconstructive Surgeries

+ 421

Other General Surgeries

Surgeries

In Guinea and the Republic of Congo, Mercy Ships worked in partnerships with the Ministry of Health, local physicians and other NGOs to provide surgeries. In onboard operating theaters, highly skilled volunteer surgeons performed free maxillofacial / reconstructive operations, plastic surgeries, other specialized surgeries, and general surgeries.



A Story of Hope... for Lucrech



"He's doing much better than yesterday," physiotherapist Nick remarks, as he gently inclines five-year-old Lucrech's thumb toward the pointer finger. It seems a small distance to cover – but, for Lucrech, it's a milestone.

You see, three years ago, while reaching for his brother's toy, Lucrech tripped, plunging his arm into a pot of boiling beans over an open fire. Without a skin graft to prevent the raw wound from forming inflexible scar tissue, the skin across his palm tightened until each finger was pulled into a permanently bent position. This is called a burn contracture.

Lucrech's classmates ridiculed him because he could not write or throw a ball. His mother recalls, "He loves to play games, especially soccer – but he had to play alone."

Today, the deep, fire-etched scars on his right hand go unnoticed. The people gathered around Lucrech and Nick are too busy celebrating a true showstopper – those five freed fingers that can move, stretch, grasp, wiggle, point and tickle! When the two fingers touch, everyone bursts into applause, exclaiming, "Très forte, Lucrech! Très forte!" [Very strong, Lucrech!]

"What are you going to do now that you can use your right hand?" a crew member asks him.

"I want to go back to school to write!" he says. Then, with a heart-melting grin, he adds, "I want to play ball with my friends, too!"



Orthopedic Projects



Goals

To improve the quality of life for patients suffering from orthopedic deformities and neglected trauma through life-enhancing surgeries and physical therapy.

Orthopedic Services

Working in partnership with the Ministry of Health, local and international NGOs, and local medical providers, the Orthopedic Project helped to relieve the burden of orthopedic diseases and afflictions for children with little or no alternative hope. Surgical interventions focused on neglected or mismanaged orthopedic trauma, childhood musculoskeletal conditions like club feet, and some joint disease. Due to the time constraints of the ten-month ship deployment, the focus is on pediatrics because the malleability of children's bones makes recovery much quicker.



A Story of Hope... for Ravette

Ravette has lived her eleven years of life with a deformity known as *genu recurvatum*, which loosely translates as “backward-bending knee.” It is a congenital dislocation of the knee. Ravette struggled to walk, to sit in a car or chair, to climb a staircase, and even to attend school.

The most remarkable thing about Ravette is not her deformity. It is her beautiful, ever-constant smile. No matter what goes on, even if it's painful or tedious, Ravette is always smiling.

That glowing smile greeted Dr. Frank, a Mercy Ships volunteer orthopedic surgeon from the U.S. Dr. Frank smiled back as he made his assessment: “At this age, the knees are now deformed and won't bend normally, but we can make them straight.”

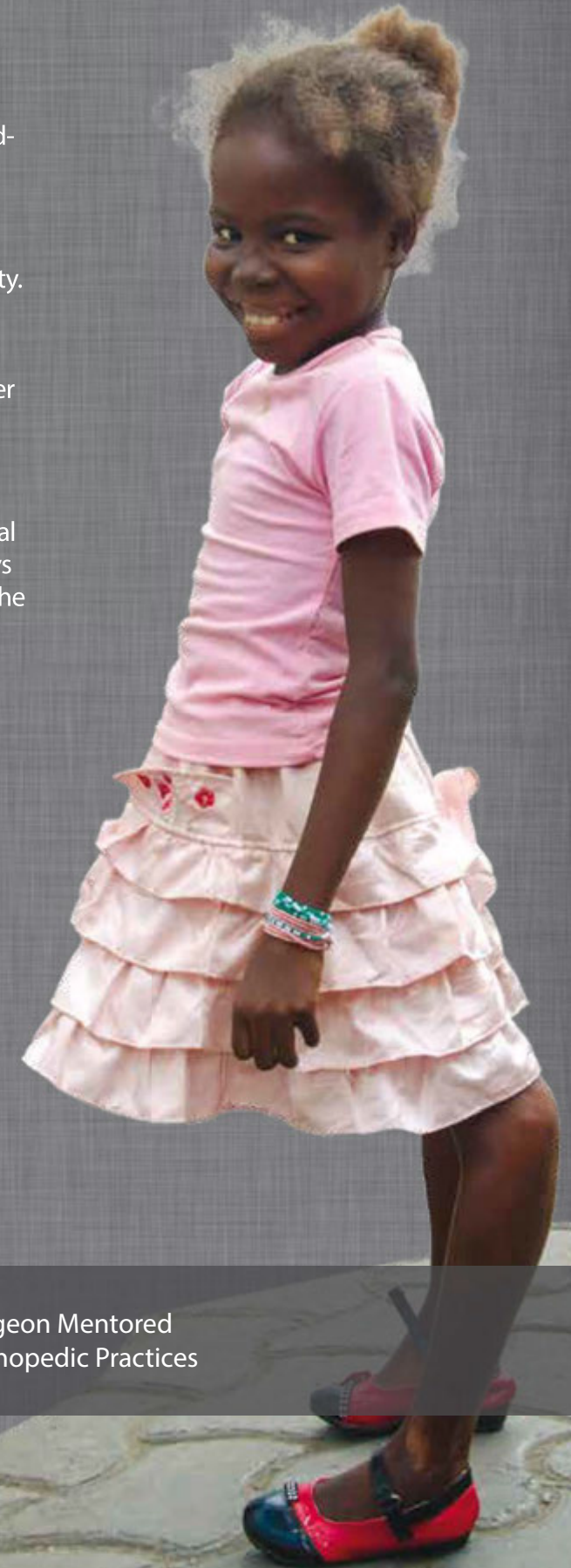
First, Ravette's legs were placed in the first of a series of special orthopedic casts that would be cranked straighter every four days until her surgery. This steady stretching would serve to increase the bendability in her soon-to-be straightened legs.

Surgery has since come and gone for Ravette. Hobbling around the wards with her crutches, she is always finding ways to have fun. Whether she's playing with the Paint program on an old Microsoft computer or mimicking her crew friends' English in a singsong voice – “I'm fine, ow are yooouu?” – she creates smiles and laughter.

There is much more ahead on Ravette's road to recovery. Gradually and progressively, casts and braces will come off until she's finally healed, and her bones are strong enough to walk with straight legs and no assistance.

Ravette is clear about her plans for the future, as she states firmly, “I want to find a job in an office working on a computer. I will be a boss!”

Yes, step by step, cast by cast, Ravette is making her way to a brighter future.



78

Orthopedic
Surgeries




1

Surgeon Mentored
in Orthopedic Practices

H.O.P.E. Center

Hospital Out-Patient Extension



 Renovated a school building at the Caritas Medical Compound in the Republic of Congo, for use as a safe, secure, and hygienic location for patients and caregivers.

Goals

To optimize the capacity of hospital surgical outputs by improving the movement of patients in and out of the ward.

When Mercy Ships arrives in a country, potential patient screenings are organized at various locations and times throughout the country. Patients near the port area can easily travel to the ship. Others, who live farther away, typically encounter greater obstacles in traveling to the ship.

To reduce the need for multiple trips to the ship, Mercy Ships establishes a Hospital Out-Patient Extension (HOPE Center) facility to provide housing for patients and caregivers in a secure location near the ship. After surgery, the HOPE Center offers a safe and clean environment that promotes effective recovery, while maintaining easy access to the ship for follow-up care.

Another important benefit of the HOPE Center is that it frees up precious bed space in the hospital ward on the ship, allowing better optimization of the ship's surgical capacity.

Dental Health

Guinea and Congo Smile


Goals

To reduce the incidence of dental disease by providing dental education and treatments such as restorations, extractions, and cleaning and to build local capacity.

The projects in Guinea and the Republic of Congo addressed dental needs and provided preventative and restorative treatment for men, women and children who would otherwise not receive dental care. The dental team provided basic oral health education to their clients at the dental clinics, as well as students in primary schools.


Local workers (day-crew) serve alongside the dental team, assisting with language translation and other tasks. They learn skills and technical competencies, helping to increase the in-country knowledge base of oral healthcare.




 12,327 Dental Patients

 37,463 Dental Procedures

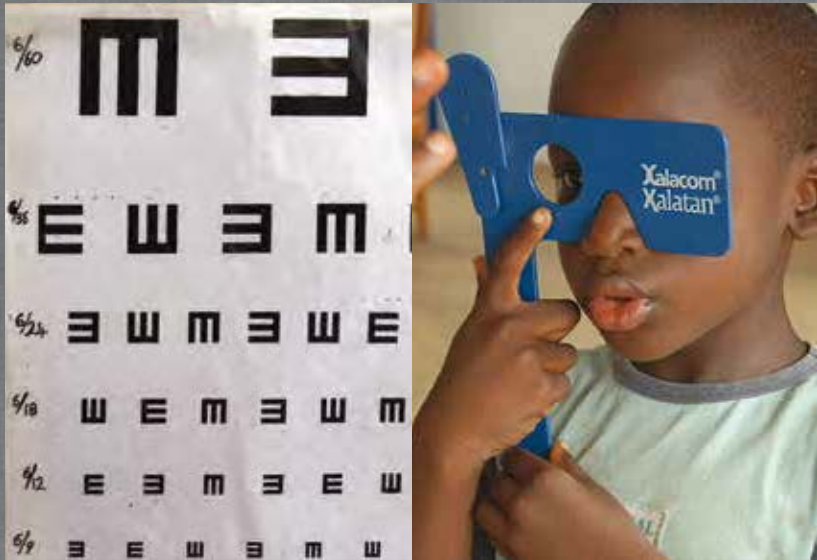
 11,279 Educated in Oral Health

 11 Dental Volunteers Trained in Assisting & Sterilizing Techniques

 1 Building Renovated for use as a Dental Clinic

Eye Care Program

Mercy Vision



Goals

To improve the quality of life for patients suffering from cataracts, pterygium and other eye problems through life-enhancing surgeries, while building the capacity of local eye care systems.

A Story of Hope... for Pulcherie

"I pray to God, truly, that God will bless my eyes, so that I can see my baby's face."


These were the words of Pulcherie, who, eleven months after the birth of her daughter, had never seen her child's face.

Pulcherie had been blind since she was 18. She lost vision in her left eye in a childhood accident. Years later, as a teenager, she developed a cataract in her right eye and lost what was left of her sight. Shortly after losing her sight, Pulcherie's husband left her because of her condition, and she had no choice but to go live with her mother, since she was unable to care for herself.


On November 19th, Pulcherie had free cataract surgery onboard the ship in Congo. When Pulcherie's bandages were removed, she was finally able to see the face of her beautiful 11-month-old daughter, Natalie, for the very first time.

With surgery, Pulcherie was given more than just her vision. She, and her daughter, were given a brand new life.

"I see her eyes, her mouth, her two teeth - very, very beautiful - truly, I am so happy. I am so happy."


 **12,004** Eye Patients Evaluated/Consultations


 **1,490** Eyes Surgeries

 **93** Prescription Glasses Distributed

 **1,747** Reading Glasses Distributed

 **1,225** Sunglasses Distributed

 **12** Ophthalmic Surgeons & Nurses Trained

 **12** Volunteers Mentored in Eye Care

 **1** Renovated Rooms at Loandjili General Hospital for use as a Technical Eye Clinic



The Mercy Vision program addressed surgical and medical eye needs of the people in Guinea and the Republic of Congo. The primary emphasis of surgical intervention was on reduction of blindness as a result of cataracts.

Non-surgical eye care focused on allergy, infection, injury and pain. Sunglasses were distributed to protect sensitive eyes after operations, and reading glasses were supplied to visually impaired patients.

In Guinea, the program provided hands-on training sessions for local surgeons, as well as mentoring for OR nurses in ophthalmic surgery.

A special "Celebration of Sight" is planned every two to four weeks to highlight the triumphs of each patient.



Agricultural Training Program

Food for Life



Goals

To increase the capacity of local organizations to effectively contribute to improved nutrition and farming incomes of small holding farmers in Guinea and the Republic of Congo.



64

Trainers Trained in Holistic and Organic Farming Methods



1

Building Renovated at the Dolisie Agriculture Training Facility

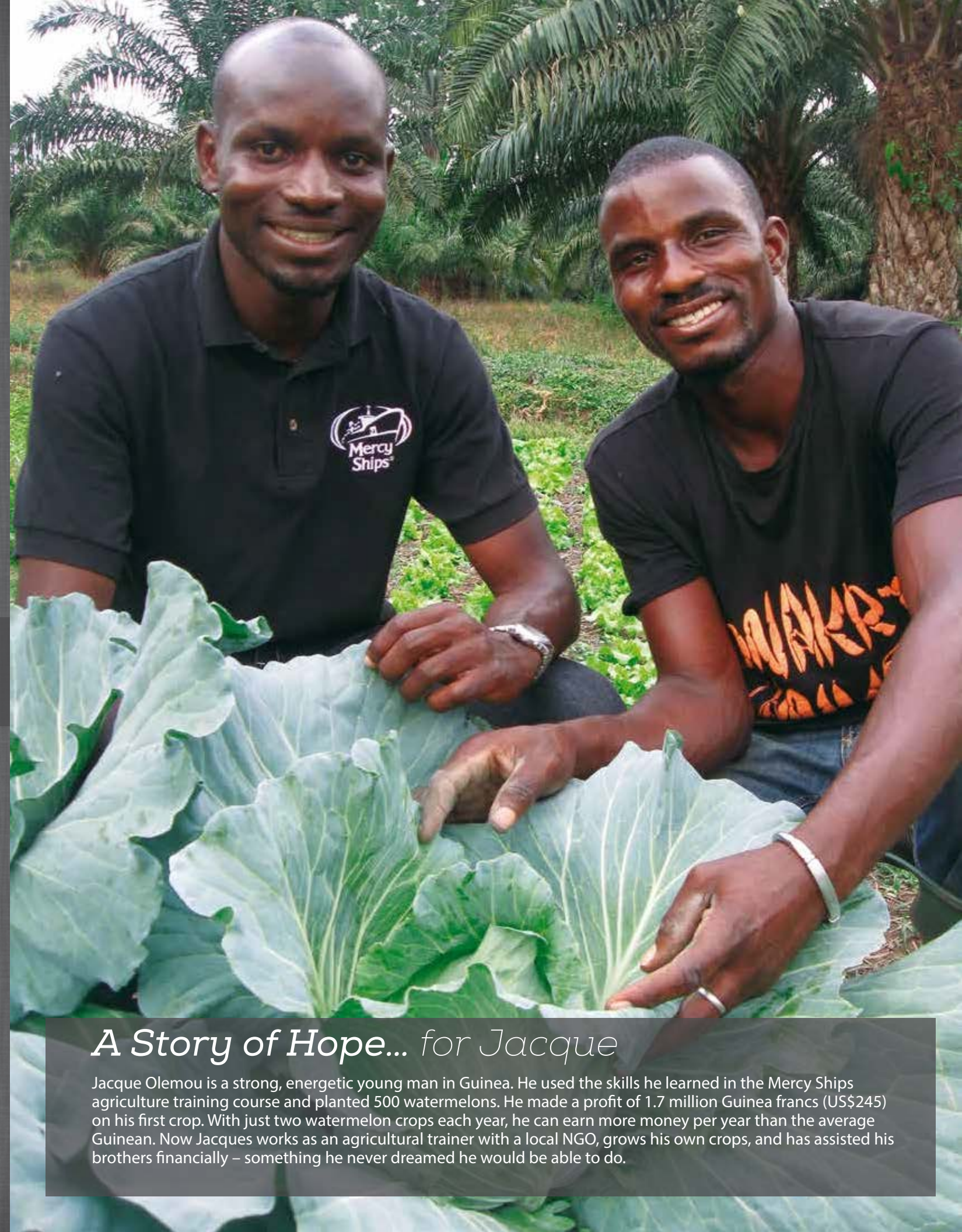
The right food is the best possible medicine for improved health. The first part of the two-part program provides an intense 19-week “training the trainer” course for in-country organizations, focusing on composting, mulching, soils, animal husbandry and nutrition. The second part of the program provides follow-up assistance as the participants return to their respective NGO sites to instruct others. This method of education aids in meeting the United Nations number one Millennium Goal of eradicating hunger.

In Guinea, agriculture facilitators worked with 18 participants from 4 Guinean NGOs. Over 300 community farmers have received instruction from the graduated trainers.

Additionally, 20 previous participants in Togo and Benin were provided training updates.

In the Republic of Congo, the Ministry of Agriculture is our host partner. This buy-in from the government is a significant and positive change for the program. The 26 trainees from 12 partner organizations represent all of the nation’s districts and include trainees from the Ministry of Agriculture. Mercy Ships renovated a building at the Dolisie Agriculture Training Facility for temporary housing classrooms.

As the nutritional agriculture training spreads across Guinea and Congo, local food supplies are increased, diets are improved, and people are healthier.



A Story of Hope... for Jacque

Jacque Olemou is a strong, energetic young man in Guinea. He used the skills he learned in the Mercy Ships agriculture training course and planted 500 watermelons. He made a profit of 1.7 million Guinea francs (US\$245) on his first crop. With just two watermelon crops each year, he can earn more money per year than the average Guinean. Now Jacques works as an agricultural trainer with a local NGO, grows his own crops, and has assisted his brothers financially – something he never dreamed he would be able to do.

Women's Health

Hope Reborn



Goals

To improve quality of life for patients suffering from obstetric fistula through life-enhancing surgeries and to build capacity by offering training to healthcare professionals.



Obstetric fistulas are caused by unrelieved, obstructed labor in which the child is usually stillborn. As a result of this childbirth injury, the woman becomes incontinent. Mercy Ships provides reconstructive surgeries, restoring the lives of women who are often ostracized by their families and communities, and provides each woman with a new, traditional African dress to help her celebrate her recovery and newly restored life. Training was provided to African surgeons and nurses to increase regional resources for this condition.



38

Gynecologic
Corrective Surgeries



2

Surgeons Mentored
in Obstetric Practices



36

Trained in Midwifery
Practices

Palliative Care

Goals

To show the love of God by giving practical care and support to individuals suffering from terminal illness, as well as providing instruction for their caregivers..

Many who seek medical help from Mercy Ships are not eligible candidates for surgery because of inoperable and often terminal conditions. These people are often rejected by their communities because local cultures view these conditions as a curse.

The Palliative Care Team reaches out to patients and their families, providing in-home visits to encourage them, provision of pain relief medications, education for caregivers, dressings for wound care, and counseling for patients and caregivers.



14

Palliative Care
Patients



146

Home
Visits



55

Day Crew and Family Trained
in Wound and Palliative Care

Improving Healthcare Delivery

Helping Countries Help Themselves

The capacity-building efforts of Mercy Ships in Guinea and the Republic of Congo focused on providing healthcare education and infrastructure development by renovating buildings for immediate and future healthcare needs.

In 2013 Mercy Ships focused on greatly increasing our healthcare training programs. The three types of Mercy Ships Healthcare Education projects are mentoring, courses, and observation.

There are many limitations to developing healthcare delivery in Africa. One key problem is the “brain drain,” the tendency of highly skilled members of the work force to migrate to a more economically developed country. A study by the World Health Organization concluded that lack of educational opportunities is a significant factor in this trend.*

The ship-based hospital provides an excellent, well-equipped venue for education projects. We bring capacity-building opportunities to Africa, providing healthcare professionals with a local option to participate in a high-quality education program.

* Stilwell, Barbara et al. Bulletin of the World Health Organization. Migration of health-care workers from developing countries: strategic approaches to its management. (2004) 82:8.




Healthcare Education Mentoring focused on surgical specialties, anesthesia, sterile processing procedures, basic surgical skills, and palliative care. One opportunity was provided by Rotary District 3140 from Mumbai, India, which sent a team of four ophthalmic surgeons to mentor surgeons and physician interns from Guinea.

Building Renovations took place in Congo, at two sites: the Caritas compound and Loandijili General Hospital. Caritas began its work in Congo in July of 2004. The compound includes buildings for both medical and non-medical use. Mercy Ships renovated a large building to serve as the Hospital Outpatient Extension (HOPE) Center, another building for the dental clinic, and climate control rooms for the HOPE Center. At the end of the field service, these buildings will be handed back to Caritas and its partner, the Lion’s Club, for use as a school and medical clinic for the deaf and blind.

Loandijili General Hospital is the second largest hospital in Pointe Noire. Mercy Ships renovated rooms there to serve as the Eye Clinic. The hospital will determine a future use for the rooms.



* Mercy Ships partnered with Medical Surgical Skills Institute of Ghana with sponsorship by Johnson & Johnson to provide basic surgical skills instruction. In this photo participants learn and improve their suturing techniques.



Healthcare Providers Trained in:

<p>6</p> <p>Sterile Processing Techniques</p> <p>(Congo)</p>	<p>99</p> <p>Simply the Story Course Provided to Hospital Day Crew</p>	<p>377</p> <p>Anesthesia, with Obstetric Focus</p> <p>(Guinea, Republic of Congo, Liberia, and Gambia)</p>
<p>60</p> <p>Disease Prevention & Infection Control</p> <p>(Guinea)</p> <p>(Trained by a team from Rotary District 7690)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Basic Surgical Skills Care</p> <p>(Congo)</p> <p>(* In partnership with MSSSI, and funded by J&J)</p>	<p>388</p> <p>Mental Illness and Trauma</p> <p>(Guinea)</p> <p>(follow-up training in Togo, Benin, and Sierra Leone)</p>
<p>62</p> <p>Ultrasound/Radiology</p> <p>(Guinea)</p>	<p>451</p> <p>Leadership Skills for Medical & Community Leaders</p> <p>(Congo)</p>	<p>3,412</p> <p>Patients & Caregivers Counseled by Hospital Chaplaincy</p> <p>(Guinea)</p>
<p>135</p> <p>Mental Illness & Trauma</p> <p>(new participants in Guinea)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Individualized in Anesthesia Mentoring on board the <i>Africa Mercy</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>Children's Trauma Healing Workshop</p> <p>(children in Guinea)</p> <p>28</p> <p>(facilitators and caregivers)</p>

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