

## Heroes Answering The Call

We are so blessed to have some of the most amazing everyday heroes who are part of our organization. At every challenge or obstacle we encounter, our Sea Mercy Captains, Volunteers, Sponsors and Island Nation Partners have quickly stepped forward, often into harms way, to meet the challenge and need. January 2014 was the perfect example, when a *Force 5* category Cyclone named *Ian*, slammed into the central remote island group of Ha'apai in Tonga, destroying 70-90% of the homes and leaving the remote islanders without food, water or health care services.

Our Sea Mercy Captains answered the call for help and prepared to leave their safe and protected harbors of Fiji to sail into harms way to deliver the food, water and health care needed. One of our regional sponsors (Scenic Hotels) also stepped in to offer their financial support for our vessels. The Republic of Fiji, our newest Sea Mercy island nation partner, provided 3 tons of medical supplies (valued at \$175,000) for Sea Mercy to deliver as a gift to their Tongan neighbors. And Sea Mercy volunteers from around the world either put on benefit concerts or donated to help the people of Tonga rebuild their remote island infrastructure.

Heroes answered the call, but the South Pacific can always use a few more heroes. Inside this newsletter are articles discussing our programs and how you can join us in whatever capacity you can as we make a difference in the South Pacific.

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One vessel can make a difference...

...A fleet can change the world!



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## Sea Mercy



Sea Mercy Captains Xavier and Colin receive emergency medical supplies from Fiji for Tonga

## John Ivey

### Disaster Response Director

John directs Sea Mercy's Disaster Response operations and manages the Sea Mercy Emergency Response Fleet program. John came to Sea Mercy in October May 2012 and is excited to work alongside the medical volunteers, Sea Mercy Captains, and the island nation partners.

John has experience with coordinating large construction and remodel projects, volunteer coordinator for nearly 1500 volunteers, was the safety director for the US Paragliding National paragliding competitions, and is a member of *Jackson County Search and Rescue* and teaches wilderness survival and emergency preparedness. He also holds a FCC HAM radio technician's license.

John has a love for the Pacific Island people and developed a deep empathy for them while he, with his wife Connie and two sons, lived on an off-grid farm in rural Hawaii. In Hawaii, John designed and installed solar electricity systems and water collection and sterilization systems. In his younger days, John raced sailboats competitively and spent summers working on boats and deep-sea fishing off Catalina Island.

We are blessed to have John & Connie with our program.



John & Connie Ivey

## Disaster Response

### Sea Mercy delivers aid to the remote islands

In the South Pacific, it is not a matter of "if" a cyclone, earthquake, tsunami, or natural disaster will occur, it is "when" it will occur and how destructive it will be. On January 11, 2014, the island nation of Tonga was hit by a Force 5 Cyclone named Ian, which tore through the most vulnerable center island group of Ha'apai. With winds of over 175mph, it destroyed 70-90% of the homes and left their 23 inhabited islands without food, water, shelter and access to medical care. Although international aid began arriving on the primary islands within weeks, there was no service delivery vessel to take the much needed food, water and medical care to the remote islands. Sea Mercy's fleet of Floating Health Care Clinic's (FHCC) were the perfect vessel to take on the much need role for our partners and as a result, we have proudly become our partners "remote island" **Disaster Response Fleet**.

Sea Mercy's Disaster Response Fleet are large sailing vessels (mono-hull and catamaran) that have notified and registered with Sea Mercy and are willing to sail into recently impacted areas to assist island nations in the delivery of food, water, medicines and care to their remote islands.

### "Building Bridges" across the South Pacific

Whether we are negotiating on the behalf of our island nation partners for the donation and delivery of medical supplies, assisting international aid organizations with the distribution of emergency food, water and medical supplies to the hard to reach remote islands, or delivering and setting up emergency solar panels and water makers in hard to reach places, Sea Mercy is committed to offering our available resources, staff and fleet to those in need.

For more information on our **Disaster Response Program** or how to help, visit our website at ([www.seamercy.org/node/125](http://www.seamercy.org/node/125)) and or send us an email. We look forward to working with you in whatever capacity you can provide.

## Sea Mercy Fleet

We not only have some of the best vessels operating in the South Pacific, we have the best Captains and First Mates that will guide you to some of the most amazing places and peoples on earth.

**REBELLE**- 45' Catamaran, Xavier & Amanda Zeitoun

**DRAGONFLY** - 65' Catamaran, Al & Jill Wigginton

**SEA RAVEN** - 60' Catamaran, Terry & Sabine White

**SEGUE**- 55' Catamaran, Colin & Mercedes Dykstra

Visit the above FHCC vessel pages online to learn more about each vessel and crew.



One of the remote islands of Fiji that are waiting for you!

## 2014 Rotations - Join Us!

Expect the unexpected at every stop. Just like a day at the office or hospital, every day on the FHCC vessel brings something new. From an incredible sunrise or sunset, a pod of whales or dolphins, or a new remote village. Whatever the day brings, will be a memory that we hope you will treasure and share with others.

**Accommodations** - Our sailing catamarans range from 45 to 65 feet in length and can carry from 4-8 volunteers. We have a few single bunks, but most will require you to share a queen cabin, so make sure you build the team you want.

**Food** - The food will be delicious and you will never go hungry, but we are limited to what is available in the markets of our island nations (so bring your own special snacks to share if you like).

**Destinations** - You will be sailing through one of four remote island groups; Ha'apai (Tonga), Vava'u (Tonga), North of Lakeba (Fiji), South of Lakeba (Fiji). Although each group consists of 12-30+ islands, we will visit only 5-8 per rotation.

**Culture** - You will get to experience what the Tonga & Fiji cultures were most like in the distant past and learn from you host health ministry staff working with you.

**Weather** - Sun, rain, wind, and calm (possible all in one day), all wrapped in a 70-85 degree warm blanket called the South Pacific.

### Rotation Schedule\*

March 31-April 11
April 14-April 25
April 28-May 9
May 12-May 23
May 26-June 6
June 9-June 20
Training Week
July 7-July 18
July 21-Aug 1
Aug 4-Aug 15
Aug 18-Aug 29
Sep 1-Sept 12
Sept 15-Sept 26
Sept 29-Oct 10
Oct 13-Oct 24



Vessels and accommodations!





Sea Mercy is making a difference in the Eye Care of the South Pacific

## New Eye Care Program

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

### Eye Care Program Objectives:

- To enhance eye care promotion, prevention and corrective activities to remote island populations
- To provide remote populations with a point of entry into the eye care health system, and
- 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

### 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 a 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. Ophthalmologists, optometrists, and eye care assistants, please come and join us in the South Pacific!

### Eye Care Program Directors

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 do not have 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.

*Welcome to the Team*



Royce & Loriana Fonken MD



### Scenic Hotels

Once again our friends at Scenic Hotels have stepped forward to help us meet a need in the South Pacific by being a key sponsor of our Eye Care Program. If you are traveling to New Zealand or Tonga, be sure to stay at one of their incredible hotels.

[www.scenichotels.co.nz](http://www.scenichotels.co.nz)

Thank you Scenic Hotels!

## Dental Teams

*“Transforming a smile can transform the lives of the islanders”*

As Americans, you understand the significance good oral health has on an individual’s overall health and wellbeing. Many islanders have gone for years or even a lifetime without proper dental care. This neglect often leads to critical issues of tooth decay and infection resulting in constant, debilitating pain and embarrassment.

Clinical studies show a direct link between poor oral hygiene and serious systemic diseases, such as:

- Cardiovascular Disease
- Bacterial Pneumonia
- Low/High Birth Weight
- Diabetes Complications
- Osteoporosis

Through education and treatment, Sea Mercy volunteer dentists and partners collaborate to improve the oral health of Islanders across the South Pacific.

You can help make a difference in the South Pacific by:

- **Volunteering**
- **In-kind Donations**
- **Financial Support**



Help is needed in the South Pacific



*A steady hand and a caring heart can help bring a smile to everyone*

## Dental Care Program

*“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”*

Benjamin Franklin’s famous quote certainly echoes the sentiments of Sea Mercy’s Dental Program for the remote islanders of the South Pacific. By focusing on preventative care techniques and education, we can gradually reduce the need for dental treatments, such as extractions or fillings and the costs associated.

Dental caries (tooth decay) was uncommon in the South Pacific before European trading and migration expanded into the Region, changing their diet, food preparation and lifestyle. Where the primary islands have the dental infrastructure to consistently evaluate and treat tooth decay, the remote islanders have nothing. This poses a major public health problem in terms of pain, premature loss of teeth and even the risk of death due to infections.

Sea Mercy’s Dental Program provides the needed implementation and monitoring of a tooth decay control program. Although diet and lifestyles strategies are a part of Sea Mercy’s programs and important for long-term health needs, the implementation of proven modern preventative programs like the use of fluorides and ‘fissure sealants’ will help us to quickly transition from an endless focus on extractions, to restoration treatments and repair programs.

### Dental Program Objectives:

- To enhance oral health promotion and disease prevention activities
- To provide remote populations with a point of entry into the dental health care system, and
- 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

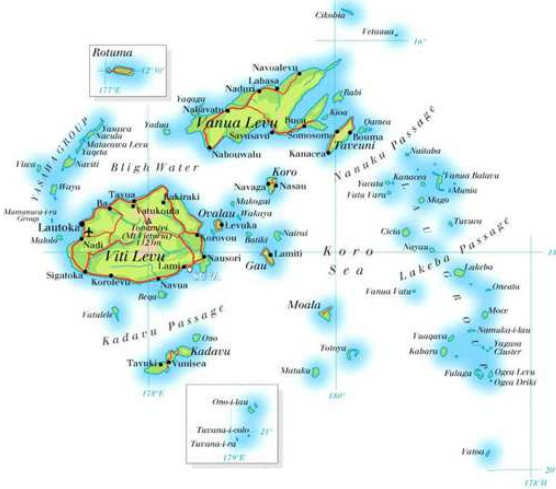
**Donate today and give someone a reason to smile.**

# 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 on a consistent basis.

There are two remote island groups that Sea Mercy will be focusing on in Fiji; the islands south of Lakeba Passage, and the islands north of Lakeba Passage (but south of Nanuku Passage). We are evaluating additional areas that would require "special" rotations to meet the needs. We will either depart Sunday evening from Suva on the main island of Viti Levu, and make our first landfall on our furthest targeted island, or leave from Lakeba Island (north or south). Over the next 12 days we will sail our way back, stopping at each scheduled remote island to evaluate and treat patients as needed.

**Available Rotations in Fiji:**  
**2 FHCC Vessels, 14 rotations, from July – October**

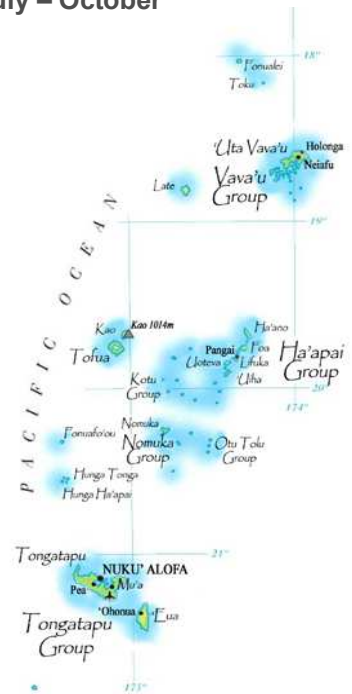


# Kingdom of Tonga

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 Neiafu in Vava'u where the rotation will spend the next 12 days visiting as many remote islands as possible in each island group.

**Available Rotations in Tonga:**  
**1 FHCC Vessel, 14 rotations, from April – October**



# 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, physical ability, and attitude 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. Operating from a vessel is challenging work, but the best "working holiday" that you will ever experience.

**Register Online** through the **2014 Assignment Request Form** ([www.seamercy.org/node/70](http://www.seamercy.org/node/70)) to reserve your rotation date (single or as part of a team).

**See you in the South Pacific!**

## Become a Sea Mercy Program Sponsor

Whether you are a hotel, an eye glass company, an eyewear company, or an organization or individual who just wants to help make a difference in the world, it starts with you. Give us a call or send us an email letting us know how you can help.

Here are a few suggestions and needs we have at Sea Mercy:

### Dental Care Program:

- Dental forceps
- Aspirating Syringe
- Dental Needles
- Explorers
- Mirrors
- Gloves/Masks/Bibs
- Topical\*
- Lidocaine\*
- Gauze
- Oral Rinse
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

### Eye Care Program:

- Replaced/Used Equipment
- Glasses
- Tools
- Excess Supplies

### Medical Care Program:

- Stethoscope
- Blood Pressure Cuffs
- Optical Scope Kits
- Medical Supplies
- Vitamins
- Glucometers Strips
- Medicines\*

\* Please call or email us to arrange any equipment or medicine donations.

### FHCC Vessel Needs:

- Electronics
- Sail repair equipment
- Vessel hardware
- Maintenance donations

If you have an item or suggestion that could assist us on our rotations, please call or email to discuss them with us.

**Thank you for your support!**

**Become a partner today!**

## Partner/Sponsor Spotlights



There are friends for all seasons and there are partners for all seasons. At Sea Mercy we have been blessed to have both with Scenic Hotels. Whenever a need was present, Lani and Earl

Hagaman (Executive Director) of Scenic Hotels, have been the first to step forward to offer to help meet a need. Here are just a few ways they have made a difference:

- They have provided a free night for our volunteers working at the end of their rotations in Tonga
- They provided the initial funds needed to help cover the costs of our Disaster Relief Vessels following Cyclone Ian in Tonga
- When it was evident that there was a desperate need for a specialized eye care program for remote islanders, they were there to help launch the program

If you are traveling to Tonga or New Zealand, be sure to stay at one of their incredible hotels ([www.scenichotels.co.nz](http://www.scenichotels.co.nz)), or stop by in person to tell them 'thank you' for their support.



There are times when you search long and hard for the perfect solution, and then there are times when the perfect solution finds

you. **Eyejusters** ([www.eyejusters.com](http://www.eyejusters.com)) based in Oxford, England has provided us with an 80% solution to our school children and adult near-sighted needs. They have worked closely with us to ensure the glasses they provide for our Eye Care Program are an affordable and effective solution and connected us with the training and support tools we need for each rotation.



**Karmoie** ([www.karmoie.com](http://www.karmoie.com)) is an eyewear company based in Oslo, Norway who is a *Buy One Give One* Company born from the desire to combine the world of fashion with a meaningful and life-altering contribution. For every pair of Karmoie Sunglasses sold, a pair of corrective glasses

(Eyejusters) is given to a person in need. Sea Mercy was selected to be one of their **Give One** partners to share with our remote islands patients.

## Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

The OLSHF ([www.olshf.org](http://www.olshf.org)) Lions Club has an outstanding reputation of serving their local communities, but they also care a great deal about the well being of those around the world. From the beginning of our Sea Mercy programs, they have been one of our leading partners and contributors to our eye care services, providing us with free 'gently used' reading glasses for our remote island patients who need assistance.

# 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 Program**
2. **Sponsor a Volunteer**
3. **Sponsor a Rotation**
4. **Open Gift & In-kind Donations to Sea Mercy**

## Sponsor a Program

Whatever your passion may be (medical, dental, eye care, diabetes or disaster relief), each of our programs are self funded and exist because there are individuals and organizations who are willing to support them with their financial and technical assistance. If there is a program on your heart, please contact us to learn how you can help us grow the program to its maximum potential.

## 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.

## 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

#### USA 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



[www.seamercy.org/node/47](http://www.seamercy.org/node/47)

### Donate

To make a financial donation to Sea Mercy go to the **Partnership** section and click on the below Donate button

