

Mercy Ships Canada Annual Report 2016



Mercy Ships Canada
2016 at a Glance



72

Volunteers

39,666

Volunteer Hours

\$1,524,952

Volunteered Services



4,054

Donors

2,369

New Donors

over **2.56 million** lives
transformed

since 1978



The Wish That Came True

It was Christmas 2016, and Djazim had one wish...to have straight legs that would help him walk, play and go to school.

Born in a small village in Benin, West Africa, Djazim suffered from what is known as "Wind-Swept Legs" - a condition that causes legs to grow bent in one direction. Without surgery, Djazim faced a life of hardship and struggle.

Thanks to donors and volunteers, Djazim's 2016 Christmas wish came true - he received a free surgery onboard the *Africa Mercy* that fixed his legs!

Letter from the Board Chair & National Director

To our loyal supporters,

Two thirds of the world's population, around 5 billion people, do not have sufficient access to surgeries and/or anaesthesia care when needed. This is the appalling assessment of a recent study undertaken by the medical journal, *The Lancet*. This study, "Global Surgery 2030", shows that the largest percentage of people who lack surgical care are from West and sub-Saharan Africa. This startling figure translates into huge economic losses for the countries concerned, alongside huge levels of suffering for the unfortunate citizens deprived of these necessary surgeries and, consequently, productive lives.

This last year we carried out surgical and health intervention work in Madagascar and Benin. During 2016, Mercy Ships Canada (MSCA) worked with 15 other national offices around the world and 1,232 volunteers to provide 1,551 free surgeries and 22,466 free dental procedures in some of the world's poorest nations. Our supporters have helped us serve the children, men and women of these host countries without regard to ethnicity or gender, providing life changing support to those who lack the capacity and/or resources to care for those in desperate need.

In this report, we hope to show you how our thousands of loyal supporters have helped make an amazing difference in the lives of so many suffering children and adults. With your help our work has provided relief to those suffering from sometimes unspeakable deformities, giving them the chance to live with dignity, free from humiliation, ostracization and pain.

These operations were provided by our volunteers, who donate their time, money and skills with no thought of compensation aside from the satisfaction of enhancing and saving lives. All of you, as donors, make your contributions with the same selfless motivations.

To be clear, the objective of our work is not just to respond to the immediate surgical needs of the population - it is also to make the host countries independent and capable of adequately training their own doctors, surgeons and other health professionals. We hope to show you in this report how MSCA assists the countries to develop and improve their health systems with long-term sustainable vision.

Meanwhile, at our Victoria, B.C. headquarters, MSCA dedicated the 2016 year to improving its internal procedures, developing new templates and protocols and upscaling its due diligence to ensure that it maximizes its staff's skills and its overall operations. This will permit us to maximize all of the donations we receive and best utilize our many talented Canadian volunteers.

Since all organizations need to keep competitive and continually improve, we took the strategic and important first steps to adopt a new program approach as our business model. MSCA now develops its own 'made-in-Canada' projects, using its in-house staff to design and bring these to Board approval and then to monitor and confirm results. Other projects continue to be developed jointly, in partnership with Mercy Ships International and the staff of the *Africa Mercy*. In these two models, MSCA has greater control and can direct Canadian resources in a more deliberate fashion, ensuring that Canadian donors get the best value for their financial support. Staff and Board dedication to making these internal improvements have resulted in a stronger organization with a more, independent 'We are Canadian' identity.

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Ever present throughout 2016 was the pressure to maintain rigorous fund-raising efforts to support our annual financial goals and contribute to the construction of the new 'global' Mercy Ship, well into its construction in the port of Tianjin, China. The new purpose-built ship is expected to be ready for its maiden voyage in early 2019, and to this end our efforts have been doubly aimed to reach annual targets towards supplying volunteers and projects for the new ship's operations.

We wish to assure you that as we continue to collaborate together in our work we will honour your giving hearts and generous minds by our full commitment to serving the countries of Benin and Cameroon in 2017, and to serve those deserving men, women and children whose lives will be transformed through your selfless generosity.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Collette
Chair, Board of Directors



Tim Maloney
National Director

MSCA Board of Directors 2016

Marilyn Colette

CEO, SEChange International, Ottawa, ON

Debbie Noble

Principle, HRT Corporation, Victoria, BC

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Claire Lewis

CPA-CA, CFE, Montreal, PQ

Lucien Bradet

President, Lucien Bradet Consulting, Ottawa, ON

MSCA Staff



From top left: Colleen Bronson, Jane McIntosh, Natasha MacKinnon, Jojo Beattie, Pen Hague, Rosie Smyth, Andrea Gilbert, Annick Sylvestre, Tim Maloney



2016 International Field Service



8,307
Patients



1,551
Surgeries



4,057
Medical
Consultations



22,466
Dental
Procedures



1,624
Healthcare
Professionals
Trained



3,914
Hospital Chaplaincy
Sessions



1,232
International
Volunteers



51
Nationalities



715,763
Total Volunteer
Hours

38 years of bringing hope and healing...



591
Total Ports
Visited



57
Total Nations
Served



45,805
Total Medical
Professionals
Trained



84,477
Total Surgeries

2,611,363 +
Total Direct Beneficiaries



Meet some Canadian Crew!

Amy Wilderspin

Ottawa, Ontario

Nurse Amy Wilderspin began volunteering with Mercy Ships in 2015, and has since returned to the *Africa Mercy* three times as an onboard nurse.

Amy started her professional career caring for adults in Canada, but it took a trip to Africa to realize that pediatric nursing was what was really in her heart. It was there that she began caring for children who had received free surgery for bowed legs, windswept legs and knocked knees. She turned out to be a natural with these little patients, caring for them as they mended and learned to walk again.

“Being able to offer a smile, love, simple medical treatment, in our patients’ minds is huge. They return home not only physically healed, but also, in many cases, feeling spiritually and emotionally better.”

Larry & Sandy Hewitt

Prince George, British Columbia

In late 2015, Larry and Sandy Hewitt sold their home and all of their belongings to move into a cabin on board the *Africa Mercy* for four years.

Larry works as the ship’s Biomedical Technician, servicing and repairing medical equipment and teaching maintenance and repair of equipment in local hospitals. Sandy is the hospital’s head pharmacist.

After going on mission trips to Kenya, to work in orphanages in the slums, Larry and Sandy prayed for an opportunity to serve those in need full-time. After finding Mercy Ships, their prayers were answered and their passion put to work! After two years onboard the *Africa Mercy*, these two are still serving the world’s poorest nations. Their faith is saving lives every day and is an inspiration to us all!

Sara Wegener

St. Catharines, Ontario

Marine Engineer Sara Wegener has volunteered with Mercy Ships in Madagascar, South Africa and Benin. She is the first female engineer to work in the Engineering Department onboard the *Africa Mercy*.

Sarah first volunteered with Mercy Ships for two months in 2015. One month after she returned home, she decided working onboard was something she wanted to do for a longer period and decided to commit to a year onboard the *Africa Mercy*.

Sara’s job included making sure the ship’s power is on at all times so surgeons can complete their work, and is one of many non-medical roles that plays a crucial role in keeping the *Africa Mercy* running. She returned to Canada in December 2016, and we hope she will soon be back to serve again!

Do you want to change lives onboard the world’s largest charity hospital ship?

Visit mercyships.ca/volunteer for more information!



2016 Canadian Project: SPECT

In 2016 Canadians funded the Sterile Processing Education Trust (SPECT) projects in Madagascar and Benin, helping build sustainable and safe surgical practices that will continue to help save lives after the *Africa Mercy* departs.

SPECT was started by Canadian crew member Christina Fast when she witnessed a staggering need for sterilization education and training in developing nations during her work with Mercy Ships.

Many hospitals and clinics around the world lack the resources and training to properly clean and sterilize instruments, with serious consequences such as infection and even death. According to the World Health Organization, post-surgical infection rates are twice as high in low-to-middle income countries and are even higher in developing nations. Preventing post-operative infections through the proper sterilization of instruments is critical, but is also a significant challenge in developing nations due to inadequate equipment, unsterile techniques and lack of training in sterilization practices.

Through partnering with SPECT, sterile processing techniques are taught to participants from low-resource clinics and hospitals from all around the countries where Mercy Ships operates. SPECT gives students a three day classroom education course on how to clean and inspect instruments properly and get hands-on training on how to operate a custom-made instrument basket that fits inside a pressure cooker to safely sterilize the instruments. These tools and training programs ensure safer, healthier medical care systems in the countries where we work.

Mercy Ships believes the importance of safe surgery goes beyond the operations performed on the *Africa Mercy*. Through Medical Capacity Building programs and projects like SPECT, Mercy Ships works with members of the communities we serve to provide tools and training that will positively influence healthcare in host nations for years to come.

Supporting Canadian programs and partnerships like the 2016 SPECT Project ensures that people in the world's poorest nations have the tools and training they need to provide long-term, quality care for their populations.

“There are many hospitals I’ve seen around the world where there’s no accountability and little awareness. And there are a lot of problems that I’ll never be able to fix in my lifetime. . . but at least we’re working towards fixing the ones we can!”

- Christina Fast, Canadian Crew & SPECT Founder





2016 Canadian Project: Hospital Chaplaincy

In 2016 Mercy Ships Canada funded the Mercy Ships Hospital Chaplaincy Project in Madagascar and Benin, providing care that enriches patients with dignity, justice, peace, and hope.

Through the Hospital Chaplaincy Program, Mercy Ships has found that positive, uplifting environments have a remarkably positive affect on patients' health. This holistic care addresses the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual elements of patient care that are often key to quick and effective recoveries.

Through mindful counseling, volunteer Chaplains aim to provide patients with the opportunity and freedom to express their feelings and to share their personal (often traumatic) experiences to facilitate psychological and spiritual healing. Chaplains use a daily time of worship and sharing words of encouragement on the wards as a tool to help patients express what is in their heart and empower them spiritually.

Hospital Chaplains provide a variety of supplies including Bibles, movies, and games to foster the holistic care of patients. Included in this are multiple weekly ward services where Chaplains worship and provide religious encouragement to patients in their native language.

In addition to providing spiritual and social support, the Hospital Chaplaincy Team Leader is involved in identification of special financial needs of Mercy Ships patients. As the needs arise and funding becomes available, the team may assist in special cases with finances provided by the project.

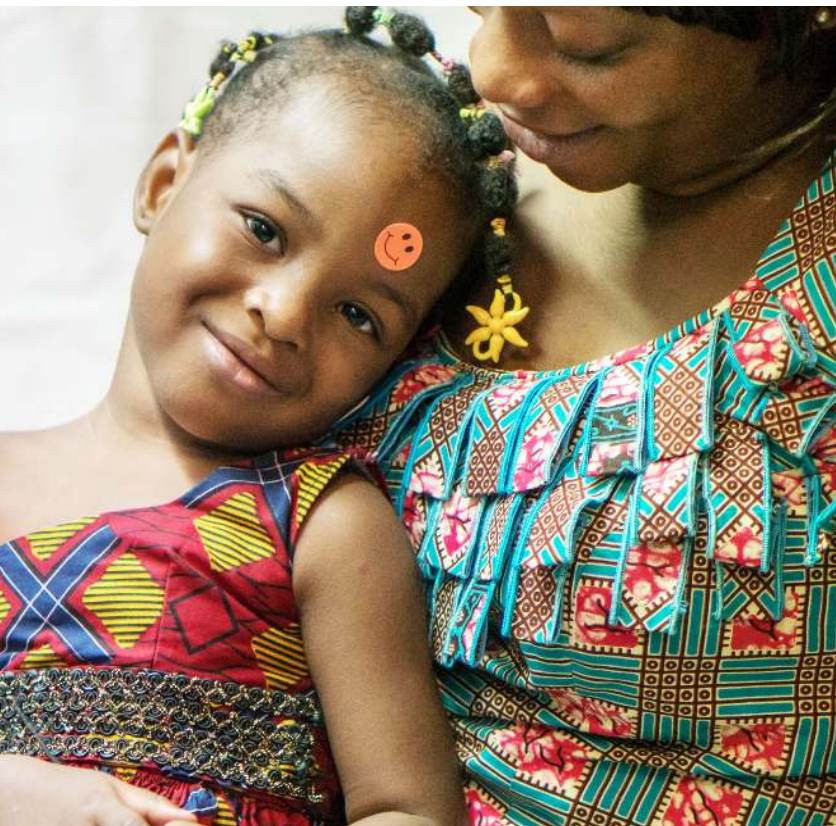
Supporting this project in 2016 provided much needed spiritual and emotional support to patients in Madagascar and Benin. The project also provided a variety of supplies such as ride-on toys, Bibles, chairs, colouring books, crafts, games, yarn, knitting needles, and teaching materials for patients. Thank you to everyone who helped provide such extraordinary gifts of hope and healing!





“ It’s babies like Israel [above] that inspire my work at Mercy Ships...my own daughter was born with a cleft lip and palate and I can’t imagine what her life would have been like if she hadn’t had access to surgery. All babies like Israel and my daughter deserve safe, reliable surgery, no matter where they live. ”

- Jane McIntosh, Mercy Ships Canada Donor Relations



A Story of Faith

Beautiful smiling Faith came to us in Benin with severe burns, caused by a candle that fell on her bed when she was a baby.

Long-lasting effects from untreated burns like Faith’s cause conditions like burn contractures, a tightening of the skin that restricts movement and can cause severe pain. Burn contractures are common in developing nations, where candles and fires are often used for cooking and daily light and access to healthcare is extremely limited.

Faith’s burn contractures caused her pain every day and limited the mobility of her legs. Her mother prayed for healing for her daughter...and as the *Africa Mercy* sailed in to the port of Cotonou this year, her prayers were finally answered.

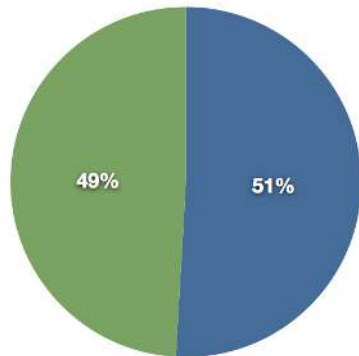
Thanks to Mercy Ships donors and volunteers, Faith was admitted to the Plastic Reconstructive Program, which provides relief from pain and disfigurements through specialized surgical interventions.

With the help of caring Canadians, Faith received treatment for her burns and is now fully recovered. Her story reminds us of the true power of love and hope...and faith!



2016 Financial Position

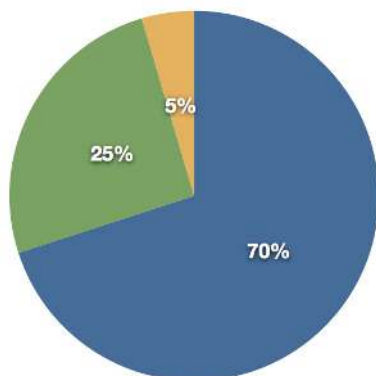
Mercy Ships Canada



■ Contributed Services 49% ■ Cash Contributions 51%

Total Revenue

\$3,088,998

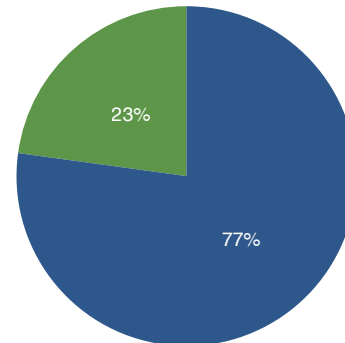


■ Programs 70% ■ Fundraising 25% ■ Administration 5%

Total Expenses

\$3,159,850

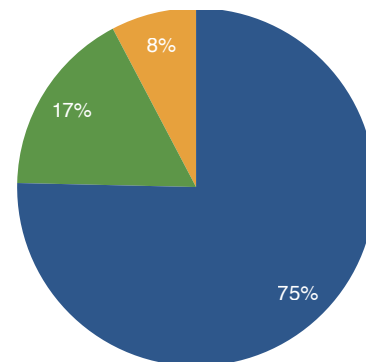
Mercy Ships International



■ Contributed Services 23% ■ Cash Contributions 77%

Total Revenue

\$91,101,805



■ Programs 75% ■ Fundraising 17% ■ Administration 8%

Total Expenses

\$68,745,189

Give | Volunteer | Follow | Pray



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