

Lives transformed  
through  
hope and healing...



[www.mercyships.org](http://www.mercyships.org)

April 7, 2011

# Mercy Ships

Sierra Leone, West Africa 2011 Programs

## Mercy Vision (Reducing Blindness in Sierra Leone)

**Project Goal:** To reduce the prevalence of blindness and low vision due to cataracts, pterygium, and other eye problems, while building the capacity of the Sierra Leonean eye care system.

**Timeline:** February – November 2011

**Project Objectives:** Provide specialized surgeries for 1,500 people blind due to cataracts and 100 people affected by pterygium. Instruct/mentor community eye care workers in ophthalmic care. Evaluate and treat approximately 10,000 patients for basic eye disease. Raise awareness about basic eye health issues. Distribute 5,000 pairs of UV-blocking sunglasses and 5,000 pairs of reading glasses.

## Outlook of Hope (Providing Maxillofacial Surgeries and Surgeon Mentoring)

**Project Goal:** To support Sierra Leone's health system by relieving surgical backlogs and reducing the effects of neglected trauma, disease, and congenital conditions by providing maxillofacial surgeries and treatments.

**Timeline:** February – November 2011

**Project Objectives:** Provide approximately 500 surgeries for patients affected by maxillofacial deformities (including tumors, complications of injury, infections, etc.). Provide 150-200 cleft lip and palate repairs. Facilitate recovery and reintegration into society through counseling and other services for patients and their families. Provide physical, occupational, and speech therapy services, as needed.

## Reconstructing Hope (Providing Plastic Reconstructive Surgery)

**Project Goal:** To reduce the effects of neglected trauma, disease, and congenital conditions by providing reconstructive surgeries.

**Timeline:** February – November 2011

**Project Objectives:** Provide approximately 160 specialized surgeries for patients in need of plastic reconstruction for conditions such as burn/scar contractures, chronic ulcers, tumors, syndactyly (combined fingers), lymphoedema (swollen limbs), and more. Provide therapy and counseling to women, men, and children to assist in their recovery and reintegration into society.

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## Specialized Surgical Solutions (Providing Life-Saving General Medical Procedures)

**Project Goal:** To reduce the effects of neglected trauma, disease, and congenital conditions by providing general surgeries.

**Timeline:** February – November 2011

**Project Objectives:** Provide approximately 1,000 specialized surgeries for people affected by general medical conditions, such as hernias and goiters. Educate patients on basic health care. Provide counseling to women, men, and children who are affected by their adverse physical conditions



## Orthopaedic Project (Ponseti Training and Ortho Surgeries)

**Project Goal:** To reduce the effects of neglected trauma and congenital conditions by providing orthopaedic surgeries, services, and physical therapy.

**Timeline:** February – November 2011

**Project Objectives:** Train and mentor West African medical personnel in the Ponseti casting technique while performing 50 clubfoot corrections. Provide training to manufacture braces for feet and legs to maintain corrections. Provide 75-90 specialized surgeries for children affected by orthopaedic conditions, including neglected trauma and childhood musculoskeletal conditions. Provide physical therapy on an inpatient and outpatient basis.



## Sierra Leone Smiles (Providing Dental Care)

**Project Goal:** To reduce the incidence of dental disease by providing dental education and treatments, such as restorations, extractions, and cleaning.

**Timeline:** February – November 2011

**Project Objectives:** Provide dental care for approximately 11,500 people (about 20,000 procedures) affected by tooth decay, infections of the mouth, and small oral lesions. To provide clinical dental hygiene services to 1,400 people. To provide 760 dentures to patients requiring replacement. Provide basic oral health education to elementary and secondary students and clients in dental clinics.



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### The HOPE Center (Hospital Out-Patient Extension)

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

**Timeline:** February – November 2011

**Project Objectives:** Construct and assemble modular bath houses for HOPE Center patients and their caregivers. Construct and assemble an off-ship patient and administrative unit. Transform the existing Seafarer's Club into a safe, secure, and hygienic location for patients, caregivers, and staff.

### Palliative Care: (Ministering to the Terminally Ill and Their Families)

**Project Goal:** To show the love of God by giving practical care and support to people in Sierra Leone, who are isolated because of terminal illness and to offer support to their extended family.

**Timeline:** February – November 2011

**Project Objectives:** Set up links with The Shepherd's Hospice, Freetown, as a resource to support the Palliative Care Team with symptom control, knowledge of local resources, and a referral system for patients left behind when the ship departs. Offer training to Shepherd's Hospice staff. Provide palliative homecare for 18-20 terminally ill patients and their family members, assisting them through the grieving process. Provide instruction in the use of local, affordable materials for wound care. Empower the family to find ways to be self-supporting and teach them about planning for the future (income-generating programs and savings).

### Food for Life: Increasing Food Security and Training Agricultural Trainers

**Project Goal:** To Increase the capacity of local organizations to effectively contribute to improved nutrition and farming incomes of Sierra Leone farmers.

**Timeline:** February – November 2011

**Project Objectives:** Train 10-15 trainers, from three organizations, in holistic agriculture concepts and organic farming methods. Provide support and mentoring to new trainers, as they implement and replicate training sessions for community groups. Educate trainers on nutritional and dietary issues that can be incorporated into agriculture projects.