

Mercy Airlift

by Yvonne Perry

The greatest cry of humanity is the need for compassion, and the need in our world is great. Compassion is a healer. Compassion saves lives. Through compassion, miracles occur and lives are changed forever. We express compassion by giving of ourselves, our time and our resources to meet the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of others.

As we look around the Caribbean and Southern United States, we see nature destroying villages through hurricanes and tropical storms. Many people are homeless and hungry with no means of recovering the meager lifestyle they had. Disease and despair are rampant. It is our universal responsibility to care for one another and the planet we share. Those with hearts of compassion want to meet the human need, yet the task seems endless. How can just one person make a difference? By working together as a team, we can make a difference.

In the mid 1990's, a group of American's bought an abandoned L-1011 wide-body aircraft and raised millions of dollars to refit it. The Flying Hospital is specially designed and equipped with a state of the art operating center complete with a pre-op and recovery ward for 12 patients. The aircraft carries the latest medical equipment, examination tables, surgery gas panels, anesthesia machines, a digitalized x-ray machine, a fully-stocked pharmacy, a supply sterilization area, and a nurse's station for charting and monitoring patient care. The Flying Hospital has its own water purification system that provides clean water no matter how polluted or contaminated the country's incoming water supply may be. The air purification system recycles the air 15 times every hour to create a sterile environment for surgery. An off-board oxygen generator, electrical system and generators provide auxiliary power if needed. There is even an observation window for family to watch the surgical procedure of their loved one. In the passenger and education area there are seats for 67 healthcare professionals who join with us on our mission. This section is also used for training and educating healthcare professionals in each country; enhancing their ability to implement advanced healthcare techniques and provide hope to hurting people around the world. With its completely self-contained surgical center, a crew of skilled surgeons and dedicated nurses, this technological marvel is changing healthcare as we know it. As one of the most sophisticated portable surgical hospitals in the world, The Flying Hospital is a new reality in aviation history as well as medical history.

Since 1996 the Flying Hospital medical teams have treated more 66,000 people and performed more than 2,700 surgeries in 25 countries. This portable hospital takes 12-15 missions each year to see thousands of patients. The Flying Hospital's organizers are looking for volunteers and sponsors to help make future missions possible in other developing regions around the globe. Through gifts of time, expertise and monetary donations, people who would not otherwise have access to healthcare are receiving love and medical assistance from people like you and me. The purpose of the humanitarian mission is to bring high-tech medical care to a part of the world where the latest equipment and medical training are often unavailable.

Mercy Airlift not only supplies medical care but food, fresh drinking water, tarps, tents, blankets and personal hygiene kits to areas such as Haiti where disaster has hit. There are hundreds of tons of supplies, which need to be delivered to these island nations in the Caribbean to prevent further illness, death and destruction. We need your financial support to continue the deliveries of these supplies and medicines. Be a part of the new frontier. By volunteering to go on a medical mission us you can be directly involved not as a conquering hero, but as a willing servant of humanity—a part of a community of healers who care about the global neighborhood. Make a financial contribution to help deliver food and needed supplies to the Caribbean.

For more information please contact Andrew Pike at Mercy Airlift by email at admin@mercyairlift.org or by phone at 714 518-5980, or visit the web site for Mercy Airlift at <http://www.mercyairlift.org/Headline1.html>.