



Rotary District 7690 – Piedmont, North Carolina, USA
Service Opportunity Summary

Date: 11/05/08

ProjectTitle: Outlook of Hope:Benin

Type: International Service Project

ProjectSummary: Mercy Ships will provide more than 1000 life changing reconstructive surgeries to children in Benin who have physical deformities such as crania-facial tumors, cleft-lip and palates, plastic surgical needs, and congenital abnormalities

ProjectDetails: Craniofacial anomalies are prevalent among adults and children through out all of sub-Saharan Africa, including Benin, as a result of little or no access to health care. If treatments are available, they are too costly for the average person to afford. Surgically treatable craniofacial anomalies include: maxillofacial trauma, cleft lip and palate, neglected benign facial tumors, and tissue injury from noma, a disease which results in a gangrenous process that destroys facial tissue.

Surgical treatment for many of these conditions requires a skilled surgeon, post-operative nursing care, expensive equipment, and high-quality general anesthesia. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that “maxillofacial trauma has increased alarmingly in Africa, along with other forms of trauma from interpersonal violence, motor vehicle accidents, and the consequences of war.”

Through the Outlook of Hope: Benin project, Mercy Ships seeks to relieve the burden of disease and affliction among the poor and outcast by providing specialized, corrective surgical interventions in the areas of maxillofacial and plastic reconstruction. During a 10 month stay in Benin beginning in February 2009, Mercy Ships will provide more than 1000 life changing reconstructive surgeries to children who have physical deformities.

ProjectWebsite: <http://www.mercyships.org>

ProjectTimeConstraints: The Outlook of Hope:Benin project will begin when the Africa Mercy arrives in Cotonou, Benin for a 10 month visit.

ProjectSupport: The Lexington Rotary Club

WhatCanYouDo: We need other clubs to participate in the matching grant in support of the Outlook of Hope:Benin project.

ProjectContact: Rick Snider

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ProgramAvailability: yes

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