



YOUR GREATEST
GIFT



www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au

A BEQUEST TO AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH

If you would welcome the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the health and well-being of future Australians (very possibly including your own family and loved ones), consider a bequest to Australian Rotary Health.

Your legal advisor can assist you in the making of a bequest.

To obtain a **free Australian Rotary Health Bequest Kit**, please phone Terry Davies on (02) 8837 1900 or email: terrydavies@australianrotaryhealth.org.au

Rotarian Legal Advisors



Can you assist us in the making of a will? If so please phone **Terry Davies on (02) 8837 1900**

The Rotary Foundation and Mercy Ships Unite



LEFT: Mercy Ships Director of Nursing, Alison Brieseman, and patient Alfred reunited in 2009. **Below:** Alfred with a photo of himself before his surgery onboard the *Africa Mercy*.



Rotarians will help improve the delivery of vital health care services to West Africa through a new strategic partnership between The Rotary Foundation and the global charity Mercy Ships.

Through the partnership, the Foundation will offer packaged global grants for Rotary clubs and Districts to assemble vocational training teams of medical professionals. These teams will perform or assist in life-changing surgeries. The Rotarian volunteers will also work to enhance the skills of local health care professionals.

Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Bill Boyd emphasised, "This strategic partnership with Mercy Ships enables Rotary to work with a globally recognised leader in the delivery of vital medical and surgical care to the world's most vulnerable populations."

The initial projects will take place in West Africa, the area of operations for the charity's 16,500-ton state-of-the-art hospital ship, *Africa Mercy*.

For *Africa Mercy* Director of Nursing Alison Brieseman ports of call in Benin, Sierra Leone and Liberia have been a way of life for seven years. The Wellington-born nurse is grateful to the Rotary clubs of Plimmerton, Lower Hutt, Silverstream and Heretaunga, NZ, whose joint sponsorship has been a key component of her volunteer work with Mercy Ships.

"Using my skills to bring such massive change to the poorest and most desperate, to help those who have no hope is an amazing privilege. I couldn't do it without the partnership of people such as Rotarians."

One patient Alison remembers particularly well is Alfred, who had suffered from a rare facial tumour for four years.

The two-kilo benign tumour enveloping Alfred's lower jaw and teeth and causing him to slowly starve was removed by the surgical team onboard.

"Before the surgery, people used to run away from me," said Alfred. "I didn't go to school for four years. When I went back to school, all my friends were like 'Wow!' My family would say, 'Yes, it's a miracle.'"

Alison had the rare privilege of seeing this young man again five years after his life-saving surgery.

She sums up her work simply saying, "It is the most useful thing I've ever done."

Mercy Ships performed more than 2,884 surgical procedures in Sierra Leone in 2011.

For more information on Mercy Ships: (07) 5437 2992 / www.mercyships.org.au (Australia) or 0800 637297 / www.mercyships.org.nz (New Zealand). ■