



Registered with  
FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR

# VOLUNTEER

with Mercy Ships onboard or in the UK

*One team* at land and at sea



## Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to transform lives and serve nations

Mercy ships delivers free surgical care onboard state of the art hospital ships. Serving people who would have no other way to receive help.

As well as providing direct medical care, Mercy Ships also train and mentor healthcare professionals, renovate hospitals and clinics, and work with governments to build sustainable national healthcare plans.

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### Volunteer onboard

Our hospital ships are run almost entirely by volunteers and have around 400 crew onboard. The ships carry the hospital, crew accommodation, dining room, café, school, library and offices.

We usually stay docked in a host nation for 10 months. Crew can leave the ship to explore the city or get involved with Mercy Ships programmes based off the ship, like the HOPE Centre.

We have crew from more than 40 different nations every year, making a vibrant, faith-based community that thrives on loving and serving one another and the patients who trust us to care for them.

**Every crew member makes a difference and every role is crucial.**



## Just half of the positions onboard are medical

We don't just need doctors and nurses. Half of the positions onboard are in our technical or general departments. We're a ship, so we need marine deck and engineering crew. These volunteers fuel the work in the hospital and sail us to each destination.

And we also need support staff onboard the ship who play vital roles - feeding everyone, keeping our IT equipment running, keeping our vehicles going, taking photos or teaching in the school.

**We need your skills!**



## Couples & Families

One fantastic thing about serving with Mercy Ships is that spouses can serve together and families can live together onboard.

Couples simply need to find a role that suits each of them; and if a family member takes on a leadership role in any department, they can bring their family too!

The school is fully accredited and you get a cabin just for your family. Couples get their own cabin too.

For more information or to apply  
[mercyships.org.uk/volunteer](https://mercyships.org.uk/volunteer)

## Volunteer in the UK

**If travelling to the ship isn't for you but you still want to volunteer with Mercy Ships then why not join our UK volunteering team?**

There are plenty of ways to support the work of Mercy Ships right here in the UK. Our speaker network deliver talks to churches, Rotary clubs and other community groups around the country, helping to raise awareness and inspire others to support our work. Our conference volunteers help us at events such as exhibitions, Carol services and Spring Harvest, whilst fundraisers take part in sponsored events to help raise money to fund life-saving work in Africa.

**So whoever you are, Mercy Ships has a role for you.**



Registered Charity No: 1053055. Registered Charity in Scotland No. SC039743.  
Company No: 3147724 (England and Wales)

Pete and Georgia Ainsworth volunteered onboard as a mechanic and a writer.

**“You’re never too little to be part of the bigger picture.”**

– Georgia Ainsworth, volunteer writer

Images: Top Georgia Ainsworth with an orthopaedic patient, below Pete Ainsworth walking up the gangway to the Africa Mercy.



“The first time we saw a group of potential patients arrive on the dock for screening; children with bowed legs and men and women with tumours. It hit us: these were real people who needed real help.

“People often ask what it is like to live onboard a ship with strangers, but they aren’t strangers for long — in no time they become your family. It’s changed our outlook on life and how we hope to live when we get back home.

“If you are thinking of volunteering? Life is short. Do it!”

– Pete Ainsworth, volunteer mechanic



## Next steps

If you would like to take your first steps into volunteering either in the UK or in Africa then we want to hear from you.

Our crew support team will guide you through the application process, support you whilst you are onboard and help you transition back to UK life when you return.

Visit [mercyships.org.uk/volunteer](https://mercyships.org.uk/volunteer) to read more and register your interest.

### Email us

If you prefer, you can send us an e-mail. We will happily answer any questions you might have. [volunteering@mercyships.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@mercyships.org.uk)

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