

# Friend Ships May 2019 Activities Report

FRIEND SHIPS at PORT MERCY, 1019 North 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Lake Charles, LA 70601  
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Dear Friends of Friend Ships:

Thank you so much for all you continue to do each week, every month, year after year to help us help people in desperate circumstances. In whatever ways you are involved - through giving finances, goods, praying with and for us or joining to volunteer - each one of these things is infinitely valuable. You are appreciated so very much.

In May, we continued to prepare for the mission to Gaza. Although the month started off with several days of intense fighting between Israel and Gaza that set our schedule back, we are still on track to start the preparation soon. We are extremely blessed to have a sponsor that is covering all the costs and labor to asphalt the large area, install a security fence, plumbing, and electrical systems.

While the Friend Ships team is preparing to go in and build the facility, they have been happy to be able to bring food and clothing to refugees that are living in Israel and also provide help to Holocaust survivors and other elderly men and women living in our new community next to the Gaza-Israel border. Our Friend Ships Director



and Doctor in Israel have continued to meet with medical personnel and interpreters who are interested in volunteering for the Gaza project.

Last month we told you about an opportunity for us to obtain a 4500 sq. unused field hospital with a 114kw generator, 6-5-ton AC/Heater units, complete electrical distribution with outlets (proper regional current), lighting system and 50 portable hospital beds. It is currently stored in Jordan, just a few hours from our Gaza location and would be a great addition to our set-up. The value is \$450,000. The company will donate the facility but need to receive \$100,000 to cover some associated costs. In May, we received \$28,000 toward this purchase! If the Lord puts it on your heart to contribute to this opportunity, we would be very appreciative. Go to [www.friendships.org](http://www.friendships.org). Click on the “donate” button at the top right side of the home page or you can mail a check to our office at 1019 N. 1st Avenue, Lake Charles, LA. 70601 or send a text to give by texting: Friendships to 779-77.

## Field Hospital Opportunity



Help us reach our goal of \$100,000.

At Port Mercy in Lake Charles, we are working on shipping a container of food and baby items to Mission Columbia in Bogotá, a church organization that is helping refugees from Venezuela. Millions of people have left Venezuela for Columbia, Brazil, and other countries, to escape a severe economic crisis in their cities. There are massive shortages of food, water, medicine, and electricity. Mission Columbia is providing food for families and churches in Venezuela including sending food to hospitals and jails where patients and inmates don't eat unless their families or someone else is able to provide them food. Their work in Columbia is particularly focused on helping pregnant mothers who do not have access to the care and goods they require. We hope to help them assist the refugees by providing needed goods to distribute.

We continue to work on improvements at Port Mercy and are preparing our disaster relief equipment for the hurricane season that will start in June and extend through November. We have gotten in an unbelievably awesome, incredible donation of beautiful new, state of the art computers, cell phones and tablets needed for both our office staff and our field staff! Wow! This equipment is extremely amazing-we are so grateful to the Lord! We also received a donation of 1000 gallons of high-quality paint, medical supplies, office equipment and several truckloads of the top of line heavy-duty tarp/vinyl for disaster relief. We are truly blessed beyond measure!

Please pray for the Lord's leading for a meeting our Directors have scheduled in early June in Jerusalem with the leaders of Yoido Full Gospel Church based in South Korea. We are planning to meet about working together in the future with one of our ships, in Asia. Please pray for the Lord's wisdom and direction on this possible collaboration.

Thank you again for all the many things you do for Friend Ships and everywhere!

Warm Regards,

*Don and Sondra Tipton and the Friend Ships Teams*