## Friend Ships June 2019 Activities Report

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Dear Friends of Friend Ships:

## **Exciting NEWS!!**

We have had a great month and are excited to share exciting praise reports with you. First, the wait is over for breaking ground at the new Gaza medical clinic and humanitarian aid camp! Thank you for your prayers! The first week of July, a very generous (anonymous) donor will start the work to gravel and asphalt the ground, install a security fence, water systems and access to power. They expect to complete this work quickly based on the equipment and manpower they have available. After the initial start, we will move in the 13-40' and 20' containers that stores our equipment from Camp Ichay, the Syria mission. Our team will start right away to build the facility as the Port Mercy staff prepares and ships additional equipment and supplies from the US. This is an unprecedented opportunity that the Lord has made available to us and we are so grateful to Him for this chance to help the people of Gaza. In Israel, we have a team of Sea Hawks in place, along with Dr. Elizabeth, our medical coordinator, and strong leadership staff. There are 23 people in all, ready to go in and build. If you have expressed an interest in serving with us at Gaza, you should be hearing from us very soon.



Received \$ 32,618.78 As of July 1<sup>ST -</sup> Help us reach our goal of \$ 100,000. We are about 1/3rd of the way there are on our quest to raise \$100,000 to obtain a beautiful new field clinic in storage and available in neighboring Jordan. Please pray that the remainder of these funds will come in. Also, remember that each night, we have teams praying for the success of Camp Friend Ships (Gaza).

If you are interested in receiving an email with our prayer targets each week so that you can join us in this most important aspect of the mission, please send us a note at portmercy@friendships.org.

We have another extraordinary and wonderful praise report. At home base, Port Mercy, we have received ownership of an exquisite four story Steamboat Paddle Wheel that we intend to utilize as a Christian Event Center here in Lake Charles. At one time, the boat belonged to the Isle of Capri Casino and was used for gambling. The gambling equipment has been moved out and what remains are four huge open floors that can host musical events, services, conferences and so much

more. We are excited about this new aspect of our ministry, that in time, we believe will house activities that allow thousands of people to experience the love and power of the Holy Spirit.



We continue to work on putting together a shipment to Columbia for Venezuelan refugees who come there for help. And StoreHouse One, our food distribution programs in Lake Charles and Southern California continue every day. In each location, we pick up hundreds of pounds of fresh food daily that feed our crew and it distributed to organizations in the communities helping low-income families, the elderly, homeless and people recovering from addictions. This ministry has operated every week for the past 34 years. It is daily evidence of His provision and love for us all, even when and especially when we are in much need of His help!



A new Sea Hawk session is starting in September. The current year's Hawks spent the first three months here in Louisiana training and then in high water rescue and commodity distribution for victims of Hurricane's Florence and Michael. These past six months have been spent in Israel, helping people in need including the elderly and Holocaust survivors.

They have also toured and studied the Word among awesome historical sites including Yad Vashem (the Holocaust Museum), Masada, many locations in Jerusalem including a tour of the Garden Tomb, the Dead Sea, Qumran and so much more. The last few months of their year will be spent building the new clinic in Gaza. Over the course of this year, they have improved their physical fitness, drawn closer to the Lord and learned new valuable skills. Doesn't that sound like a great year? This next session will experience the same so please let young people you know between the ages of 18-24 to check it out on our website at www.friendships.org.

Here is one of the tremendous scriptures we stand one regularly both for us and for you:

2 Corinthians 9:7-11 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Amen. Thank you for all the ways you support us here at Friend Ships. You are an amazing encouragement and help to us.

Warm Regards, Don and Sondra Tipton and the Friend Ships Teams