



Rafiki Surgical Missions

Since our first mission in 2004, Rafiki Surgical Missions has changed the lives of more than 1,200 Tanzanian children and adults with conditions such as cleft lips, cleft palates and burns injuries. While Australian children born with disfiguring facial deformities will have them repaired while they are still babies, in Tanzania's remote rural areas sufferers can be forced to endure a lifetime of alienation. In fact it can lead to the shunning of entire families by their communities.

Rafiki's volunteer surgical teams are giving these people the chance to live a normal life. Treated babies will grow up never knowing the alienation they may have been subjected to; children can go back to school with new confidence, completely accepted by their peers; and adults may go on to find work, marry and even take on important leadership roles in their villages.

In the past ten years Rafiki has undertaken 22 surgical missions in different areas of Tanzania. Our teams of volunteer surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses perform up to 80 operations during each two-week mission. The local doctors and nurses also benefit from our collaboration with the host hospitals, working with the visiting medical staff and building their own skills in this specialised area of reconstructive surgery.

In addition to the surgeries and training, Rafiki also sends shipping containers of medical equipment to Tanzania that would otherwise go to waste in Australia. Since 2010, we have packed and shipped 35 containers for distribution to hospitals and medical centres. The replacement cost of this equipment exceeds \$8,000,000.

Rafiki is a 100% volunteer organisation. With no administrative costs, every dollar raised goes back in to making life better for people who would otherwise have to chance of a new start. Our funding comes from a variety of sources, including sponsorship from organisations in Australia and Tanzania, personal and corporate donations, and of course through our annual fundraising events in Perth and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

There are many ways that you can be part of something really special, from donating items for our auctions to taking on a corporate sponsorship package, or simply coming along to our annual fundraising ball.

What you can be sure of is that your generosity will be making a real difference to a child or adult in one of the world's poorest communities who otherwise may face a far different future.

www.asanterafiki.com

www.facebook.com/rafikisurgicalmissions



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