

## January Volunteer news

Christmas and New Year has been and gone and, for some of our crew, this was their first time spending the holidays away from their family. On Christmas day, the crew gathered together in Patricia and Tony's cabin (Long term crew), watched the Queens speech and opened the Christmas care package from the UK office. As a UK office we highly value our volunteers and their incredible sacrifice and commitment to Mercy Ships. We wanted them to feel very loved and appreciated especially during the Christmas period when they may feel extra homesick and miss their families. We sent games, twiglets, Santa hats, chocolate, biscuits, tea etc. A little taste of home 😊

It was touch and go if the container would arrive on time even though the box was sent in October so there were cries of **JOY** when it arrived on Christmas Eve.



**See some quotes from our long term crew:**

*'You should have seen some of us! We were like kids at a candy store!!! Lots of oohs and aahs at items we had not seen or tasted in such a long time!!! Please thank everyone who contributed to this care package!! A real morale, laughter and energy booster! Not to mention the sugar rush we all had!!! Fantastic job Hannah! Keep it up! So appreciated!'*

*'Thank you so much Hannah! It was huge amounts of fun and lots of squeals of excitement!'*



We also sent our crew hoodies for them to wear with pride while representing their country in this highly multinational environment.



We are always looking for ways to bless our crew with gifts and treats or memories from home so if you can think of something or would like to get involved with this then do let us know. Our volunteer coordinator Hannah is going out to the ship in February for a week to give direct personable support to the crew, It is our intention that this visit will give the crew the opportunity to raise any concerns they have and give them the opportunity to speak one on one with their HR representative face to face. It is also the first time Hannah will have met some of the volunteers in person as almost all contact is via phone or email.

Keep an eye out in February for an update as to how the trip went.