Who we are…
Founded in 1978, by Don and Deyon Stephens, **Mercy Ships** is a global charity that brings **Hope and Healing** to developing nations around the world. Through a fleet of hospital ships, volunteer doctors, dentists, nurses, community developers, teachers, seamen, engineers, cooks, and many other support crew from around the world (serving on the ship and within field-base offices) donate their time and skills to the effort of helping others. Over the years, **Mercy Ships** has performed more than 2 million services, with a value of $250 million, which has impacted more than 5.5 million lives. Some of the more notable statistics include: the development of medical clinics, performing 18,000 surgeries and over 110,000 dental treatments, and completing more then 350 construction and agriculture projects (schools, clinics, orphanages, and water wells). Each year, more than 1,600 short-term volunteers serve with **Mercy Ships**. This fleet of hospital ships has visited more than 95 ports in more than 53 developing nations.

Problem:
Today's not-for-profit organizations depend heavily on technology to help further their missions. For the global charity **Mercy Ships** -- Informational Technology (IT) is often the only means of communicating between remote locations, hospital ships, and corporate head-quarters. In order to continue to work effectively around the world, **Mercy Ships** had to activate a **Warehouse Management System** (WMS)

Since 85% of all materials received come through **Gift-In-Kind Donations**, to track and classify numerous UPC Numbers from multiple manufactures would be an impossible task. **Mercy Ships** needed an inventory tracking system that would use a generic universal descriptive robust enough for customs clearances, but still offering a means of locating inventory within a warehouse or cargo hold.

Solution:
After searching numerous resources, **Mercy Ships** developed their new **Warehouse Management System** around the concept of **UNSPSC** (http://www.unspsc.org). It provided an open global standard that could effectively cross all international lines with a common language.

Results:
For **Mercy Ships**, it was critical that their foundational development tool worked effectively with a variety of applications and cultural differences. By using the **UNSPSC** coding, these numbers provided a strong foundation that will offer growth and allow us to serve others more effectively by reducing language misunderstandings between people groups.

Thank you for helping to work out the details and getting our system launched on the right path.

Mercy Ships
www.mercyships.org

John W Hensman, Jr
Warehouse/Logistics Manager