



Brazil

Children's HeartLink has supported the development of pediatric cardiac care in Brazil since 2009. Our approach to sustainable health systems strengthening has resulted in increased capacity to treat pediatric heart disease, decreased postoperative infections and mortality, expertise in data collection, reporting and analysis, and a one-year pediatric cardiac training program in residence at Hospital da Criança e Maternidade. Our investment in Brazil, direct and in-kind, has surpassed US \$1 million. Our commitment to Brazil's developing pediatric cardiac care infrastructure is strong and will remain so until all children have the care they deserve.

Partner Hospitals

Hospital da Criança e Maternidade

São José' do Rio Preto
Partner since 2009
 Children Served* (2016): 2,863

Hospital de Messejana

Fortaleza
Partner since 2015
 Children Served* (2016): 5,700

Volunteer training partners

- Mayo Clinic
- Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota
- Seattle Children's Hospital

*based on clinic visits



The Need

- 1 out of 100 babies is born with congenital heart disease
- Nearly 26,000 babies are born with congenital heart disease each year
- Another 675,000 children and adolescents are living with untreated congenital heart disease
- CHD is the most common congenital anomaly and is responsible for 6% of infant deaths in Brazil
- There is a 70% deficit in the capacity to treat children with congenital heart disease across Brazil

Our Vision

Our vision is a world in which all children have access to the cardiac care they need. In Brazil, our goal is to develop four Children's HeartLink Centers of Excellence by 2030. To achieve this, we are establishing long-lasting partnerships with local stakeholders — including providers, clinic administrators and government officials — to increase awareness of the need for pediatric cardiac care. Our focus is on building clinical and organizational skills, and increasing support for the inclusion of pediatric cardiac care into Brazil's national health system.

Congenital Heart Disease

Every year around the world, 1 in 100 children is born with a birth defect within the structure of their heart. This condition is called congenital heart disease. By 2030, it is estimated that congenital anomalies will be among the top five causes of child death. Cardiac anomalies are the most common of all birth defects, and 70% of them are surgically correctable. These children can live full, productive lives if they get skilled care. Unfortunately, 90% of children with heart disease live in regions of the world without access to pediatric cardiac care; far too many of them will die preventable deaths.

Children's HeartLink

Since 1969 Children's HeartLink has been dedicated to caring for children with heart disease. We invest in long-term, multi-phase partnerships to build sustainable centers of excellence in pediatric cardiac care. On an annual basis, over 96,000 children are served at our partner hospitals and programs around the world. Over 5,000 medical professionals in underserved regions are now more equipped to care for children with heart disease. Our goal is to develop 50 Children's HeartLink Centers of Excellence by 2030.

We can't change the incidence of congenital heart disease. But with your help, we can reach more children who need lifesaving care.

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December 2017

Children's HeartLink Partner Hospitals in Brazil

Hospital da Criança e Maternidade

Hospital de Criança e Maternidade (HCM) is one of the largest, state-of-the-art maternal and children's specialty hospitals in Brazil. Located in São José do Rio Preto in southeast Brazil, it serves a multi-state region of 80 million people. Children's HeartLink's long-standing partnership with HCM began in 2002 and includes experts from the Mayo Clinic and Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota. HCM has seen a steady increase in clinical capacity, reaching a volume of 257 cardiac surgeries in 2016. At the same time, postoperative infection and mortality rates have all dropped by at least 50%. Successes in clinical care, organizational capacity, and training capacity have set HCM on course to become a Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence. In this capacity, HCM will serve as a training partner to hospitals in Brazil and South America developing their own pediatric cardiac care centers.

Hospital de Messejana

Hospital de Messejana is a public cardiac hospital in the northeast region of Brazil, serving a population of 2.1 million people. Hospital de Messejana is in Phase 1 of their Children's HeartLink partnership, with Seattle Children's Hospital serving as their training partner. This first phase lasts 2-3 years and focuses on needs assessments and generalized capacity building. Current partnership goals for Hospital de Messejana include finalizing a multi-year plan to support the development and growth of the pediatric program; development of a patient management system; and establishing strong, long-lasting partnerships with local stakeholders and government officials to build support for the pediatric cardiac program. The need is urgent. In 2016, Hospital de Messejana managed 5,700 patient visits and performed 262 cardiac surgeries, all while another 170 children remained on the waiting list for care. The coming years will see Hospital de Messejana's partnership advance to Phase 2, with a focus on targeted training and capacity building based on the needs assessment of Phase 1.



"You can't speak up about what's best for your patients until you know what's best for them. That's why training and education are so important."

**Bruna Cury, RN, MSN,
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