



# Vietnam

It was a young child in Vietnam in 1969 that inspired the medical philanthropy that became Children's HeartLink. Our first partnership in Vietnam using our modern model of health systems development began in 2008 and has since expanded to three hospitals. What once was an effort by one American doctor to save one child, has grown to Vietnamese medical teams performing 7,001 procedures, in country, just last year alone. Our approach is built around sustainable health systems strengthening, with a focus on increasing clinical and administrative capacity and supporting advanced medical education. Our investment in Vietnam,

direct and in-kind, has surpassed US \$1 million. Children's HeartLink's commitment to Vietnam's developing pediatric cardiac care infrastructure is strong and will remain so until all children have the care they deserve.

## Partner Hospitals

**Nhi Dong 1**  
Ho Chi Minh City  
*Partner since 2008*  
Children Served\* (2016): 13,500

**Kien Giang General Hospital**  
Rach Gia  
*Partner since 2015*  
Children Served\* (2016): 200

**Vietnam National Children's Hospital**  
Hanoi  
*Partner since 2017*  
Children Served\* (2016): not yet a partner

**Volunteer training partners**

- Boston Children's Hospital
- Gleneagles Hospital, Singapore
- University of California San Francisco

\*based on clinic visits



## The Need

- 1 out of 100 babies is born with congenital heart disease
- 15,000 babies are born with congenital heart disease each year
- 2,829 children under the age of 5 died from congenital heart disease in 2016 – this amounts to 243,667 years of life lost prematurely
- Vietnam's universal children's health insurance means most cardiac procedures are free for children under 6, yet there are only 20 pediatric cardiologists to serve the 50,000 children in need

## Our Vision

Our vision is a world in which all children have access to the cardiac care they need. In Vietnam, our goal is to develop three 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 universal access to pediatric cardiac care into Vietnam's health care 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 ensure greater access to pediatric cardiac care. Thanks to our expanding team of medical volunteers, over 5,000 local doctors, nurses and technicians are now more equipped to care for children with heart disease. On an annual basis, over 96,000 children receive care at our partner hospitals and programs around the world. 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.**

# Children's HeartLink Partner Hospitals in Vietnam

## Nhi Dong 1

Children's HeartLink's 2008 partnership with Nhi Dong 1 brought our work back to the country where it all began almost 40 years prior. Nhi Dong 1 is a dedicated children's hospital providing services to children of Ho Chi Minh City and southern Vietnam, where two-thirds of the country's population lives. The training relationship with Gleneagles Hospital, Singapore, has focused on increasing their capacity to treat more and increasingly complex cases. Key to their success was the Pediatric Advanced Life Support certification for nurses – the first in the country. To ensure access to the children of southern Vietnam, Nhi Dong 1 has committed to assist in the development of the pediatric cardiac program with Kien Giang General Hospital in Rach Gia, 250 km southwest. With its steadily increasing outcomes and commitment to training, Nhi Dong 1 will likely be designated a Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence in 2019.

## Vietnam National Children's Hospital

Vietnam National Children's Hospital (VNCH) is Children's HeartLink's newest partner site.

Located in Hanoi, Vietnam's capital and second largest city and a regional population of over 30 million, VNCH is a hub for a network of 14 provincial centers and currently the only hospital capable of providing pediatric cardiac services in northern Vietnam. The University of California San Francisco is committed to a long-term mentoring relationship with VNCH. Together they are conducting an initial technical and organizational needs assessment and will develop a plan to increase the capacity to serve the children of Hanoi

## Kien Giang General Hospital

Kien Giang General Hospital became a Children's HeartLink partner in 2015. Located in Rach Gia, it is the only hospital offering pediatric cardiac care south of Ho Chi Minh City. In these early years of our partnership, together with their training mentor British Columbia Children's Hospital, Kien Giang is specializing in less complex cases and building a referral network with Nhi Dong 1 in Ho Chi Minh City. These regional networks are key to ensuring that all children in need have access to pediatric cardiac care in the most efficient way possible.



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