



# India

Children's HeartLink's partnerships in India go back more than 20 years, and include our first Center of Excellence and regional training partner. This long-term commitment is realized in the 47,900 children who received life-changing care 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 India, direct and in-kind, has surpassed US \$4 million. Children's HeartLink's commitment to India's developing pediatric cardiac care infrastructure is strong and will remain so until all children have the care they deserve.

## Partner Hospitals

**Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences**  
 Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence  
 Kochi  
*Partner since 2000*  
 Children Served\* (2018): 9,400

**G. Kuppusamy Naidu Memorial Hospital**  
 Coimbatore  
 Partner since 2017  
 Children Served\* (2018): 2,800

**Narayana Hrudayalaya Institute of Cardiac Sciences**  
 Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence  
 Bangalore  
*Partner since 2002*  
 Children Served\* (2018): 14,400

**Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research**  
 Chandigarh  
*Partner since 2012*  
 Children Served\* (2018): 13,000

**Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences**  
 Kolkata  
*Partner since 2015*  
 Children Served\* (2018): 13,000

**Volunteer training partners**

- Boston Children's Hospital
- Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota
- University of California San Francisco



## The Need

- 1 out of 100 babies is born with congenital heart disease
- 240,000 babies are born with congenital heart disease each year
- Only 1 in 4 children who needs heart surgery receives optimal care
- 60 centers provide pediatric cardiac care, but geographic distribution is uneven
- There are 130 pediatric cardiologists in this country of 1.3 billion, compared to 114 at Boston Children's Hospital alone

## Our Vision

Our vision is a world in which all children have access to the cardiac care they need. In India, our goal is to develop 15 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 ensuring access to the highest quality pediatric cardiac care for all children in need.

## 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.**



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## Children's HeartLink Partner Hospitals in India

### Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences

Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) was designated Children's HeartLink's first Center of Excellence in 2012. AIMS was awarded the BMJ Award India in 2014 for Quality Improvement in Healthcare for achieving dramatic reductions in infections and mortality. AIMS is a key partner in Children's HeartLink's efforts with the Government of Kerala to increase access and improve pediatric cardiac care at public hospitals. The Nurse Residency Program launched by Children's HeartLink at AIMS in 2018 is the only one of its kind in India and aims to help cardiac nurses develop a proactive approach to patient care.

### G. Kuppusamy Naidu Memorial Hospital

G. Kuppusamy Naidu Memorial Hospital (GKNM) is Children's HeartLink's newest partner in India (2017). The first private hospital in Coimbatore in the western state of Tamil Nadu, GKNM has long been known as a top heart center in this region. Last year GKNM performed over 500 interventional procedures for children, including almost 300 cardiac surgeries. Their partner, Mayo Clinic, focuses on advancing the care being provided.

### Narayana Hrudayalaya Institute of Cardiac Sciences

Narayana Hrudayalaya Institute of Cardiac Sciences (NHICS), located in Bangalore in southern India, is one of two Children's HeartLink Centers of Excellence in India. This program sees 1,200 children each month, with new patients comprising two-thirds of their caseload. Their goals include developing a 3-month hospital-based diploma program for pediatric critical care nurses, and training providers in their 30-center network in parent education discharge instructions in PEDI (Parent Education Discharge Instructions) to help reduce post-procedure infection and consequent readmissions.

### Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research

Children's HeartLink's partnership with Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) is our first in northwestern India, a severely underserved region. PGIMER's pediatric cardiac program has grown considerably in the past several years, doubling their open heart surgical capacity since 2012. In 2018 they served 8,100 children and conducted 709 cardiac procedures. Together with Boston Children's Hospital as their mentor team, they are focusing on increasing specialization and advanced practices.

### Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences

Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences (RTIICS) is Children's HeartLink's partner since 2015, serving Kolkata and the surrounding region. Our partnership there with Children's Minnesota focuses on improving the multidisciplinary approach to pediatric cardiac care and addressing health workforce retention through nursing empowerment. RTIICS is the first private hospital in the state of West Bengal to participate in the Critical Care Nurse Practitioner Program initiated by the Indian Nursing Council. It is also the first hospital in the state that has created a nurse educator position in the cardiac unit. Last year RTIICS served 13,000 children and performed 911 heart surgeries.

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