



# 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 we now have two partner hospitals. What once was an effort by one American doctor to save one child, has grown to Vietnamese medical teams performing almost 3,000 procedures (including open heart surgeries) 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\* (2019): 13,000

### Vietnam National Children's Hospital

Hanoi  
*Partner since 2017*  
 Children Served\* (2019): 30,300

### Volunteer training partners

- Boston Children's Hospital
- University of California San Francisco

\*based on clinic visits



## The Need

- 1 out of 100 babies is born with congenital heart disease
- 11,000 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
- In 2019, 3,000 children with congenital heart disease were on the waiting list for cardiac surgery in Vietnam

## 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 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 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. It is the seventh leading cause of death under 1 year of age. 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 centers of excellence in pediatric cardiac care. Last year over 171,000 children were served at our partner hospitals around the world, and 4,300 medical professionals received training. Our goal is to develop 35 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 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. With their training partner, Boston Children's Hospital, Nhi Dong 1 is focusing on enhancing ICU care, nursing education and advanced surgical techniques, as well as developing echocardiogram capacity and advanced diagnostics. Last year 13,000 children were served at Nhi Dong 1, with a total of 587 interventional catheterizations and 421 heart surgeries. Now in Phase 3 of our program model, the hospital is on track to become a Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence.

### Vietnam National Children's Hospital

Located in Hanoi, Vietnam's capital and second largest city, with a regional population of over 30 million, VNCH is a hub for a network of 14 provincial hospitals. It has the largest cardiac program in the country and provides most of the advanced care. Last year the hospital saw over 2,500 children each month and performed over 1,400 heart surgeries. The University of California San Francisco, a partner since 2017, is committed to a multi-year relationship with VNCH. Together, they developed a plan to increase VNCH's capacity to serve even more children.



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