



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* (2019): 4,600

Hospital de Messejana

Fortaleza
 Partner since 2015
 Children Served* (2019): 8,500

Instituto do Coração (InCor)

São Paulo
 Partner since 2018
 Children Served* (2019): 11,000

Volunteer training partners

- Children's Minnesota, Minneapolis
- The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto
- Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota
- Seattle Children's Hospital

*Data was collected pre-pandemic (in 2019) 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
- Congenital heart disease 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 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 of key hospital programs, 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. 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. Our goal is to develop 35 Children's HeartLink Centers of Excellence by 2030. In 2019, over 177,000 children were served at our partner hospitals, more than ever before. Because the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed travel and in-person training in 2020, we increased remote training to ensure our partners continue to get the support they need. More than 2,800 medical professionals around the world have benefited from remote training we've provided in conjunction with our volunteers. Our volunteers from Mayo Clinic led remote training sessions for more than 100 nurses from different regions of Brazil, addressing the critically important role of nurses on the pediatric cardiac team.

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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. Children's HeartLink's partnership with HCM began in 2009 and includes experts from Mayo Clinic and Children's Minnesota. HCM has seen a steady increase in clinical capacity, reaching a volume of 440 cardiac surgeries in 2019. At the same time, postoperative infection has dropped significantly; the standardized infection ratio was 10 times lower in 2018 compared to 2010. Successes in clinical care, and organizational 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. With Children's HeartLink's support, HCM leads the first postgraduate training course to improve the quality of postoperative care in the intensive care unit.

Hospital de Messejana

Hospital de Messejana (HDM) is a public cardiac hospital and a Children's HeartLink partner since 2015. With Seattle Children's Hospital serving as their training partner, HDM works on improving the nutritional status of patients, reducing surgical site and other major infections, promoting patient safety and strengthening postoperative care practices. The need is urgent. Last year HDM performed 284 cardiac surgeries, while many more children remained on the waiting list for care.

Instituto do Coração

Instituto do Coração (InCor) is our newest partner hospital in Brazil, developing a multi-year partnership with The Hospital for Sick Children. One of the leading heart centers in Latin America, InCor is recognized as Brazil's leading institute for heart surgery, clinical research and teaching. The largest pediatric surgical program in the country, InCor surgeons perform approximately 560 interventional cases per year. Collaboration between Children's HeartLink and InCor helps to provide recommendations on how to improve care and outcomes for patients with heart disease, as well as support in leadership, governance and interdepartmental communication.

"We have experienced firsthand the benefits of the partnership with Children's HeartLink, with significant improvements in the quality of care we provide to our patients, increase in our multidisciplinary team expertise, as well as in the number of children treated."

Our partners in Brazil, *Brazilian Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery*, 2020

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