



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 over 3,000 procedures (including open heart surgeries) 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): 11,400

Vietnam National Children's Hospital

Hanoi
Partner since 2017
 Children Served* (2019): 39,900

Volunteer training partners

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

*Data was collected pre-pandemic (in 2019) 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. 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.

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 11,400 children were served at Nhi Dong 1, with a total of 530 interventional catheterizations and 482 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 3,300 children each month and performed over 1,519 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.



5075 Arcadia Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55436-2306
952.928.4860
childrensheartlink.org

April 2021

Contact Information:
Adriana Dobrzycka, Country Director, India and Vietnam: adriana@childrensheartlink.org