



## Partner Hospitals

### Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences

Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence  
Kochi  
Partner since 2000  
Children Served in 2020: 5,016

### G. Kuppuswamy Naidu Memorial Hospital

Coimbatore  
Partner since 2017  
Children Served in 2021: 2,564

### Narayana Hrudayalaya Institute of Cardiac Sciences

Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence  
Bangalore  
Partner since 2002  
Children Served in 2021: 8,627

### Narayana Superspecialty Hospital

Howrah  
Partner since 2019  
Children Served in 2021: 5,546

### Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research

Chandigarh  
Partner since 2012  
Children Served in 2021: 3,755

### Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences

Kolkata  
Partner since 2015  
Children Served in 2021: 7,232

### Volunteer training partners

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

\*Data from AIMS reflects 2020

# India

Children's HeartLink's partnerships in India go back nearly 25 years, and include our first Center of Excellence and regional training partner. This long-term commitment is realized in the more than 32,700\* children who received life-changing care in 2021. 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.



## 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
- 63 centers provide pediatric cardiac care, but geographic distribution is uneven
- There are 130 pediatric cardiologists in this country of 1.3 billion, compared to 72 at Boston Children's Hospital alone

## Our Vision

Our vision is a world in which all children have access to high quality health care. In India, our goal is to develop 12 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. It is the seventh leading cause of death globally in children under the age of 1. Cardiac anomalies are the most common of all birth defects, and 70% of them are surgically correctable. 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. These children can live full, productive lives if they get skilled care.

## 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 2021, increased remote trainings during the COVID-19 pandemic ensured our partners continued to receive the support they needed to serve more than 122,000 children. More than 5,500 medical professionals around the world benefited from remote training we provided in conjunction with our volunteers in 2021.

## Children's HeartLink Partner Hospitals in India

### Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences

Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) was designated the first Children's HeartLink 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. These efforts in the state helped significantly reduce infant mortality rate from congenital heart disease, one of the leading causes of infant death. In 2018 when Children's HeartLink launched the Nurse Residency Program at AIMS it was the only one of its kind in India. By 2022, nurses from four Children's HeartLink partner sites were enrolled in the program which aims to help cardiac nurses develop a proactive approach to patient care.

### G. Kuppuswamy Naidu Memorial Hospital

G. Kuppuswamy Naidu Memorial Hospital (GKNM) has been a Children's HeartLink partner since 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. In 2021, GKNM performed 573 heart surgeries and interventional catheterizations. Their partner, Mayo Clinic, focuses on advancing cardiac care for children.

### 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. In 2021, more than 8,627 cardiac patients were seen with 1,552 heart surgeries performed. Their goals include developing a 3-month hospital-based diploma program for pediatric critical care nurses and training providers in their 31-center network in Parent Education Discharge Instructions. (PEDI).

#### Contact Information:

Adriana Dobrzycka, Country Director, India and Vietnam: [adriana@childrensheartlink.org](mailto:adriana@childrensheartlink.org)

Veeralakshmi Rajasekhar, In-country India Consultant: [veera@childrensheartlink.org](mailto:veera@childrensheartlink.org)

### Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Howrah

Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Howrah is our newest partner in India. It is our second partner in West Bengal, a heavily populated state of 91 million. It is also our second partner in the Narayana Health network, along with NHICS. Together with its mentor Children's Minnesota, this pediatric cardiac program focuses on increasing the number of children treated, the complexity of surgeries and the quality of care.

### 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 2021 they served 3,755 children and performed 591 heart surgeries and interventional catheterizations. 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. In 2021, RTIICS served 7,232 children and performed 606 heart surgeries and interventional catheterizations.



5075 Arcadia Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55436-2306  
952.928.4860  
[childrensheartlink.org](http://childrensheartlink.org)