



Partner Hospitals

Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences

Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence
Kochi
Partner since 2000
Children Served* (2019): 8,100

G. Kuppusamy Naidu Memorial Hospital

Coimbatore
Partner since 2017
Children Served* (2019): 3,500

Narayana Hrudayalaya Institute of Cardiac Sciences

Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence
Bangalore
Partner since 2002
Children Served* (2019): 16,200

Narayana Superspecialty Hospital

Howrah
Partner since 2019
Children Served* (2019): 5,200

Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research

Chandigarh
Partner since 2012
Children Served* (2019): 9,200

Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences

Kolkata
Partner since 2015
Children Served* (2019): 17,800

Volunteer training partners

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

*Data was collected pre-pandemic (in 2019) based on clinic visits.

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 60,060 children who received life-changing care 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.



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 the cardiac care they need. In India, our goal is to develop nine 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 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 Centers of Excellence in India and Malaysia led a series of remote training sessions for 2,300 from 14 countries in Southeast Asia.



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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. These efforts in the state helped significantly reduce infant mortality rate from congenital heart disease, one of the leading causes of infant death. 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) 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 2019 GKNM performed 576 interventional procedures for children, including 299 cardiac surgeries. 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. This program sees over 1,350 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 31-center network in Parent Education Discharge Instructions (PEDI).

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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 new pediatric cardiac program, which has been in existence for 3 years, 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 2019 they served 9,200 children and conducted 1,012 interventional 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 17,800 children and performed 834 heart surgeries and interventional catheterizations.