

MARY MCMAHON BUSCH NURSE TRAINING FUND



YOUR GIVING AT WORK

Your gift to the Mary McMahon Busch Nurse Training Fund strengthens the clinical expertise nurses need to deliver high-quality care for children with heart disease. This investment is essential to building a specialized pediatric cardiac care nursing workforce.

Nurses are often the closest team member to a child and their family after heart surgery, positioning them to deliver patient-centered, personalized care. Yet in many underserved countries, academic nursing programs do not adequately prepare them for the complexities of pediatric cardiac care.

Children's HeartLink training programs change that. We equip, empower and elevate nurses as key partners of multidisciplinary teams, helping them build technical, clinical and leadership skills needed to improve the quality of care and the lives of the children.

At one Children's HeartLink partner hospital, donor-supported nursing training helped reduced post-surgery mortality to 5.1%. Now, that foundation is fueling deeper specialization and more advanced care.



SUPPORTING LIFESAVING EDUCATION

After heart surgery, a child's care falls to their family. That's a high burden after a serious surgery. Nurses play a critical role in teaching and educating caregivers on how to care for their child at home. At Children's HeartLink partner G. Kuppuswamy Naidu Memorial (GKNM) Hospital in Coimbatore, India, they're strengthening that support with Parent Education Discharge Instructions (PEDI), developed by Children's HeartLink.

"Family support is key," says Dr. Raju Vijayakumar with GKNM Hospital. "If somebody is sick, the entire family from both sides comes to help. It's the way things are done in India."

Family members surround the nurses and baby manikin to learn how to care for their loved one at home. The family training session uses the PEDI instructional wall poster (behind the nurses) as a guide to provide the best possible care for their heart warrior at home.

In 2025, training supported by Children's HeartLink reached nearly 1,350 nurses in underserved parts of the world.

ABOUT MARY MCMAHON BUSCH

The Mary McMahon Busch Nurse Training Fund was established in memory of Children's HeartLink board member Mary McMahon Busch. Mary was a cardiac nurse by training, and through her career became an admired and respected leader in the international cardiac device industry. She had an intimate understanding of the vital role nurses play as members of a cardiac team and she was a passionate supporter of our work.



"Mary was a remarkable woman who certainly made a mark in her 56 years, and with this nurse training fund, her legacy will live on. We're grateful to her family for directing memorial gifts to support the advancement and empowerment of nurses, who are integral to our work."

— Children's HeartLink President Jackie Boucher

**YOUR GIFT OF \$250 HELPS SPONSOR TRAINING FOR ONE NURSE
WHO CARES FOR A PATIENT AROUND THE CLOCK AND IS A KEY LINK TO FAMILIES.**

YOUR GIVING PROVIDES

ONGOING, CURRICULUM-BASED NURSE TRAINING

Parent Education Discharge Instructions (PEDI) give caregivers the information and confidence they need to care for a child before and after heart surgery. Children's HeartLink trains nurses at partner hospitals in PEDI, who then share PEDI with more than 10,000 children and their families every year. PEDI, created by Children's HeartLink, is available as a resource for any health care team to download. Published studies show a significant increase in nurses' knowledge post-completion of the PEDI program and a dramatic decrease in infections at patients' surgical sites.

The Nurse Residency Program (NRP), enhances skills and raises confidence of cardiac nurses in developing countries. Created by and adapted for virtual use by Children's HeartLink volunteers, this training extends the opportunity to learn and improve patient care to more nurses through 54 self-study videos and monthly instructor-led remote trainings.

Virtual NRP is now being used to improve nursing care in low- and middle-income countries. In just one year, this virtual training can reach as many nurses as the in-person version did over three years.

Brazil's first postgraduate nursing course in pediatric cardiac care was developed by nursing leaders at Hospital da Criança e Maternidade (HCM), a Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence, and is taught at FAMERP Medical University. Nurses from across the country attend the 18-month program, which offers an in-depth overview of the diagnosis, treatment, management and long-term patient care. Children's HeartLink scholarships provide nurses with this valuable development opportunity that they might not otherwise have access to.

SUPPORT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

No matter what is happening in the world, children are born with heart disease and need lifesaving care. With the support of volunteers and partners, the Children's HeartLink blended learning model of remote and in-person training has increased our reach, sustainability and impact.

Give a gift to the Mary McMahon Busch Nurse Training Fund today!
Give at: Childrensheartlink.org/NursingFund



ABOUT CHILDREN'S HEARTLINK

Children's HeartLink saves children's lives by transforming pediatric heart care in underserved parts of the world. The global nonprofit organization (NGO), partners medical volunteers from top teaching and research institutions with doctors, nurses and health care professionals in Bangladesh, Brazil, China, India, Malaysia and Vietnam to improve pediatric cardiac care programs. Since 1969, the organization has reached more than 2 million children.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- The Pediatric Cardiac Society of India meeting brought together 80 nurses, including 18 from Children's HeartLink partners, for learning, collaboration and skill building. Supporting the nursing track again highlighted how shared expertise strengthens pediatric cardiac care nationwide.
- Forty nurses from across Brazil completed an intensive 18-month pediatric cardiac nursing program, expanding the country's capacity to care for children with heart disease. A training opportunity that might otherwise not be available.
- A Boston Children's Hospital nurse developed an educational initiative for pediatric cardiac ICU nurses in Bangladesh, Vietnam and Ghana to advance critical care skills, and it has since become a training opportunity for nurses at Boston Children's Hospital as well.



In March 2026, 40 nurses from throughout Brazil completed the 18 month course. The new cohort began shortly after.

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As a Minnesota-based tax-exempt NGO with 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, Children's HeartLink relies 100% on donations and grants from individuals, organizations and foundations to support our mission.