

MARY MCMAHON BUSCH NURSE TRAINING FUND



YOUR GIVING AT WORK

Your gift to the Mary McMahon Busch Nurse Training Fund strengthens and reinforces clinical skills so nurses can deliver high-quality care for children with heart disease. This is key to building the specialized nurse workforce needed in the countries where Children's HeartLink works: Bangladesh, Brazil, China, India, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Nurses are often the closest members of the heart care team to a child and their family after heart surgery, making them well-positioned to deliver patient-centered, personalized care. Despite their value, academic training for nursing in many underserved countries does not adequately prepare them for a pediatric cardiac care setting.

Children's HeartLink training programs empower and promote nurses as key partners of multidisciplinary teams. Through our training programs, nurses improve their knowledge and technical and leadership skills to provide high-quality care and improve patient outcomes.



A Children's HeartLink partner hospital in northwestern India, a severely underserved region, has reduced the mortality rate after pediatric heart surgery to 5.1%. They've focused on building a well-trained cardiac nursing team and are turning their attention to increasing specialization and advanced practices.



Parent and Caregiver Education Matters.

Kabil, born with congenital heart disease, had his heart repaired at the Children's HeartLink partner hospital in Coimbatore, India. When he was in the hospital, his father (left) had to go back to work on the farm. Kabil's uncle (second from right) stayed at the hospital to help Kabil's mother care for the baby boy.

"Family support is key," says Dr. Vijay, with G. Kuppuswamy Naidu Memorial Hospital (GKNMH). "If somebody is sick, the entire family from both sides comes to help. It's the way things are done in India." Nurses at GKNMH are now increasing their focus on educating parents and caregivers on caring for a child after surgery through Parent Education Discharge Instructions (PEDI) developed by Children's HeartLink.

Children's HeartLink trains nurses in educating caregivers to provide the best possible care after heart surgery.

Support nurse training and education with a gift to the Mary McMahon Busch Nurse Training Fund today!

Give at: Childrensheartlink.org/NursingFund

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), empowers and enhances the skills of cardiac nurses in developing countries. In 2022, Children's HeartLink volunteers developed a virtual NRP to give more nurses the opportunity to learn and improve patient care through 54 self-study videos and monthly instructor-led remote trainings. After completing the inaugural 12-month virtual program, all participating nurses in India and Malaysia reported improved knowledge and expertise levels. Virtual NRP is now being used to improve nursing care in low- and middle-income countries and in just two years has reached as many nurses as the in-person program did in seven 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 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 being 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.

Training supported by Children's HeartLink reached over 2,000 nurses in our partner hospitals and across the world in 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- In 2023, Children's HeartLink celebrated 10 years of supporting the nursing training track at the Pediatric Cardiac Society of India (PCSI) conference. This is a hallmark achievement as Children's HeartLink has established a professional development pathway for nurses where few exist. Over 150 attendees, including nurses from six of our hospital partners, attended a session hosted by medical volunteers from Boston Children's Hospital. This session included lectures, group activities and quizzes to encourage knowledge retention.
- Children's HeartLink launched a new Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Nursing Virtual Course in November 2023. The multi-session training course aims to meet the critical need of strengthening ICU capacity at National Heart Foundation and Research Institute, our partner in Bangladesh.
- We are innovating by expanding the impact of our successful virtual Nurse Residency Program (NRP) through a train-the-trainer model, aiming to educate a broader spectrum of nurses. In Kolkata, India, a nurse educator is leveraging NRP-based videos and guides, to train her staff effectively.

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.

**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.**



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, dedicated to advancing the nursing profession and advocating for patients. This fund is focused on delivering training that improves nursing skills, elevates the nursing role and enhances their ability to advocate for their patients. With this fund, Mary's legacy will live on."

— Children's HeartLink President Jackie Boucher