

2025 Children's HeartLink Founders Award Nomination Form

The purpose of the Founders Award, established in 2019, is to recognize individuals who demonstrate extraordinary dedication and contributions to the Children's HeartLink mission.

When a child is sick, there are no limits to the compassion people feel and the lengths they will go to in order to help that child. Children's HeartLink was created in 1969 when a young doctor serving in Vietnam asked his father, a Minnesota surgeon, to help three Vietnamese children with congenital heart disease. Minnesota has long been a world leader in heart surgery, medical advances and philanthropic giving. Two pioneers in the cardiac field were Dr. Joseph Kiser and his partner, Dr. Frank Johnson (the father of the medic). These doctors and the larger Minnesota community stepped up to help foreign children suffering from congenital heart disease, setting in motion over the ensuing years a commitment to improve the lives of children who lack access to care.

Over time, the Children's HeartLink model has evolved into one that trains local providers. While our approach has changed over the years, our commitment to helping children with heart disease has never wavered. Children's HeartLink has thrived thanks to the many supporters who are dedicated to the mission of sharing their knowledge and skills with practitioners and partner hospitals in countries all over the world.

Previous Award Winners include:

Joseph Dearani, M.D.; Sandra Staveski, Ph.D., RN, CDNO-AC; Glen Van Arsdell, M.D.; Jim Rice, Ph.D.; Steven Schwartz, M.D.; Peter Hesslein, M.D.; Elizabeth Perlich Sweeney; Grace Arteaga, M.D.

Nominate the next Children's HeartLink Founders Award Winner

NOMINATION DETAILS

For the nomination to be considered:

1. The individual should have at least 3 years of experience volunteering with Children's HeartLink.
2. Provide a letter of nomination, not exceeding 4 pages in length, detailing how the nominee demonstrates the following award criteria through their volunteerism:
 - Extraordinary humanitarian volunteerism: This could include work in training; mentoring of clinicians, volunteers or staff; didactic or clinical training; development of educational and training resources; research contributions; leadership and/or extraordinary contributions to the advancement and effectiveness of Children's HeartLink
 - Elevates the spirit of humanity through compassion, love, selflessness and an ongoing commitment to saving the lives of children with congenital heart disease
 - Delivers bold and visionary leadership and a commitment to the Children's HeartLink mission
3. Provide nominator and nominee contact information.

Information submitted for this award will be used solely for the purpose of nominations.

Nomination submissions due by April 25, 2025 to Jenny Cook at jenny@childrensheartlink.org.