



Children's HeartLink[®]
HEALING HEARTS WORLDWIDE

**EVERY
CHILD
DESERVES
A HEALTHY
HEART.**

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

Because of supporters like you, 217,800 children received heart care at Children's HeartLink partner hospitals this year, and more than 4,438 clinicians strengthened their skills in pediatric cardiac care. In 2025, we partnered with 15 hospitals in training, six Children's HeartLink Centers of Excellence and 13 medical volunteer teams—all working to ensure more children born with congenital heart disease receive the care they deserve.

Your time, expertise and generosity is helping to build a workforce where the need is greatest. You are helping to make care possible where it once didn't exist. You give families hope.

That is why we committed to a bold new five-year strategic plan: to double the number of Children's HeartLink Centers of Excellence and drive policy and system changes needed to expand access to pediatric cardiac care.

Children's HeartLink Centers of Excellence train their neighbors, share their expertise and expand access to care across entire regions. This year, Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence Amrita Hospital Kochi in India led a first-of-its-kind Virtual Reality and Extended Reality pilot, bringing surgeons and cardiologists from around the world together to collaborate on complex cases and strengthen skills. CardioPedBrasil in Brazil began training peers in other low-resource environments, and Institute Jantung Negara in Malaysia continued to host and train nurses in pediatric cardiac care.

These programs are agents of change—lifting up communities, transforming systems and shaping the future of heart care.

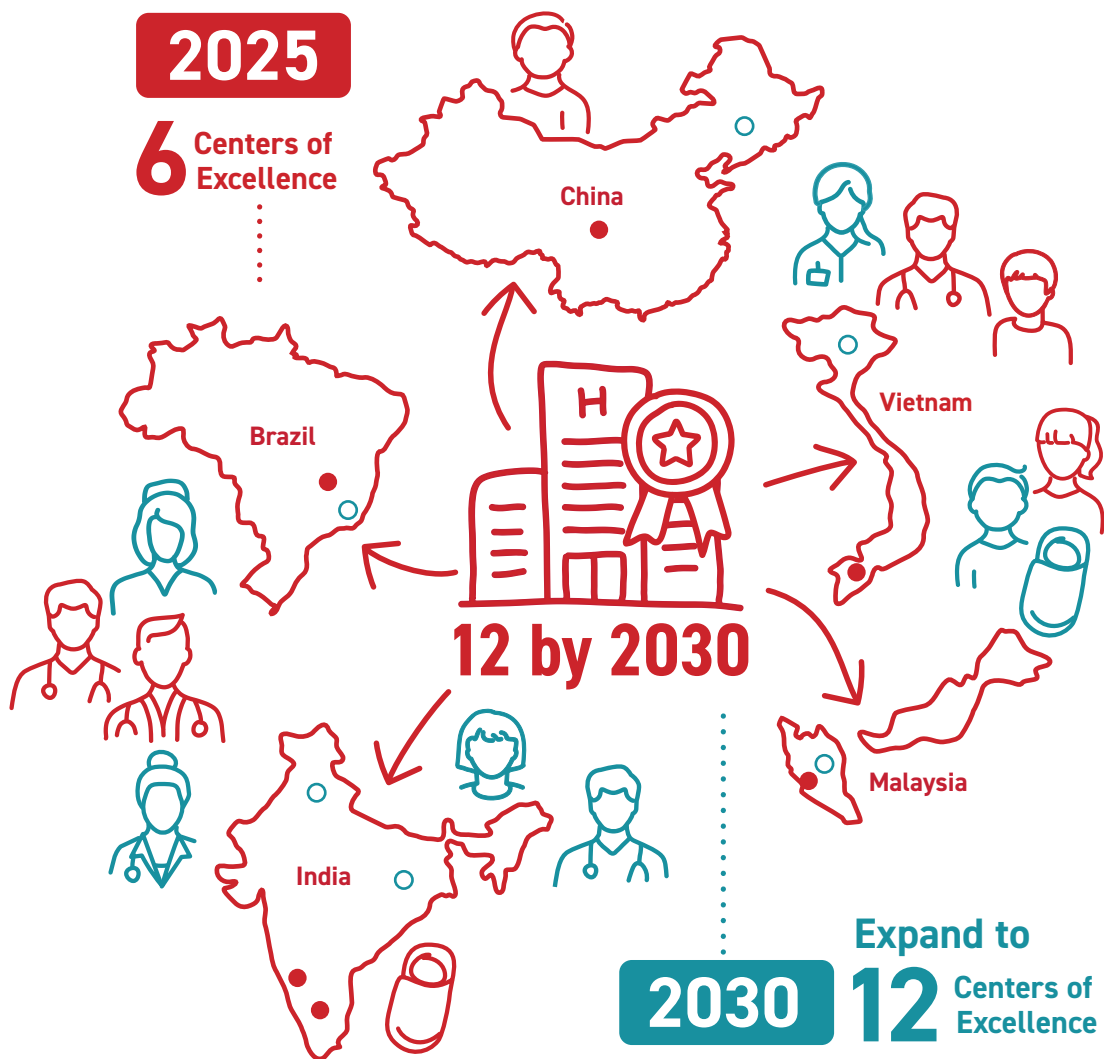
Yet today, 9 out of 10 children born with congenital heart disease still don't receive the care they need. Any preventable loss of a child is one too many. As the need grows, your partnership matters more than ever. With your support, we can double our Centers of Excellence from six to twelve by 2030.

Thank you for joining us in this journey to build stronger systems, empower teams and expand heart care. Because we believe every child deserves a healthy heart, and until that is true for every family, everywhere, our work is far from finished.


Jackie Boucher
President, Children's HeartLink



HELP US DOUBLE OUR CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE BY 2030



More Centers = More Trained Clinicians = More Children Served
= LASTING CHANGE



*“My name is Truc
Ngan. I am 7.”*

REAL LIVES. REAL CHANGE.

When Ngan was one month old, what her parents expected to be a routine checkup revealed a heart murmur. She was soon diagnosed with Transposition of the Great Arteries along with two related congenital heart conditions. Although she was referred to Vietnam National Children’s Hospital (VNCH), treatment wasn’t available until she was five.

Dr. Truong, Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery at VNCH, developed her treatment plan with support from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), their Children’s HeartLink medical volunteer team. After surgery, her recovery remained uncertain: she was still in heart failure one month later. Dr. Truong again consulted the UCSF team, and the second treatment was a success! Today, Ngan can ride her bike, play with friends and dream about her future.

In low-resource environments, complex cases like Ngan’s often go untreated due to limited specialized expertise. Through Children’s HeartLink partnerships, hospitals like VNCH gain the clinical and organizational capacity to expand lifesaving heart care.

As pediatric cardiac surgeon and Children’s HeartLink volunteer Dr. Shunji Sano explains,

*“I can save only three to five children in one visit.... I can save maybe 10 [in a year].
So, 10 years, a hundred. If I train the local medical team, they can save 200-300 children
a year by themselves. In 10 years, 2,000-3,000.”*

Ngan’s life today is the result of a transformative partnership. Dr. Truong reflects,

*“Without Children’s HeartLink we cannot connect with our [UCSF] volunteers.
[This partnership] helps us build up an education program. This is crucial to help the
next generation standardize their practice and keep [treatment] results at the
international level.”*

Learn more about Ngan’s story: childrensheartlink.org/ngan

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS

Greg Adamson, MD
Muhammad AK Nuri, MD
Norliza Ali, MD
Sonia Almeida, RN
Fernanda Alves, RN
Hari Krishnan AM
Meghalakshmi AR, RN
Ali Aristu, MD
Grace Arteaga, MD
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Erin Babine, RN
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David Morales, MD
Brian Morray, MD

BY THE NUMBERS



6

Children's
HeartLink Centers
of Excellence

13

Medical
Volunteer
Teams



15

Partners
in Training



112

Training
Sessions



8,800+

Hours of Donated Time



4,400+

Local Clinicians Trained



217,800

Children Served

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Mina Mostafavifar, PA
Pablo Motta, MD
Sarah Murphy, RN
Shanti Narasimhan, MD
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Eyal Sagiv, MD
Alicia Said, RN
Shubhayan Sanatani, MD
Shunji Sano, MD
Navaneetha Sasikumar, MD
Linesh Satpute, RN
Jennifer Sauers, RT
Steve Schwartz, MD
Megan Sepanski, RN
Maully Shah, MD
Sanket Shah, MD
Venkat Shankar, MD
Lauren Shaw, RN
Fanni Sheets, RN
Shreya Sheth, MD
Riyan Shetty, MD
K Shivaprakasha, MD
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Do Van Nam
Katie Virk, MD
Sonia Voleti, MD
Unnikrishnan VS, RN
Alex Wordie, MD
Sarin Xavier
Luciana Young, MD

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Giulia Bechara
Maya Bechara
Briella Boland
Cooper Cruah
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Jeff Evanson
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Kathy Manley
Ruth Maramis
Caleigh Mentzer
Mira Morgan
Mary Shea Murphy
Dewi Parman
Elizabeth Perlich Sweeney
Maya Peterson
Krisha Pillai
Theresia Puaha
Katie Reddy
Mish Sen
Vishal Sharma
Reny Storo
Julie Tan
Nhu Lan Tran
Maya Wald
Giselle Wang



\$1.1 IN DONATED VOLUNTEER TIME.
MILLION THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



Revolutionizing Global Collaboration

One of the greatest challenges in transforming pediatric heart care worldwide is ensuring that medical professionals have the most up-to-date and practical training possible. The need for skilled clinicians is critical, especially when it comes to treating congenital heart disease in low- and middle-income countries.

Led by Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence (CoE) Amrita Hospital Kochi, we explored whether extended reality (XR) can revolutionize heart care training. XR is a cutting-edge technology that allows clinicians to learn and interact with each other in an immersive, 3D environment that has the potential to transform the way they learn and practice.

This project, funded by the Ping and Amy Chao Family Foundation and the Transparent Fish Fund, brought together surgeons and cardiologists from around the world using XR to discuss real patient cases, build treatment plans and share expertise to save the lives of children with heart disease. Through discussions of 11 complex pediatric heart care cases, doctors gained confidence, improved understanding and saw real-world results.



Pictured: Dr. Mahesh Kappanayil from Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence Amrita Hospital Kochi, India, demonstrating the XR software he developed that will be used in this new project.

This project shows what's possible when technology meets collaboration with Children's HeartLink CoEs leading the way. Learn more: childrensheartlink.org/XR

International Collaboration is Saving Lives

A 2025 study published in the Brazilian Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery shows that Children's HeartLink's partnership with Instituto do Coração (InCor) in São Paulo and The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto is saving lives. During this partnership, InCor implemented structured Quality and Safety initiatives, leading to striking improvements.

For example, the mortality rate for pediatric heart surgeries dropped from 7.5% to 5.1% before reaching 3.1% by 2024.

Children's HeartLink partnerships are not quick fixes—they are long-term collaborations focused on hands-on training, multidisciplinary teamwork, building sustainable systems and empowering local professionals to improve care for generations to come.

Read "Quality and Safety Initiatives in a Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery Program in a Low and Middle-Income Country: The Impact of International Collaboration":
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12379720/>

BECAUSE EVERY CHILD MATTERS

When Katie Reddy's son was born with a heart condition, they had access to world-class care. The hospitals were equipped to help; doctors could provide options—all because they lived in the United States.

Congenital heart disease is the most common birth condition in the world. Yet care remains unavailable or too expensive in low- and middle-income countries.

As a mother and Children's HeartLink board member, Katie knows how much is at stake. How desperate a mother, a family, is hoping to hear the words, "Your child is going to be okay." It drives her deep belief in Children's HeartLink's mission to transform pediatric heart care for children in underserved parts of the world.

At the Global Gathering, Katie and her family, Dr. Vivek Reddy, MD, Rowan and Tessa shared their experience with heart disease to raise awareness and inspire more people to support the transformative work Children's HeartLink is doing in pediatric cardiac care.



Join the Reddys in supporting
Children's HeartLink:
childrensheartlink.org/katie

"We were really fortunate, so it almost felt like a mission. How are we going to help other people get the same access? How are we going to help spread the word for treating children with congenital heart disease?"

— Katie Reddy

Progress Towards a WHA Resolution

In May, Children's HeartLink was at the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva advocating for global action on pediatric and congenital heart diseases, including support for a new WHA Resolution.

In November, a peer-review editorial in JACC, which Bistra Zheleva, vice president of global strategy and advocacy at Children's HeartLink, contributed to underscores the global inequities in pediatric cardiac care and reinforces the importance of advocacy, policy reform, workforce development and equitable access.

In December, several Children's HeartLink staff and partners attended the 9th World Congress for Pediatric and Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery. We shaped Track 18, The Call to Action: Global Health and Congenital Heart Disease, designed to bring real-world evidence in support for the WHA Resolution.

Read the editorial "Confronting Global Inequity in Pediatric Cardiac Care, From Crisis to Opportunity":
<https://www.jacc.org/doi/10.1016/j.jacc.2025.07.070>

Advocating for Systemic Healthcare Changes

Children's HeartLink in partnership with the Directorate General of Medical Education for The People's Republic of Bangladesh and the National Heart Foundation and Research Institute organized the first ever National Stakeholders Meeting on Pediatric Cardiac Care in Bangladesh.

The August meeting brought together government leaders, medical universities, hospitals, professional societies and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) partners in pediatric cardiac care across the country as a first step in developing a national congenital heart disease strategy to expand workforce capacity, improve access to care and save the lives of thousands of children.



With generous support from Helen and Omark Ishrak family, this meeting illustrates how Children's HeartLink's advocacy work is essential for inspiring systemic healthcare changes, ensuring on-the-ground staff training is supported by national policies that create the necessary infrastructure for stronger, more resilient healthcare systems.



Join the Ishraks in supporting Children's HeartLink as we advance advocacy efforts and strengthen national health systems.

Donate today childrensheartlink.org/donate

WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your support is vital to ensuring all children have access to high-quality heart care, a fundamental human right. Here's how you can get involved:

- Sign the Call to Action on Addressing the Global Burden of congenital heart disease. childrensheartlink.org/sign4chd/
- Become a sponsor of the Global Gathering on November 14, 2026. childrensheartlink.org/sponsor
- Make a gift Your contributions fuel our transformative work. childrensheartlink.org/donate
- Learn more about congenital heart disease, the most common birth defect and the birth defect that causes the most infant deaths. childrensheartlink.org/CHDfacts
- Share a story that embodies the essence of our mission. childrensheartlink.org/ngan
- Host a fundraiser online or in your home and introduce friends, family and colleagues to Children's HeartLink's work. childrensheartlink.org/get-involved

For inquiries regarding estate gifts, hosting an in-person event, giving through your Donor Advised Fund or for assistance in structuring your next gift, contact **Erin Bursch** at erin@childrensheartlink.org.

OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

Statements of Financial Position

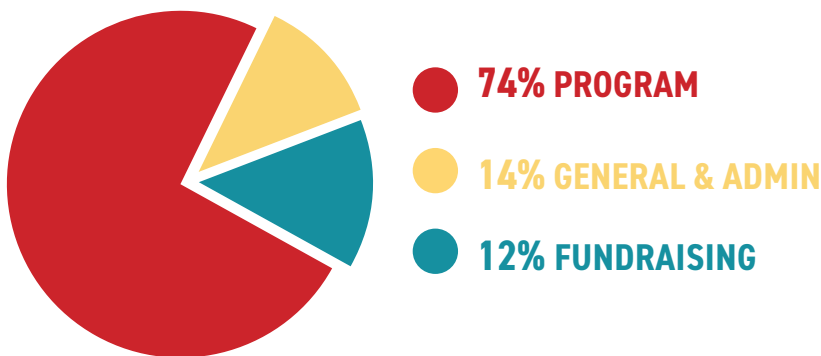
	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,932,786	\$1,852,005
Pledges and grants receivable, current, less allowance for doubtful accounts	586,250	500,996
Other receivables	-	1,267
Prepaid expenses	55,923	35,103
Total current assets	2,574,959	2,389,371
Property and equipment, net	131,200	130,587
Other assets		
Pledges and grants receivable, net of current portion and net present value discount	89,205	216,772
Security Deposit	6,207	-
Right-of-use assets, net	270,720	-
Total other assets	366,132	216,772
Total assets	\$3,072,291	\$2,736,730
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$108,528	\$57,527
Accrued payroll expenses	27,474	26,755
Other accrued expenses	11,486	18,791
Current portion of operating lease obligations	19,685	-
Total current liabilities	167,173	103,073
Long-term liabilities		
Operating lease obligations, net of current portion	258,455	-
Refundable Advances	126,000	141,710
Total long-term liabilities	384,455	141,710
Total liabilities	551,628	244,783
Net assets without donor restrictions		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	235,141	(67,834)
Board-designated	500,000	152,200
Total without donor restrictions	735,141	84,366
With donor restrictions	1,785,522	2,407,581
Total net assets	2,520,663	2,491,947
Total liabilities and net assets	\$3,072,291	\$2,736,730

OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

Statements of Activities

Year Ended June 30, 2025 & 2024

	2025			2024		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE						
Operating Support						
Contributions and grants	\$1,325,812	\$821,865	\$2,147,677	\$212,814	\$1,780,132	\$1,992,946
Special event sponsorships and donations	584,549	-	584,549	555,756		555,756
In-kind contributions	1,110,125	-	1,110,125	648,920	-	648,920
Net assets released from restriction						
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	1,357,989	(1,357,989)	-	895,083		-
Expiration of time restrictions	85,935	(85,935)	-	123,778	(123,778)	-
Total support	4,464,410	(622,059)	3,842,351	2,436,351	761,271	3,197,622
OPERATING REVENUE						
Special event revenue, net of expenses						
(excludes support of \$584,549 in 2025 & \$555,756 in 2024, presented above)	(133,988)	-	(133,988)	(125,430)	-	(125,430)
Total operating revenue	(133,988)	-	(133,988)	(125,430)	-	(125,430)
Total operating support and revenue	4,330,422	(622,059)	3,708,363	2,310,921	761,271	3,072,192
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Program services	3,238,737	-	3,238,737	2,844,694	-	2,844,694
Supporting services						
General and administrative	622,931	-	622,931	580,207	-	580,207
Fundraising	506,813	-	506,813	646,300	-	646,300
Total operating expenses	4,368,481	-	4,071,201	3,496,027	-	4,071,201
Change in net assets	688,834	(622,059)	28,716	(1,684,829)	761,271	(923,558)
Net assets, beginning of year	84,366	2,407,581	2,491,947	1,769,195	1,646,310	3,415,505
Net assets, end of year	\$735,141	\$1,785,522	\$2,520,663	\$84,366	\$2,407,581	\$2,491,947



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Medical Sciences and Research Centre

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