

WORLD HEART FOUNDATION

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CARDIAC CARE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Sharing the Wealth

Working with affiliates worldwide to improve outcomes and increase capacity for cardiac care through training & equipment donations

The primary mission of **World Heart Foundation** (WHF) is to decrease the global inequity in the delivery of high-quality health care by improving the access that the underserved have to cardiac surgery.

Many of the affiliates of WHF are on the ground in developing countries witnessing first hand how access to care is limited to those who can pay. Many charity organizations are trying to fill the gaps and help with funding, but reality is that many children with heart disease suffer for life and die in silence, never having a moment's hope of funding for surgery that would save their life.

In all developing countries access is further limited by the lack of qualified primary care physicians who can recognize and care for heart disease. Remote health care centers can do little more than look and send the children home to die. The parents have no money, and no transportation, and therefore no way to get to the hospitals that could care for their children.

In most developing countries the capacity for caring for children with heart disease is woefully inadequate. The hospitals don't have the intensive care equipment to deal with a crisis. The parents can't afford food and medicines to keep their child strong. The doctors don't have the knowledge to deal with the disease or the ability to stabilize and transport to regional heart centers.

In many developing countries the surgical centers are far, far from the patients. The capacity for heart surgery is usually a tiny fraction of the need. The names on the waiting lists for pediatric heart surgeries number in the tens of thousands.

Many organizations are working to build capacity, most by building new facilities. This is laudable, but it takes on average, three years to develop a major medical center.

We have found that in many countries, existing infrastructure and basic knowledge is there, and that by adding to equipment and providing training, we can immediately increase capacity for cardiac care and cardiac surgery.

We partner with local affiliates to increase capacity in countries where there is already a beginning and we feel there is hope for a solution.

We hope you will want to be part of that solution.



The Project:

Sharing the Wealth has three major components:

- Equipment Donations to existing medical programs for pediatric intensive care and pediatric cardiac surgery
- Training of local medical professionals with preceptorship visits by exemplary medical professionals
- Training by leaders in the field of cardiac care via online or teleconferenced regional training conferences, dissemination of training videos and information on the use of online training sites.

www.worldheartfoundation.org

We ask for your help:

- Can you volunteer to talk to your local and regional hospitals and make them aware of this program? We will take used equipment and refurbish it to like new condition and distribute it to a program in an underdeveloped country.
- Will you commit up two weeks to train in an underdeveloped country? We will match you to a program that needs your help.
- Would you contact your medical equipment suppliers for donations of new equipment or demonstration equipment to the program?

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#)
Questions, advice or comments? Please call Robin King Austin, Special Projects Director
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Please feel free to forward this to someone you think would be interested