



*Help us make a  
difference, ONE child,  
ONE country at a time*

*Curing Children  
With Heart Disease  
Around the World*

### KIDS HEART FACTS:

- Congenital Heart Diseases (CHD) affects 8 of every 1,000 live births across the world.
- The vast majority of CHD children born in developing countries are forced to lead restricted lives (if they survive) due to lack of adequate medical care.
- CHD is curable, in the majority of cases, and children can lead a full, normal life if their condition is addressed with proper medicine and in many instances surgery.

### HEART CARE INT'L FACTS:

- HCI has conducted 27 mission trips in 16 years and performed more than 850 life saving heart procedures.
- Each HCI mission trip requires a team of between 10 to 50 medical professionals from at least 5 different medical disciplines.
- HCI draws its team of 100% volunteer medical professionals from 22 states, a dozen major medical centers as well as 7 different countries.
- In-country training as well as scholarships provided by HCI to host country medical professionals has enabled 3 developing countries to now perform many procedures independently.

"Heart Care International has given me the hope of life for many of the children under my care who, otherwise, would not have been able to survive. Heart Care International also increases my knowledge every time the team comes to my country. The interactions with this group have made me a better physician. HCI is a team of generous, unselfish people who give with love in their hearts."

— Dr. Jose Mauricio Velado,  
Pediatric Cardiologist,  
(Bloom Hospital, El Salvador)

"Heart Care International initiated the fire that today has evolved into the first pediatric cardiac center at CEDIMAT in the history of the Dominican Republic, providing cardiovascular care to the needy children of our country. Seven years of friendship, advice, continued medical education and untallied hours of passionate work by HCI members and our local staff, have resulted in what I would define in one word as HOPE. Today, the Dominican children with congenital heart disease are not destined to die due to lack of medical attention, but instead thanks to HCI, they have the hope for life."

—Dr. Freddy Madera,  
Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon,  
(CEDIMAT Dominican Republic)



[www.heartcareintl.org](http://www.heartcareintl.org)

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*“We envision a world where all children have access to quality heart care.” –Dr. Robert Michler*

## OUR MISSION:

Heart Care International (HCI) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization whose mission is to teach and provide life-saving heart care for children living in developing countries.



## OUR GUIDING PHILOSOPHY:

HCI uses a two faceted approach to achieve its mission: 1) Identify children with terminal heart conditions and administer life-saving heart procedures to these children in their home countries; 2) Train host country medical professionals (doctors, nurses, administrative staff, etc.) in surgical, medical, palliative and interventional care techniques in order to independently provide the same treatments to children in their home country.



## OUR ORIGINS:

In 1994, with financial support from family and friends, Dr. Robert Michler traveled with a team of fifty health care specialists to perform heart procedures on terminally ill children from Guatemala. With this trip, a new tradition in pediatric heart care was established.



## CHANGING A LIFE

In rural Guatemala, Hector had a damaged heart valve as a result of rheumatic fever. He had limited quality of life as his fatigue was so great that even walking was a challenge. At the age of 14, Hector was forced to drop out of school because he was unable to function. Without open-heart surgery, Hector's future was bleak as this type of surgery was not available in his country. Fortunately for Hector, he was helped by HCI on a mission trip to Guatemala. Today, Hector is back in school, participating fully in life and working to become a doctor.



## COST COMPARISON:

Thanks to the 100% volunteer medical staff as well as generous corporate sponsors, it costs HCI on average \$2,500 per child to perform life-saving heart procedures in developing countries (which is LESS than 10% of what it costs in the U.S.)



[www.heartcareintl.org](http://www.heartcareintl.org)

*Give a gift from the heart to mend a heart:*

For just \$2,500 a child's life will be saved. YOUR contribution will get us closer to saving one more life.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE!  
MAKE A DONATION!**

Your donation is 100% tax deductible. Checks can be made payable to:  
**Heart Care International**  
139 East Putnam Avenue  
Greenwich, CT 06830

*Online donations can be made via our secure server at*

[www.heartcareintl.org](http://www.heartcareintl.org)

## ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE

Heart Care International is a proud member of the Children's Medical Charities, and participates fully in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the largest work place charitable giving program in the country. If you are an employee of the Federal Government (non-military), US Military (uniform and civilian), US Postal Service, State, Local or Municipal Government PLEASE assign your workplace giving funds to Heart Care International (CFC # 62683).

*Be part of the SOLUTION!  
Make a donation TODAY!*