



Please return donation forms to:

HeartGift Foundation
1010 West 40th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

Make an online donation at:

www.heartgift.org

Contact:

Diane Morgan - Director of Development

Phone: (512) 225-9880

Email: dmorgan@heartgift.org

By doing what you can for HeartGift,
you are giving the *gift of life*.



Mending hearts
one *gift* at a time.

HOW HEARTGIFT CAME TO LIFE

The mission of The HeartGift Foundation is to provide lifesaving heart surgery to disadvantaged children in developing countries where specialized medical intervention is scarce or nonexistent.

HeartGift fulfills that mission as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Foundation comprises cardiothoracic and vascular surgeons, pediatric

physicians, hospitals and volunteers who are dedicated to providing desperately needed heart surgery to these disadvantaged children—at *no cost* to their families.

It all started in 1998, when five children from Kosovo, under the auspices of a concerned surgeon from Temple, Texas, made the journey to Austin, Texas in hopes that their hearts would be mended.

All five surgical procedures were successful, and the inspiration for HeartGift was born.

A year later, three friends—Dr. John Oswalt, Ray Wilkerson and Jim Hoover—planted the seeds for HeartGift. In 2000, the first HeartGift patient—Vicky Salinas Dominguez of Honduras—underwent surgery in Austin. Today, Dr. Oswalt is chair of the HeartGift board and Mr. Wilkerson is Vice Chair of Finance.

Since 2000, more than 150 children from 23 countries have undergone critically needed heart procedures thanks to HeartGift—with 93 percent of our budget going directly to patient care.

Geographic expansion is allowing HeartGift to serve more children than is possible now in any one city or hospital. There are now chapters in Austin, Fort Worth, Houston, Louisiana and San Antonio.



well. I am very happy
Shechen Monastery, Nepal, after our
2 months vacation, I was home with
my family then.
I am feeling so much better
than before the operation, 100%
better. I take all the classes
and play ball.
In school I study Tibetan,
English, math, handwriting and Buddhism.
I want to thank you
again for all your kind help and
concern. I always remember all of
you and will never forget your birthday
to me and so many others.
Here is my photo + also one
with some friends + teachers.
NORBU TULKU

Norbu, today, 15 years old

NORBU Norbu Tulku was not your average 11-year-old boy; he joined the Shechen monastery in Katmandu, Nepal at age five with his parents' blessing. In Tibetan Buddhism, a *tulku* is a particular high-ranking lama (e.g., the Dalai Lama) who can choose the manner of his or her rebirth. Within two years, the monks noticed that he wasn't growing normally. Doctors in Katmandu diagnosed him with *Atrial Septal Defect*, a hole between the upper chambers of his heart—but they could not treat it.

The HeartGift Foundation provided the surgery needed to save his life. Norbu and Tashi Dorgee, a 30-year-old monk who served as his translator and guardian, arrived

in the United States in September 2007. Dr. Kenneth Fox performed surgery to treat a condition that is usually detected and repaired in children in the US before their first birthday.

While in Austin, Norbu and Tashi stayed with a host family, and the Dzogchen Center—a local Buddhist community that practices the same style of Buddhism as Norbu and Dorgee—provided them a place to pray. Before Norbu left Austin, he asked to see a longhorn. You can imagine how excited he was to meet Bevo! Norbu has made great progress since he has returned to his home country, growing into a healthy young man.



Precious



Keai



Danai



Leonise

KEAI On June 2, 2011, Keai celebrated his tenth birthday in a rural village in eastern China. As the son of a poor farmer, his birthday was not lavish; just the fact that he celebrated his tenth birthday was a gigantic feat. Keai had a congenital heart defect known as *Tetralogy of Fallot*.

In August 2008, Keai came to the United States—accompanied only by an airline chaperone—to undergo life-saving surgery sponsored by The HeartGift Foundation. A team of medical professionals repaired Keai's heart.

Normally, Keai's surgery would have cost about \$135,000. But through the generosity of The HeartGift Foundation, Keai's medical expenses were fully covered. Keai is now able to live the full life of a healthy 10-year old boy.

Due to congenital heart disease, one of every 100 children born in the developing world never will see his or her first birthday—let alone tenth. Many children born with heart defects in developing nations are undiagnosed and never have the chance to undergo lifesaving surgery. HeartGift was founded to address that disparity of care.

HOW HEARTGIFT WORKS

To better enable patient referrals, HeartGift has forged partnerships all over the world with non-governmental organizations. Participating organizations offer medical diagnoses and care, air travel and a host of other services.

All participating physicians and medical practices contribute 100 percent of their services, resulting in more than \$17 million worth of in-kind medical services.

Since a HeartGift patient will typically stay four to five weeks in the United States for treatment, HeartGift staff and volunteers also coordinate travel and temporary housing arrangements, meals, translator services, entertainment and other needs. In 2011, HeartGift children benefitted from 20,000 volunteer service hours during their five-week stays. Using the IRS value of \$21.35 per volunteer service hour, HeartGift utilized over \$427,000 in volunteer manpower that year.



Julia, heading home

Health care professionals in each community donate their services, and HeartGift pays a flat-rate hospital fee of \$15,000 for each child's surgery. Additionally, HeartGift assumes responsibility for any hospital, physical and medical expenses that are not covered by in-kind services. With this model of care, 80 percent of HeartGift's 2011 budget was from *pro bono* donations.

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched; they must be felt with the heart."

- Helen Keller

HOW CHILDREN ARE CHOSEN FOR SURGERIES

In each city, a HeartGift Medical Advisory Committee—consisting of pediatric cardiothoracic surgeons and pediatric cardiologists—reviews potential cases.

To be accepted into the HeartGift program, a child must:

- Be younger than age 14
- Not have undergone previous cardiac surgery
- Have a biventricular condition that can be repaired in one operation
- Not have chromosomal abnormalities
- Have an urgent need for surgery
- Have a strong chance of survival, which ensures that HeartGift meets its ethical responsibility to serve children who can go on to lead normal, healthy lives after surgery

HeartGift Reaches Children Around the World



OUR CHAPTERS AND PARTNER HOSPITALS



Elisabeth

Each HeartGift Chapter has its own Board of Directors and Medical Advisory Committee. An Executive Director is on staff to run the program.

- HeartGift Austin
- HeartGift San Antonio
- HeartGift Louisiana
- HeartGift Houston
- HeartGift Fort Worth

Each HeartGift Chapter partners with a highly regarded children's pediatric heart program. The hospitals are paid a flat rate of \$15,000 for a surgery that would cost over \$142,000.



Oscar

- Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas in Austin
- CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children's Hospital in San Antonio
- Children's Hospital in New Orleans
- Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston
- Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth

HeartGift would not exist without the support of volunteers. Whether a doctor, volunteer translator, transportation provider, host family or financial donor, being a part of HeartGift is life changing both for the volunteer and the child.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

One percent of the world's population is born with heart disease, making it the most common birth defect, according to the International Children's Heart Foundation. The United States and other developed countries boast hundreds of medical centers with specialists to treat children with heart disease. But for children born in developing countries, this is not the case.

To help fill that void, The HeartGift Foundation is expanding. Hundreds of children around the world are going without the life-saving heart procedures that they so desperately need. Launching new chapters means HeartGift can save the lives of more children. So, what can you do?

- Volunteer to host a child/parent in your home, provide transportation to doctors appointments or prepare meals.
- Donate money to provide lifesaving heart surgery for a child with a congenital heart defect.
- Contribute your own in-kind services to the HeartGift program.

To lend your support to HeartGift, call Diane Morgan at 512-225-9880, email dmorgan@heartgift.org, or for more information, visit www.heartgift.org.

To donate to HeartGift, fill out the form below and return it to us, or visit us online at www.heartgift.org and click "Make a Donation." Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!

 By doing what you can for HeartGift, you are giving the gift of life.

Donor information

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

Work Telephone _____

Email _____

Your donation

I (we) pledge a total of \$ _____. I (we) pledge \$ _____ per month for _____ months.

I (we) plan to make this contribution in the form of: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Stock

Credit Card information

Credit Card type (Visa, Mastercard, AMEX, etc.) _____ Credit Card # _____

Credit Card expiration date _____

Authorized signature _____

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