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.
**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.

Norbu has made great progress since he has returned to his home country, growing into a healthy young man.

**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.

**Leonise**  Normally, 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.

**Danai**  Geographical 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.
**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.

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.

**Julia, heading home**

“*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**
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.

Our Chapters and Partner Hospitals

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.

- 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

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!

Donor information

Name ____________________________________________
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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

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