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GlobalGiving Report
June-August 2015



GEORGIA

**Newborn Screening for Critical
Congenital Heart Defects**



“Screening my baby so soon after birth allowed her to get the emergency life-saving care she needed.”

KARINE, SECOND-TIME MOTHER

GEORGIA

Lifesaving Newborn Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Defects



Program Update

- Thanks to your generous support, RVF has raised **\$ 23,411** to help screen newborns for critical heart defects.
- **20** new Pulse Oximeters (medical device used to help measure blood oxygen levels and identify potential heart defects), were delivered and are in use to screen newborns in Tbilisi
- Since May 2015, an additional 5,875 newborns have been screened, bringing the total number of newborns screened since the program began in June 2014 to nearly **31,240**
- Of the total number of newborns screened, 25 newborns with confirmed critical heart defects and 80 with other heart defects were identified
- RVF urgently needs to raise **\$20,000** to expand the program to the Kvemo-Kartli region of Georgia

“After a complication-free pregnancy and childbirth, my second child, my little baby girl Anush was born. While breastfeeding Anush for the very first time, I noticed that her lips turned blue and she struggled to latch. Our doctor took a look but didn’t see anything wrong with her. The next day another doctor told me that Anush’s screening results showed possible congenital heart defect. Soon a medical team transferred my baby to a specialized cardio clinic where my baby girl was diagnosed with hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Surgery took place just a few days after the screening and Anush is recovering well. Screening my baby so soon after birth allowed her to get the emergency life-saving care she needed.”

- KARINE, SECOND-TIME MOTHER

Program Overview

- In the Republic of Georgia, more than 500 babies are born each year with potentially fatal heart defects. These babies can be saved if screened and diagnosed within 48 hours of birth.
- The RVF and the Ministry of Health are providing this life-saving screening to all babies in the capital Tbilisi. The program has already saved lives.
- Now, with the support RVF has received through GlobalGiving, we are working on providing additional equipment and training for doctors and nurses so that all babies in Georgia can benefit from this life-saving test.
- This program provides heart screening equipment and training of local doctors and nurses, so that babies with heart defects are identified and receive free world-class treatment in Tbilisi.
- The modern diagnostic capacity developed among Georgian doctors and nurses in the capital will help extend the benefits of this program to the entire country, thus benefiting all babies born in Georgia - 50,000 infants yearly. The Georgian government has agreed to fully sustain this program.

Who is RVF?

The RVF (Rostropovich-Vishnevskaya Foundation) mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of children in need through selected, sustainable, and transformational public health programs. Founded in 1991 by Maestro Rostropovich, the world-renowned Russian cellist, and his wife, the soprano Galina Vishnevskaya, the RVF is a publicly-supported non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Washington, D.C. with programs in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Tajikistan and the West Bank and Gaza.



BY THE NUMBERS:

JUNE 2014 - AUGUST 2015

BENEFICIARIES:

- 31,237 newborns screened since program began in June 2014
- 25 newborns identified with critical heart defects, 80 newborns identified with other heart defects. All were provided with emergency treatment as needed. All babies have survived

CALL TO ACTION:

RVF urgently needs to raise **\$20,000** to expand this life-saving screening program to the Kvemo-Kartli region of Georgia

DONATIONS:

- \$ 23,411 Raised with GlobalGiving
- Donations from 108 individual donations



Over 92% of all donated funds support RVF Programming

