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**GlobalGiving Report**  
*September-November 2015*



## **GEORGIA**

**Screening Newborns for Critical  
Congenital Heart Defects**



# GEORGIA

## Lifesaving Newborn Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Defects



### Program Update

- Thanks to your generous support, RVF has raised **\$ 25,631** to help screen newborns for critical heart defects. - over halfway to our total fundraising goal!
- RVF staff visited Tbilisi in November 2015 and were very impressed with how the program is working on the ground. Local health care workers are enthusiastic about the program and have seen a marked improvement in the survival of their young patients. We were able to visit those young heart surgery patients, some of whom are pictured in this report, recovering well at the JoAnn Medical Center
- Since August 2015, an additional **6,681** newborns have been screened, bringing the total number of newborns screened since the program began in June 2014 to **37,918**
- Of the total number of newborns screened, 27 newborns with confirmed critical heart defects and 99 with other heart defects were identified
- RVF urgently needs to raise **\$15,000** to expand the program to the Kvemo-Kartli region of Georgia

*“I am thankful to everyone, they saved my baby’s life.”*

TAMAR, SECOND-TIME MOTHER

“My son Giorgi was born with a complex heart disease. We came to the Jo Ann Medical Clinic and he received three surgeries and they were all successful. I am thankful to everyone, they saved my baby’s life.”

- TAMAR, SECOND-TIME MOTHER



# Program Overview

- In the Republic of Georgia, more than 1000 babies are born each year with potentially fatal heart defects. These babies can be saved if screened and diagnosed within 48 hours of birth
- 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 expanding the newborn screening program 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 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?

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





## BY THE NUMBERS:

JUNE 2014 - NOVEMBER 2015

### BENEFICIARIES:

- 37,918 newborns screened since program began in June 2014
- 27 newborns identified with critical heart defects, 99 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 **\$15,000** to expand this life-saving screening program to the Kvemo-Kartli region of Georgia

### DONATIONS:

- \$ 25,631 Raised with GlobalGiving
- Donations from 108 individual donations



*Over 92% of all donated funds directly support RVF programs*

