



For the Health of Children

Rostropovich Vishnevskaya Foundation

GLOBALGIVING REPORT

March-May 2015



GEORGIA

Newborn Screening for Critical
Congenital Heart Defects



“If not for this life-saving screening program, I would not be enjoying motherhood right now.”

NINO, NEW MOTHER

GEORGIA

Lifesaving Newborn Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Defects



Program Update

- Thanks to your generous support, RVF has raised **\$ 23,371** to screen newborns for critical congenital heart defects
- **25** new pulse oximeters with greater sensitivity have been procured and training for nurses and physicians planned to strengthen the screening program in Tbilisi- all 21 maternity centers in Tbilisi are now screening newborns for heart defects
- Since March 2015, **6,084** newborns have been screened and 19 babies with heart defects have been identified - 6 of those cases were confirmed critical heart defects. These babies received free emergency treatment and all have survived
- Demand for the heart screening program has been so high that Tbilisi's larger maternity centers have been struggling to screen all newborns. RVF urgently needs to raise \$8,000 to purchase additional pulse oximeters to ensure that all newborns in Tbilisi have access to the screening program

*“When I held my baby Andreia in my arms, I was the happiest person in the world. The doctor told me that my baby had been screened and the results showed a possible heart defect and an urgent transfer to the cardio clinic was needed. Andreia was diagnosed with transposition of great arteries and preparations for emergency surgery was underway at once. When the surgery was complete, my little Andreia's heart beat was strong and healthy and to my utmost happiness, they told me that his healthy heartbeat would last life-long. **If not for this life-saving screening program, I would not be enjoying motherhood right now.**”*

- Nino, new mother, age 20

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 in the process of providing this life-saving screening to all babies in the capital Tbilisi. The program has already saved lives, but is in need of strengthening.
- Now, with the support received through GlobalGiving, RVF is working on providing additional equipment and training for doctors and nurses so that all babies in Georgia can benefit from this life-saving test, beginning in Tbilisi.
- 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.



BY THE NUMBERS:

MARCH - MAY 2015

BENEFICIARIES:

- 6,084 newborns screened since March 2015
- 19 newborns identified with heart defects
- 6 newborns identified with critical heart defects, provided with emergency treatment

CALL TO ACTION:

Demand for the heart screening program has been so high that the larger maternity centers have been struggling to screen all newborns. RVF urgently needs to raise \$8,000 to purchase additional pulse oximeters to ensure that all newborns in Tbilisi have access to the screening program

DONATIONS:

- \$ 23,371 Raised with GlobalGiving
- Donations from 104 unique donors



Over 92% of all donated funds support RVF Programming

