



International Hospital for Children

***Ninety percent of the world's population has access to only 10% of the worldwide health resources.***

In answer to this daunting statistic, like-minded people in the Richmond medical, hospital and business community, guided by faith and humanitarianism, discussed a means to bridge this gap. International Hospital for Children (IHC) was founded in 1999 with the mission to link worldwide pediatric surgical, diagnostic and preventative resources to heal critically ill children in developing countries. IHC meets the needs of children who need immediate life-saving and life-enhancing care while working with in-country partners to develop programs to build large scale, sustainable and indigenous health care capacity for the children of the future.

**Mission Statement** – IHC is a nonprofit humanitarian organization linking worldwide pediatric surgical, diagnostic and preventative resources to heal critically ill children in developing countries. IHC also helps build indigenous health care capacity - saving kid's lives now and transforming pediatric health outcomes for years to come.

IHC fulfills its mission through four core programs:

***We Bring and We Send – addressing the children of today***

Through contracted partner hospitals and over 125 volunteer surgeon/physicians, IHC **brings** children from developing countries for advanced critical care services they cannot obtain in their country. Our current program countries include Belize; Honduras; Guatemala; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Guyana; the Dominican Republic; and small island nations throughout the Eastern Caribbean. Hospitals that partner with IHC include:

VCU Medical Center  
Children's Hospital  
Chippenham-Johnston Willis  
St. Francis  
Cedar Sinai – Los Angeles  
Stony Brook Hospital – New York  
UNICAR – Guatemala Hospital

St. Mary's Hospital  
Virginia Eye Institute  
Henrico Doctors  
Retreat Hospital  
Shriners Hospitals - Philadelphia  
Queen Elizabeth Hospital – Barbados  
Mayo Clinic - Rochester

The types of contracted volunteer pediatric specialties we utilize for children include: open heart surgery, cardiology, neurosurgery, plastics, general surgery, urology, endocrinology, physical therapy and many more.

The most cost efficient way for IHC to reach large numbers of children is through **sending** volunteer pediatric surgical and diagnostic teams into developing countries. Over the past six years IHC has been able to reach thousands of children with teams providing surgical and diagnostic/screening services through this program. The types of pediatric teams IHC sends includes heart surgery, cardiac diagnostic, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, urology, plastics reconstruction and orthopedics.

***We Prevent and We Capacity Build – addressing the children of tomorrow***

IHC works with in-country partners to develop **prevention** programs which target birth defects and preventable diseases through public health programs. An example of a current IHC prevention program is folic acid education and distribution in Guatemala. IHC will soon complete a folic acid intervention study aimed at reducing the country's high incidence rate of neural tube defects including hydrocephalus, spina bifida, and cleft lip/cleft palate.

IHC **builds** current indigenous medical capacity through training programs to strengthen skills in diagnosing and treating children. IHC also trains local doctors in pediatric sub specialties and surgical services. An example of a current IHC capacity building program is its telemedicine program which was launched this year to connect physicians and nurses in Richmond, Virginia and the island nation of St. Vincent. Telemedicine uses targeted video conferencing technology so parties can collaborate in real-time on matters of patient evaluation and provide training in clinic, classroom, and operating room settings. Just recently, a surgery to correct a baby born with Gastroschisis (a hole in the abdominal wall that lets the abdominal contents protrude outside the body) was performed connecting surgeons from St. Vincent to our volunteer surgeons in Richmond. Without this surgery, the baby would have died.

*The combination of these 4 program - addressing the pressing critical health needs children face each day while creating programs which make a major impact for children of the future makes IHC stand out in the international community of humanitarian organizations.*

***Our Vision – Every child, regardless of geography, will have access to lifesaving critical care.***

Contact Information

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