

## A Message from the Chairman

I am pleased to report that in 2009 Take Heart Association Project (THAP) celebrated a major achievement - we have helped 105 children and young adults with heart surgeries since its founding in 1992. A sign of our remarkable growth is that 75 of those surgeries were performed in the past seven years. We would not have made such progress if not for the generous support and dedication of our donors, funders, hospital and medical partners, board members, and staff.

For the poorest families in Kenya whose children suffer from congenital heart defects and rheumatic heart disease, THAP is a lifeline that provides diagnostic medical tests, medications, information on healthier diets and nutrition, and assistance in working with doctors and hospitals so that their children can receive life-saving surgeries. THAP is currently the only grassroots organization of its kind, assisting the poorest families in Kenya negotiate the maze of paperwork and logistical procedures associated with obtaining needed life-saving surgeries for their children, as well as pre- and post-operative care.

Over 10,000 babies are born each year in Kenya with a congenital heart defect, yet the country has no dedicated congenital heart program to treat these children. Lacking access to modern medical cardiac care, many of these children fail to live past their early childhood years. In addition, a significant number of children and young people in Kenya and East Africa suffer from heart disease due to poor living conditions. Bacteria found in untreated water can lead to rheumatic fever, which often results in damage to heart valves. Children with rheumatic heart disease cannot run and play like healthy children. They need heart surgery to be able to live like other children.

### 2009 HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued our key partnership with The Mater Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya to perform surgeries and medical treatments for THAP at a much reduced fee of \$1500 - \$2000 US dollars in order to assist the families of more children on THAP's waiting list. Established new relationships with Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Kenya; an NGO - MEAK (Medical and Education Aid to Kenya); and Save a Child's Heart, an international nonprofit organization based in Israel.
- Assisted twenty children and young adults with life-saving surgeries and necessary medical treatment in Kenya and India. Continued to provide necessary medications for our former patients and critical post-operative care.
- Purchased a new "Hearts for Kids" van (photo below) thanks to a generous donor that helps us transport parents and children to hospital and doctor appointments.
- Began initial planning for THAP's new Family Support Center that will provide accommodations for families and children when in Nairobi for medical treatment.
- Visited by two 1998 THAP patients – Paul and Sharon – now healthy adults.



THAP's new van



Paul with Peter today



The Mater Hospital,  
THAP Partner



Ramadhan Keya at Mater Hospital,  
2009

Peter Mhogo Kamanu  
Chairman





Sharon at THAP office today



THAP-USA Board at annual planning retreat (l-r: Macnab, Ciconte, Kamau, Boyd, Rossiter, James)

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Take Heart Association Project, Inc. (THAP)  
 P.O. Box 401  
 Kensington, Maryland 20895  
 (301) 318-8112  
[www.thapk.org](http://www.thapk.org)

THAP is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible according to IRS regulations.

## Thank You for Your Generous Support

A very special thank you to our donors and funders who supported us this year. Without your generosity, THAP would not be able to make a difference in the lives of these children and their families, restoring their health and giving them the strength to do what all children do – run, play, and smile.

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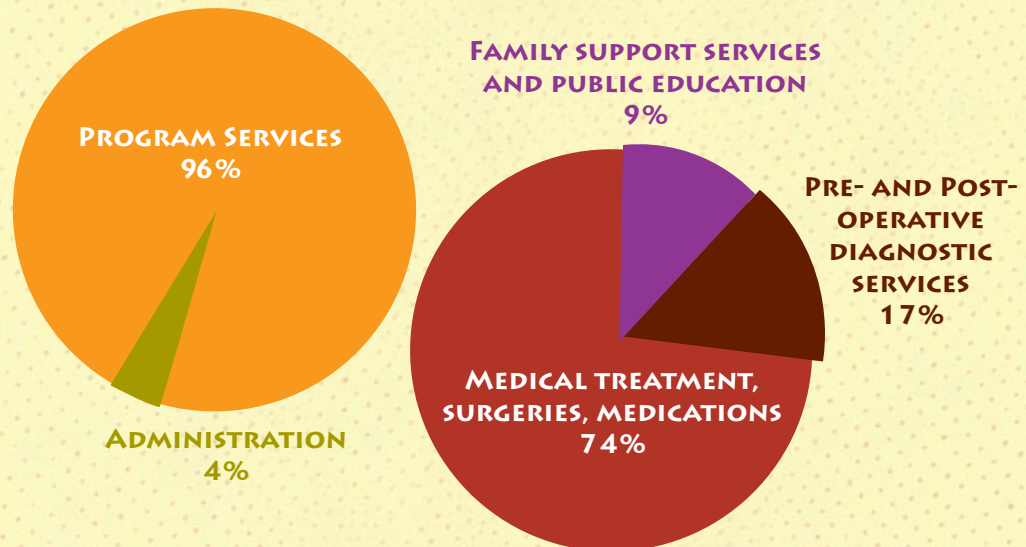
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*Special thanks to Beatbox Media, Donor Strategies, Inc., and Tonic Design House for their in-kind contributions of services to support THAP's operations.*

## How Your Contributions are Used

Even in these difficult economic times, THAP raised more than \$85,000 from individuals, foundations, corporations and organizations across the country to help THAP fulfill its mission. See below for how contributions are used:



*This data was extracted from THAP's audited financial statement for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009.*