

# SURGEONS OF HOPE

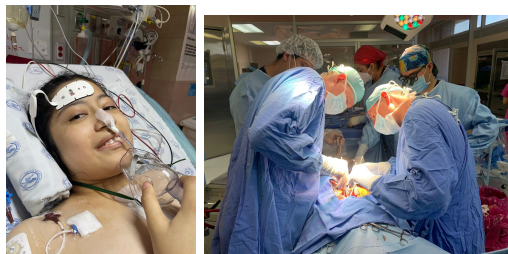
## Fall 2022 NEWSLETTER



## Mission to Mexico

Surgeons of Hope's trip to Mexico was a success! We were able to meet with the team at the Hospital Infantil de México Federico Gómez (HIMFG), and assess their program, leadership, and facilities. The history of this hospital is as inspiring as its staff and It was a privilege for Surgeons of Hope to be invited. The visit was significant because in Mexico, congenital heart disease (CHD) is the second leading cause of death among children under five years of age. While the average global incidence of CHD is 6 to 8 per 1,000 live births, in Mexico it rises to 8-12 per 1,000 live births. The hospital performs roughly 280 surgeries per year on patients from underserved communities and even though there are several competent pediatric cardiac programs in Mexico, they are not sufficient to take care of all children with CHD. A long list of children awaiting these life-saving interventions remains. We believe in the HIMFG hospital's mission and work, and are eager to establish a long-term partnership.

*"I am grateful for the invitation from the Surgeons of Hope Foundation to provide surgical expertise for the Foundation's trip to Hospital Infantil de Mexico Federico Gomez. We were warmly received by the physician and staff leadership of the hospital and heart center. The program was eager to share the many great historical accomplishments of their program and also learn about potential improvement opportunities. Our focus centered on the implementation of an extracorporeal membrane oxygenation program and its leadership. I was invited by the surgical chief of the program to assist with the repair of a 14 year old patient with tetralogy of Fallot.*



*Despite comparatively little resources, the program is able to care for complex congenital heart disease. The physicians, nursing, and other staff members were a joy to work with." -Dr. Eric Griffiths, Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon.*

[Become a Monthly Donor](#)



*"The Surgeons of Hope mission to Hospital Infantil de México Federico Gómez was an incredible experience. From the moment we touched down and every day since, I have thought about their team, the patients and this amazing organization. I witnessed firsthand how SOH changes not only the lives of children but everyone involved in this work. It has reignited a passion in myself and reminded me what this profession is all about. While I was there, I had a unique opportunity to sit down with several of the nursing teams to get an insider's perspective on the care they provide. From the NICU, to the OR to the ICU the desire to provide exceptional care to their patients was evident. With the right tools and collaboration, I know they will lead the changes necessary to improve patient outcomes and support families in their journey through CHD. It's humbling to be a part of such an incredible*

*community that focuses on empowering others to deliver exemplary care to children with congenital heart disease. It's more than an individual, a mission or one specific child- it's about building a sustainable program that will help hundreds of children for years to come. I can't imagine a better way to use my expertise and look forward to more trips in the future."*- Mrs. Emilee Glenn, Pediatric Cardiothoracic Nurse Practitioner

## Updates from the field



Paraguay

Since we last connected, the Hospital Pediátrico "Niños de Acosta Ñu has performed eight surgeries, several of which produced ideal outcomes. Sweet Alma, the youngest patient this round at just one month old, underwent percutaneous valvuloplasty, a procedure that improves blood flow, and recovered, beautifully.



Help us save one more

[Donate](#)

## Panama (need to include map)

In 2017, Surgeons of Hope conducted an assessment mission to Panama. We made several recommendations to the Minister of Health and the Consul General of Panama. We are proud to report that the Cardiovascular and Thoracic Institute of Ciudad de la Salud is now open. They have performed several life-saving surgeries and are in phase two of their expansion. Surgeons of Hope looks forward to working with and training their team in the near future. You can read more about this milestone here:

<https://lawebdelasalud.com/inician-cirugias-en-el-instituto-cardiovascular-y-toracico-de-ciudad-de-la-salud/>

## Meet our Heart Heroes

### Nahayra



Nahiara Pavón is a 6-year-old girl from a town called Mariano Roque Alonso, located near the capital of Paraguay. On July 6th it was necessary to connect her to the artificial heart Berlin Heart while waiting for a heart transplant. Fortunately, the wait did not last long. On July 10th a compatible donor appeared. The transplant surgery was successfully performed without complications. Currently Nahiara is in very good condition.

[Become a Monthly Donor](#)

## Training activities



Four nurses, from the Hospital Pediátrico Niños de Acosta Ñu arrived in Madrid Spain for their 1-month exchange training at the Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón in Madrid, Spain. We are thankful to Edwards LifeSciences for their support and to the team at the hospital for hosting them. We will share more information after the training.

# Board Updates



On September 11, 2022, the national newspaper in Costa Rica, La Nacion, published an inspiring article about Eduardo’s work to improve the quality of cardiac care provided to children in Costa Rica. The article, titled, “[Eduardo Da Cruz, the doctor with the sweet smile that puts Costa Rica in the mecca of world medicine.](#)” describes Eduardo’s humble beginnings fleeing the dictatorship in Portugal with his parents to becoming one of the most respected cardiologists and intensivists in the world as the Chief, Division of Pediatric Cardiovascular Critical Care, Peter Lang Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cardiology at Boston Children’s Hospital.

As you will read in the article, Eduardo transformed healthcare in Costa Rica. He helped establish the Pediatric Cardiovascular Program of the National Children's Hospital (HNN).

His knowledge of how medical systems work in different countries affords him unique insight into the strengths and weaknesses of each, and informs the educational guidelines he produces. His work is paving the way for a comprehensive approach to saving children’s lives around the world. Eduardo’s dream is to create a state of the art regional cardiac center in Latin America and it is evident that he is the best person to lead that endeavor. Surgeons of Hope is extremely proud to have Eduardo at its helm over the last decade and we look forward to working with Eduardo to realize his dream.

## Our work in action

Surgeons of Hope continues to expand our work in Latin America. Since resuming our work in March 2022, post-pandemic, we have achieved the following:

- 1 mission to Mexico in July 2022
- 1 training exchange from Paraguay to Spain in October 2022

Upcoming activities for 2022

- 1 mission to Paraguay in December 2022

### HELP US SAVE ONE MORE

Thanks to donors like you, we’ve made remarkable progress this year—but we also have a long way to go. By clicking here and giving what you can today, you are helping to save a child’s life.

[Donate](#)

