

### Mission to Paraguay

December 2022

**Surgeons of Hope's first surgical mission after the pandemic was a success.** A medical team from France, led by Dr. Dominique Metras, arrived in Paraguay on December 11, 2022 and performed corrective surgeries for congenital heart defects on nine children at the Hospital Pediátrico "Niños de Acosta Ñu" in San Lorenzo. The team consisted of two surgeons, a cardiologist, an anesthesiologist, a perfusionist and three ICU nurses. They were accompanied by two members of the Surgeons of Hope Foundation who took the opportunity to meet with in-country partners including representatives from the Ministry of Health.

For the nine children and their families, the holidays were full of hope. Coming from different regions of the country, nine girls and boys had access to highly complex corrective surgeries, through a joint collaboration between the cardiology team of the general pediatric hospital "Niños de Acosta Ñu" and their peers, cardiologists, heart surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses of the Surgeons of Hope Foundation Inc. who came from France and the USA.

Dr. Nancy Garay, head of Cardiology at Acosta Ñu, commented that the results of the surgeries, which took place from December 12 to 16, were successful. The professionals described the experience as positive, both in terms of the surgical mission, as well as the knowledge they shared on surgery and anesthesia techniques, with faster recovery in the post-surgery period. Surgeons of Hope plans to return to Paraguay in April 2023.





## Mission to Costa Rica

February 2023

Surgeons of Hope's returned to Costa Rica after a 3-year hiatus because of the pandemic. A medical team from Chicago, led by Dr. Luca Vricella arrived in Costa Rica on February 12, 2023 and performed corrective surgeries for congenital heart defects on six children at the Hospital Nacional de Niños in San Jose, Costa Rica. The team consisted of one surgeon, one OR nurse, two cardiologists, an anesthesiologist, a perfusionist, and two ICU nurses. They were accompanied by two members of the Surgeons of Hope Foundation.

Coming from different regions of the country, the six girls and boys had access to highly complex corrective surgeries that they had been waiting for, some for over a year. The team worked in tandem with the local cardiology team, surgeons, and nurses at the Hospital Nacional de Niños. The surgeries were performed by the local surgeons with oversight from the visiting team.

During the week, the team was able to discuss cases and provide feedback. Resident physicians and cardiologists in training participated in these talks and found them extremely valuable. Surgeons of Hope plans to return in Spring 2023.





## Meet our Heart Heroes

**Elian Lionel Arce**, was born with a congenital heart defect that caused him to become cyanotic and very tired upon exertion including when he was nursing. It was critical for him to receive corrective surgery to fix his heart.

On December 15, 2022, at 11 months old, he underwent surgical correction of his heart disease. He was operated by the surgical team of the Surgeons of Hope Foundation and the team of the General Pediatric Children's Hospital of Acosta Ñu. In the first hours after surgery he had to be reoperated due to bleeding. After that setback, he progressed very well.

Currently, almost three months after surgery, he is doing well, at home with his family. He no longer turns blue (cyanosis), he no longer gets tired, he nurses with more energy and has more motor strength. His mother says that he is already standing and will soon be walking.

On February 13th, Elian celebrated his first birthday. The family is happy to have him healthy at home.



## HELP US SAVE ONE MORE!

Thanks to donors like you, we've made remarkable progress since 2022—but we also have a long way to go. We are currently organizing two missions during Spring 2023. Stay tuned for more information.

By clicking below and giving what you can today, you are helping to save a child's life.

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