



SAVE A CHILD'S HEART MEDIA KIT



Save a Child's Heart is about saving children's lives, one heart at a time.

In 1995 Save a Child's Heart (SACH) was founded by the late Dr. Ami Cohen to save as many children as possible with heart disease from developing countries, regardless of nationality, religion, race, gender or financial situation.

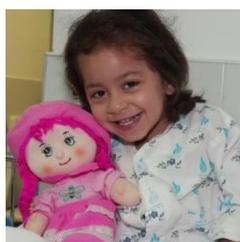
SACH is an international humanitarian organization based in Israel whose mission is to improve the quality of pediatric care for children from developing countries. It treats children suffering from heart disease and creates [centers of competence](#) in these countries.

Many children come from areas ravaged by war or natural disaster, including Syria, Iraq, Gaza, and Haiti.

For the vast majority of children, from the moment they come into our care until they are fully recovered, costs are covered by SACH and its partners, including medical, travel, and accommodation, even if the child requires a life-time of cardiac care.

Congenital heart defects are responsible for more deaths in the first year of life than any other birth defect. Rheumatic heart disease, the most common acquired heart disease, has been all but eradicated in developed countries, yet still kills children and young adults in developing countries.

To date, SACH has provided care to over 4,000 children from 50 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe and South America.



Malak
Palestinian Authority



Lilu
China



Talal
Syria



Julia
Angola



Joel
Kenya

What SACH Does

- ♥ Provides free life-saving cardiac surgery and other critical procedures to children from developing countries at the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, Israel.
- ♥ Provides a comprehensive training program in Israel for doctors and nurses from these countries.
- ♥ Leads surgical and teaching missions to partner countries in the developing world.
- ♥ Holds pre-operative and follow-up cardiology clinics in Israel and abroad.

Recognition, Awards & Achievements

- ♥ Special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- ♥ Recipient of the 2012 Israeli Presidential Award for Volunteerism.
- ♥ Recipient of Medal of Courage, Israeli award for contributing to a just society.
- ♥ Granted National Friendship Medal by People's Republic of China.
- ♥ SACH is Israel's largest international humanitarian organization. It has been featured by major television networks and news media worldwide.
- ♥ SACH has been recognized by the United Nations, European Union, and the US Government for its achievements





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From around the World

Approximately half of the [children treated by SACH](#) are from the Middle East, including the West Bank, Gaza, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Morocco. More than 30% are from Africa. The remainder are from Asia, Eastern Europe and the Americas.



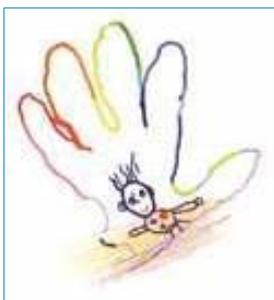
Denisa, Romania Asiya, Ethiopia Arif, Tanzania

In 2014 SACH treated more than 260 children from 15 countries.

In 2015 East Timor became SACH's 50th partner country.

The SACH Logo

Shortly after Save a Child's Heart began, 4-year old Katya arrived from Moldova with very serious heart defects. She was near death and her body was blue, due to lack of oxygen. Some five months and four highly complicated operations later, Katya was ready to return to a normal life. Before she left, she drew a picture of a hand holding a little girl with a heart. When asked to explain, she told her doctor:



I had a dream. There were many colors over my bed, and then a very big hand came in the middle of the night. We flew to a far-off country and they gave me a new heart, and I could run and dance.

SACH Doctors

SACH doctors all volunteer their time to the organization. This means that the full cost of life-saving heart surgery through SACH is only \$15,000 per child.

SACH Vision and Goals

Our ultimate objective is to ensure that every child with a heart defect anywhere in the world has access to the medical care he or she needs. To achieve this, we will create centers of competence in developing countries so that children can be treated in their own communities.

In April 2016, SACH will start building an [International Pediatric Cardiac Center](#) (IPCC) at the Wolfson Medical Center which will also serve as a Children's Hospital. The first of its kind in the Middle East, it will be a model for centers of competence in developing countries, bringing our dream closer to reality.



Teaching From the Heart

SACH [trains medical personnel](#) from partner sites around the world in all facets of pediatric cardiac care at the Wolfson Medical Center.

Over 100 staff from China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Kenya, Moldova, Nigeria, the Palestinian Authority, Romania, Russia, Tanzania, and Vietnam have been trained by SACH to date. They have returned to their home countries and where they treat local children with heart defects.



Dr. Godwin Godfrey (L), Tanzania's first pediatric cardiac surgeon, with Dr. Yayu Mekonnen (R) training to be Ethiopia's first pediatric cardiac surgeon with their teacher, Dr. Lior Sasson.





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Medical Missions: Treatment and Teaching Abroad

SACH medical teams travel to partner sites in developing countries to perform surgeries, conduct cardiology clinics to evaluate children pre and post-surgery and provide on-site training to local medical personnel. [Medical missions](#) are carried out in partnership with local pediatric cardiac medical staff.

To Date SACH Has:

- ♥ Conducted 17 teaching missions in developing countries treating more than 200 children in Ethiopia, China, Mauritania, Moldova, Tanzania, and Ukraine.
- ♥ Provided onsite training to hundreds of medical personnel in Ethiopia, China, Mauritania, Moldova, Tanzania, and Ukraine
- ♥ Conducted more than 65 cardiology clinics, examining over 10,000 children in Angola, China, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan (Iraqi children), Mauritania, Moldova, Nigeria, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ukraine, and Zanzibar.

While surgeries are restricted to countries with medical infrastructures which can support the required surgical conditions, SACH is consistently working to bring awareness about the importance of improving medical facilities in places where they do not exist.

As well as screening local children to see whether they are candidates for life-saving heart surgery at the Wolfson Medical Center, SACH cardiology clinics also provide essential follow-up care for children who were previously treated by SACH

“The training I am receiving from Save a Child's Heart will do nothing less than enable me to go home to Africa and save children's lives”
Dr. Godwin Godfrey, Tanzania's 1st pediatric cardiac surgeon



Ethiopia Mission



Romania Mission



Tanzania Surgery Mission



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Meet Some of Our [SACH Children](#)



Rumaisa, Gaza ♥

In the summer of 2014 during the violent conflict that reigned over the region, a baby girl called Rumaisa was born in Gaza with a severe congenital heart defect. At nine days old, Rumaisa, was rushed by ambulance from Gaza to the Wolfson Medical Center in Israel.

Rumaisa arrived in critical condition. She required several days of close monitoring before she was strong enough to undergo surgery. A few days later she underwent extremely complex life-saving surgery. Throughout the conflict, our physicians in Israel were in daily correspondence with our partner cardiologists in Gaza. Rumaisa was one of tens of Palestinian children who were treated by Save a Child's Heart during the 2014 summer conflict.



Nghi, Vietnam ♥

In January of 2000 Nghi was born in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam with a congenital heart defect. Doctors told her parents that her condition was untreatable, but Nghi's parents were determined

to see whether there was any way to their daughter be saved. The scoured the internet looking for help anywhere in the world, and thankfully found SACH. At one year old, Nghi traveled with her mother to Israel for a series of complicated procedures including two catheterizations and two surgeries. After spending eight months in Israel, she returned to Vietnam a healthy baby. Five years later she visited Israel once more for another catheterization. A girl who doctors predicted would not survive, Nghi is a healthy, strong, and happy girl. Now, aged fifteen, Nghi is starting high school, loves playing with friends, painting, and playing piano.



Wisam, Iraq ♥

Wisam was born in 2013 and when he was 17 months old his father left his job and family in Northern Iraq to bring Wisam to Israel for life-saving heart surgery. The pair were in Israel during the height of the violent summer conflict but it didn't frighten Wisam's father, Abu

Wisam, who is sadly accustomed to violence and war. Suddenly back in Iraq though, the family's situation changed drastically, they are a Yazidi family whose home town Sinjar was captured by Islamic State Militants. At times Wisam's father was unable to reach his family and he found through international media he was able to share the plight of the Yazidis in Northern Iraq with the world.



Emnet, Ethiopia ♥

In 2000, 14 year old, Emnet of Ethiopia was constantly out of breath and began coughing up blood. She was checked by local physicians who referred her to SACH. A short while later Emnet arrived in Israel to undergo

life-saving heart surgery at the Wolfson Medical Center. Emnet was suffering from rheumatic heart disease, a condition which can be prevented through the use of antibiotics to treat throat infections. SACH founder Dr. Ami Cohen performed life-saving heart surgery on Emnet. Following surgery, Emnet's life changed dramatically. She was able to run and play with friends. Her family's fear and concern turned into joy and gratitude. The care and compassion that Emnet received during her treatment at the Wolfson Medical Center motivated her to study medicine at Addis Ababa University School of Medicine. After graduating Emnet became a research fellow at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota in the United States. She is now in West Virginia undertaking an Internal Medicine training program at the Marshall University School of Medicine.



David, Romania ♥

Seven year old David was screened at a medical mission in Romania in March 2015, his heart condition meant he rarely attended school, he tired easily, and was unable to do any physical activity. Doctors at the mission were concerned about David, he

needed to receive urgent medical treatment. SACH arranged for David to fly to Israel a few days later, where he underwent life-saving catheterization at the Wolfson Medical Center. After a short recuperation David returned home to Romania to run and play like other child his age.



Whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he/she saved an entire world

Talmudic quote

Mending hearts, building bridges | www.saveachildsheart.org

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