THANK YOU FOR TURNING DESPAIR TO HOPE FOR 11 AFGHANI CHILDREN

BRINGING HOPE TO THE CHILDREN OF Afghanistan
Thank You to The Nowruz Commission

Between July and September of 2014, 11 Afghani children received their second chance at life thanks to the generosity of The Nowruz Commission who partnered with Gift of Life International to turn this dream into a reality for these precious children and their families. This is the second such mission to Afghanistan sponsored by The Nowruz Commission, with the first in June and July 2012 where 10 children were treated.

All 11 lifesaving heart surgeries were performed successfully at The French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) in Kabul, Afghanistan. This hospital was established in 2005 as a joint project of the governments of France and Afghanistan and the French non-governmental organization La Chaine de L'Espoir/Enfants Afghans.

Treatment of children treated was focused primarily on Atrial Septal Defects (ASD) and Ventricular Septal Defects (VSD). These children were born with a hole in their heart with their only hope of survival being corrective open-heart surgery. Sadly, children born with heart defects in a country such as Afghanistan are left with little or no hope.

The Nowruz Commission is a coalition of 12 countries and cultures established in 2010 to promote the philosophy of care and giving based on a time honored, ancient Persian tradition to promote the spirit of togetherness and keep this tradition alive around the world.

Thanks to the generosity of Gift of Life International global partner, The Nowruz Commission, a total of 21 Afghani children and their families no longer live in despair. They have now been given hope for the first time ever. The smiles on the children’s faces show their immense gratitude as they look forward to a new healthy life.

2014 Children Treated

1. Zeena                      6 Months           Diagnosis: VSD, ASD
2. Abidullah                 5 Years               Diagnosis: VSD
3. Abdullah                  6 Years               Diagnosis: VSD
4. Muzbahullah          11 Years               Diagnosis: ASD, Mild PS, PAH
5. Zainab                     6 Years                Diagnosis: ASD
6. Qaisi                        8 Years                Diagnosis: PDA
7. Alina                       14 Years               Diagnosis: MR, MS, Mild AR (RVHD)
8. Freshta                   14 Years               Diagnosis: VSD
9. Marwa                    14 Years               Diagnosis: VSD
10. Farzana                  4 Years               Diagnosis: VSD
11. Basira                    4 Years               Diagnosis: Aortic Coarctation
1. Cases studies

Name: Zeenat, Daughter of Sayed Agha
Age: 6 month
Coming from: Kapisa
Referred by Nejrab District Hospital in January 2014

Diagnosis
Zeenat had a recurrent chest infection and failure to thrive. On investigation at the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC), doctors have found several cardiac diseases: a Ventricular Septal Defect Non-restrictive (VSD), an Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) and Pulmonary Hypertension.

After diagnosis Zeenat was placed on the waiting list for cardiac surgery. She started a medication and underwent regular checks prior to surgery.

Social history
Zeenat’s father is a teacher at a Government school, supporting a family of 3 he earns about 5 500 Afghani by month ($96). For them, even the purchase of medication and examinations would have been difficult for the father to pay. So this surgery would not have been possible without the Children’s project assistance.

Medical record
Zeenat was admitted on 05/08/14 where she underwent banding of Pulmonary Artery.
She spent 2 days in the Intensive care department where her recovering progressed well and was then transferred to the children’s ward. She was discharged on the 09/08/2014.
Post-surgery progress: Zeenat has recovered well, she had a first follow up appointment on the 10th of August 2014, where all was found to be progressing well.

Medical and social costs
Total inpatient days at FMIC: 5 days
Social costs: 66 $
Costs of treatment: 1 427$
Outpatient costs: 78$

**Name:** Abidullah son of Ghuncha Gul  
**Age:** 5 years old  
**Coming from:** Surobi  
**Referred by** Surobi Hospital

**Diagnosis**
The little boy had been generally unwell for several months without a correct diagnosis or treatment in local clinics.
Abidullah was seen in August 2014 at the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) and diagnosed as having Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD). Abdullah was placed on the waiting list for Cardiac surgery, and commenced on medication with regular checks prior to surgery.

**Social history**
Abidullah’s father is a farmer with a family of 4, he works on his own land and earns about 6 000 AFGN ($106) each month with which he supports his family.

**Medical record**
Abidullah was admitted on 05/08/14 where he underwent VSD closure.
He spent 3 days in the Intensive care department where his recovering progressed well. He was then transferred to the children’s ward. He was discharged the 12 August 2014.

Post-surgery progress: Abidullah is very happy after his surgery, his first control was in August 2014, where all was found to be progressing well.

**Medical and social costs**
Total inpatient days at FMIC 7days  
Social costs: 45 $  
Costs of Surgery: 3356 $  
Outpatient costs: 85$

Family comment - the family are happy from the children house and Gift of Life to support their child.
Name: Abdullah son of Mohd Ashim  
Age: 6 years old  
Coming from: Maidan Wardak  
Referred by AARBAR (Afghan NGO)

Diagnosis
The little boy had been unwell for several months. Doctors in local clinics have not adequately diagnosed him his disease. Abdullah was seen in March 2014 at the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) and diagnosed as having Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD). Abdullah was placed on the waiting list for cardiac surgery, and started a treatment with regular checks prior to surgery.

Social history  
Abdullah’s father is a farmer with a family of 10, he works on his own land and earns about 6.000AFGN ($106) with which he support his family.

Medical record  
Abdullah was admitted on 06/08/2014 where he underwent VSD closure. He spent 2 days in the Intensive care department where he recovered progressed well and was then transferred to the children’s ward. He was discharged on the 12/08/14. Post-surgery progress: Abdullah is very happy after his operation. His first checkup appointment after the surgery was on September 2014, where all was found to be progressing well.

Medical and social costs  
Total inpatient days at FMIC: 7 days  
Social costs: 56$  
Costs of treatment: 3 143$  
Outpatient costs: 110$
**Name:** Muzbahullah son of Ghuncha Gul  
**Age:** 11 years old  
**Coming from:** Kapisa Province – Tagab district  
**Referred** Tagab district Hospital

**Diagnosis**
Following consultation and Echocardiography at the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) Muzbahullah was diagnosed as having Atrial Septal Defect (ASD), Mild PS and PAH. He was referred to the medical pediatrician for follow up and medication, whilst at the same time was listed for Cardiac surgery by the cardiac mission, and has been having regular checks prior to surgery.

**Social history**
Muzbahullah father is a teacher in a Government school who supports his family of 8 on his salary of average of 5 000 Afghani by month ($ 85), which he subsidizes by selling from a small shop in the bazaar. Without the support of the Children’s project the family would be unable to afford surgery.

**Medical record**
Whilst waiting for surgery Muzbahullah has been on medication and had regular follow up with both the Pediatrician and Cardiologist at FMIC.

Muzbahullah was admitted on 06/08/14 where he underwent ASD closure.  
He spent 3 days in the Intensive care department where he recovered progressed well and was then transferred to the children’s ward. He was discharged on the 10/08/14.  
His first appointment after surgery was the 26 of July 2014. All was found to be progressing well. He is now really happy and back in Tagab district.

**Medical and social costs**
Total inpatient days at FMIC: 5 days  
Costs of treatment: 3 102$  
Social costs: 87$  
Outpatient costs: 102$
Name: Zainab daughter of Barat Ali
Age: 6 years old
Coming from: Baghlan Province
Referred one member of the Parliament after the family had asked him for help

Diagnosis
Following assessment at the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) Zainab was diagnosed as having Atrial Septal Defect which required surgery.

Social history
Her mother is a widow who supports herself and her two children by cleaning clothes in other people homes. Without the support of the Children's project Zainab would be unable to have surgery.

Medical record
Zainab was admitted on 10/08/14 where she underwent ASD closure
She spent 3 days in the Intensive care department where she recovered progressed well and was then transferred to the children’s ward. She was discharged on the 13/08/2014.
Post-surgery history – Zainab has recovered well, she had first follow up appointment on the 14th of August 2014 where all was found to be progressing well. This surgery has been lifesaving.

Medical and social costs
Total inpatient days at FMIC: 5 days
Social costs: 88$
Costs of treatment: 2 904$
Outpatient costs: 99$
Name: Qaisi daughter of Subhanullah
Age: 8 years old
Coming from: Bamyan province
Referred by the Bamyan Shura

Diagnosis
Following assessment at the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) Qaisi was diagnosed as having Patent Ductus Arteriosus and Pulmonary hypertension which required surgery. She was listed for surgery as early as possible on the next cardiac mission.

Social history
Her family are extremely poor, and the father earns his living by transporting goods in a wheelbarrow in the local bazaar. His average income is 150 Afghani ($2.65) a day, which is also supplemented with vegetables and other items given to him during his working day. On this he supports a family of seven.

Medical record
Whilst waiting for mission Qaisi has had continued follow up and medication. Qaisi was admitted on 16/07/14 where she underwent PDA ligation (thoracotomy) on the 17/07/14. She spent one day in the intensive care department where she recovered progressed well and was then transferred to the children ward. She was discharged on the 19/07/2014.

Post-surgery history- Qaisi has recovered well, she had first follow up appointment on the 20th of July 2014 where all was found to be progressing well.

Medical and social costs
Total inpatient days at FMIC 4 days
Costs of treatment: 1 412$
Social costs: 39$
Outpatient costs: 94$

Her family are very happy and for them the operation was impossible. Her mother said “thanks a lot to give my child life back”.

Afghan Children’s House – Gift of Life Grant
Name: Alina daughter of Shir Mohammad
Age: 14 years old
Coming from: Maydon Wardak
Referred by another one family whose child had already been treated by the children’s house.

Diagnosis
She had been sickly child with frequent episodes of chest pain and respiratory problems, but due to the lack of health facilities in the area, and also the family’s economic status Alina had no proper investigation for her poor health. She was seen and examined at the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) on 6/09/2014. And diagnosed as having Mitral Regurgitation, Mitral Stenosis, and Mild AR (RVHD). She needed an aortic and mitral valve replacement.

Social history
Alina father has a small shop in the local bazaar, and supports his family of 13 on an average of 6 500 Afghani month ($115) supplementing this with some small sale of livestock.

Medical record
Following echocardiography, she was booked for cardiac surgery, and was admitted on 06/09/2014 where he underwent replacement (Aortic, Mitral)
Alina spent 3 days in the Intensive care department where she recovered very well and was then transferred to the children’s ward. She was discharged on the 18/09/14.

Medical and social costs
Total inpatient days at FMIC 13 days
Costs of treatment: 5 780$
Social costs: 50$
Outpatient costs: 340$
**Name:** Freshta daughter of Gul Khan  
**Age:** 14 years old  
**Coming from:** Zabul Province  
**Referred by:** Ministry of Public Health

**Diagnosis**

On June 2014 she was seen at the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) and diagnosed as having Ventricular Septal defect (VSD) which required surgery. The family could not pay for surgery. Then she was referred to the children’s house.

**Social history**

Freshta’s father is a soldier in the Afghan army and his salary is 12,500 Afghani ($221) a month on which he supports his family of 6.

**Medical record**

Whilst waiting for surgery Freshta has been on medication and has regular checks at FMIC. Freshta was admitted on 07/09/14 where she underwent VSD closure. Freshta spent 4 days in the Intensive care department where she recovered very well. She was then transferred to the children’s ward and discharged on the 13/09/14.  
Post-surgery history: Freshta has recovered well, she had first follow up appointment on the 20th of September 2014 where all was found to be progressing well. This surgery has been life changing – and possibly lifesaving.

**Medical and social costs**

Total inpatient days at FMIC 7 days  
Costs of treatment: 3 165$  
Social costs: 102$  
Outpatient costs: 87$
**Name:** Marwa daughter of Abdullah Ghani  
**Age:** 14 years old  
**Coming from:** Kabul Province  
**Referred by:** Afghan Red Crescent

**Diagnosis**  
She was diagnosed with a Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD) which requires surgery at FMIC.

**Social history**  
Marwa father is a carpenter and supports his family of 6. He earns around 6000 Afghani by month ($106)

**Medical record**  
Marwa was admitted on 14/09/14 where she underwent VSD closure.  
Marwa spent 2 days in the intensive care department where she recovered well and was then transferred to the children’s ward. She was discharged on the 22/09/14.

Post-surgery history: Marwa has recovered well, she had first follow up appointment on the 21 of September 2014 where all was found to be progressing well.

**Medical and social costs**  
Total inpatient days at FMIC 9 days  
Costs of treatment: 3181$  
Social costs: 30$  
Outpatient costs: 80$
Name: Farzana daughter of Abdul Hamid  
Age: 4 years old  
Coming from: Juzjan Province  
Referred by the Afghan Red Crescent Society

**Diagnosis**
She was diagnosed as having a cardiac Ventricular Septal defect (VSD). She had not been a well-baby and failed to grow normally. Therefore her parents asked to ARCS for consultation at FMIC, and were advised she required surgery. They could not have been afford to pay the operation. So she was referred to the children’s house for treatment.

**Social history**
The family is extremely poor, the father is a taxi driver. He supports a family of 8 with a monthly income of 9,000 Afghanis ($158).

**Medical record**
Following echocardiography Farzana was admitted on the 7th of September 2014, where she underwent a cardiac intervention - VSD closure. The little girl spent 4 days in the intensive care department where she recovered well and was then transferred to the children’s ward. She was discharged on the 13th September 2014. Post-surgery history: Farzana has recovered well, she had a first follow up appointment on the 14th of September 2014, where all was found to be progressing well. This intervention saved her life.

**Medical and social costs**
Total inpatient days at FMIC 8 days  
Costs of treatment: 3,041 $  
Social costs: 70$  
Inpatient costs: 95$
**Name:** Basira daughter of Sulaiman  
**Age:** 4 years old  
**Coming from:** Maidan Wardak  
**Referred by:** AARBAR Afghan NGO

**Diagnosis**  
After several month of wrong diagnosis, Basira was diagnosed as having a bicuspid aortic valve, aortic valve stenosis, CoA, PDA and PFO.

**Social history**  
Basira's father works in a fresh fruits Market he earns about 6 000 Afghani ($106) by month with which he supports his family of 8.

**Medical record**  
Basira was admitted on 5th of September 2014 where she underwent repair of aortic coarctation (End to End Anastomosis).  
She spent 16 days in the Intensive care department where she recovered well and was then transferred to the children ward. She was discharged the 24th of September 2014.

Basira is very happy since the operation. At her last appointment, doctors were able to give her good news. The next checkup will be in November.

**Medical and social costs**  
Total inpatient days at FMIC 19 days  
Costs of treatment: 4 669$  
Social costs: 99$  
Outpatient costs: 320$
## 2. Total Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Surgery</th>
<th>Inpatient costs</th>
<th>Outpatient costs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Qaisi</td>
<td>Subhanullah</td>
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<td>Mohd Hashim</td>
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<td>Sayed Agha</td>
<td>6m</td>
<td>VSD+PA</td>
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<td>Farzana</td>
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<td>Sulaiman</td>
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<td>Bicuspid aortic Valve, Aortic Valve stenosis, CoA, PDA, PFO.</td>
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2012 Afghani Gift of Life Recipients
Turning Despair to Hope in Afghanistan

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