Thank you to all Rotary Global Grant sponsors including the Rotary Clubs of La Jolla Sunrise, Bucharest Atheneum, Tel Aviv/Yafo, Newbury Park, Englewood Lemon Bay Sunrise, Moorpark, Conejo Valley, Coronado, Simi Sunrise, New York, Longboat Key, Cambria, San Diego North, The Pelhams, Thousand Oaks and the Syosset High School Interact Club and Rotary Districts 2241, 2490, 5340, 6980, 7230. Additional Global Grant sponsors include GOL 726, GOL 7230, GOL Albany, and GOL of New Jersey.
ROTARIANS SERVING HUMANITY
The third pediatric cardiac training visit to Grigore Alexandrescu Hospital (GAH) in Bucharest took place in March 2017. Gift of Life International has partnered with Save A Child’s Heart (SACH) from Israel, the International Children’s Heart Foundation (ICHF) from Memphis, Albany Medical Center (AMC) from New York, GOL Romania and many other Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and GOL programs around the world to develop a sustainable pediatric cardiac program in Romania.

The SACH visiting team, led by Dr. Lior Sasson was comprised of healthcare professionals from Wolfson Medical Center in Tel Aviv. Many of the Romanian team members received their training at Wolfson Medical Center and were very happy to have their mentors provide additional training to further enhance their knowledge and skills - this time in their own facility.

A total of 5 children were treated for their heart ailments during the mission. Additional patients who were screened are being considered for treatment at Wolfson Medical Center in Tel Aviv. Furthermore, children who had previously traveled to Wolfson Medical Center for their lifesaving treatment received follow-up care and a clean bill of health.

A very special Thank You to Rotarians Victor Martin, Radu Popescu and Roxana Ciufu from GOL Romania for their dedication and tireless efforts to ensure all aspects of the mission ran smoothly. Thank you to Rotarian Dana Moldovan for joining in the mission to witness first-hand the saving of these precious lives. We are also grateful to all Rotary Global Grant contributors for their partnership in healing little Romanian hearts.
THANK YOU TO OUR VISITING TEAM

DR. LIOR SASSON
Cardiac Surgeon

DR. YAYU MEKONNEN
Surgery Fellow

DR. AKIVA TAMIR
Cardiologist

DR. ILAN COHEN
Intensivist

DR. HRINY DAVID
DR. SIVAN ELKARAT
PICU Residents

DR. ALEXANDER SHERMAN
Anesthesiologist

ANAT MASTOR
YIGAL SOFER
Perfusionists

CHAYA MUSERI
OLGA GUR
NAVA GERSHON
IRINA NOSAL
IRIS LANIADO
LIDIA REHANY
Head Nurses

MARIANNA GENSHTAET
SVETLANA KAKZANOVA
YULIA NIKULIN
VICTORIA PIVEN
YULIA ABRAMOV
JANNA BRODSKY
ICU Nurses

SCOTT CHASSAY
BioMed

SIMON FISHER
Executive Director, SACH
Thank you to the
Grigori Alexandrescu Team

Hospital Director:
Professor Dan Enescu

Surgeon:
Dr. Ana Lascu

Pediatric Cardiologists:
Dr. Ioana Bejan
Dr. Cristina Olteanu

Perfusionists:
Viorel Paraschiv, Daniel Surubariu

OR Nurses:
Jrina Ostrosina, Florin Chiripuci,
Florentina Ostrosina, Liliana
Butnaru

Head ICU Nurse:
Dalila Seremet

ICU Nurses: Iulia Dobre, Georgiana
Farcasanu, Carmen Maroiu, Mihaela
Lazar, Marinela Latea, Mihaela
Coliba, Marcela Cojocaru, Ionela
Diaconescu

Pharmacist:
Daniela Iova

Engineer:
Eduard Mircea
LOCAL AND VISITING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS
LOCAL AND VISITING
HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS
THANK YOU FROM EDUARD
5 MONTHS OLD DIAGNOSIS: VSD Ventricular Septal Defect

Eduard was born with a hole in his heart. Eduard’s parents went to a private hospital seeking treatment for their son, however, they could not afford the cost of saving his life. They knew that they must find help soon to save their son’s life. After consultation at GAH, they learned of a medical mission coming from Israel and hoped that their son would be selected for treatment. Their prayers have been answered. The hole in Eduard’s little heart was healed this week and he is on his way to recovery.

THANK YOU FROM ANDREI
9 MONTHS OLD DIAGNOSIS: VSD Ventricular Septal Defect

Ten month old Andrei lives with his parents and older brother in a small village outside of Bucharest. Andrei’s father works in construction, however his income is very low which makes providing the basic necessities difficult at times. Andrei was born prematurely. He was diagnosed with a heart condition as well as asthma shortly after birth. After searching for help at another hospital in Bucharest, Andrei’s parents came to GAH and were happy to hear that he could be considered for treatment during this medical mission.
One year old Sarah lives with her parents in Brashov. When her mother was 7 months pregnant, she was told that her baby would be born with a heart condition. Sarah has been ill with various maladies since birth. Her parents went to several clinics and hospitals requesting help for Sarah. There was another child in the area where they live who also had a heart condition and was operated in Israel at Wolfson Medical Center. When Sarah’s parents came to Grigore Alexandrescu Hospital and were told that there was a medical team coming from Israel, they prayed that Sarah would be operated and her heart would be healed.

Baby Erica is just 3 months old and has been given a second chance at life during this week’s mission at Grigore Alexandrescu Hospital (GAH). Erica’s family lives in a 2 room flat outside of Bucharest. Her father works in construction to support the family. Erica was diagnosed with a heart condition just 2 days after being born. Her parents were referred to two other hospitals in the country before coming to GAH. This family feels blessed to have had their child’s heart healed at such a young age.
Sweet Jonathan was born 2 months prematurely. He was born in Spain where his parents were told that he would be born with not only a heart condition but many other health issues. They decided to leave Spain and come back to Romania to seek treatment for their son. Jonathan was examined and his parents were told he had a complex heart defect and would definitely need surgery. When they returned for another appointment, his records were missing and they could not afford to pay again. They came to GAH and were given hope for treatment during the upcoming medical mission. Jonathan’s heart has been healed. He will now be able to grow and lead a healthy life.

Romanian Children Whose Hearts Were Healed in Israel

David, Neftali, Naomi, Estera and Denisa all received their lifesaving heart surgery at Wolfson Medical Center in Israel and received follow-up care this week at GAH.
Romanian Minister of Health, Mr. Florian-Dorel Bodog and Israeli Ambassador to Romania, Mrs. Tamar Samash both visited GAH during the mission week to witness the children’s lives being saved and to thank the local and visiting teams for their efforts.
Developing a Sustainable Pediatric Cardiac Program to Provide Hope to Romanian Children with Heart Disease