Our efforts in El Salvador intensified in 2010 when we selected it as one of our Core Programs. In the 6 years which have transpired, the Salvadoran Team has treated 1,115 children. Additionally, 24 training visits have been conducted, increasing the proficiency of the entire team. Salvadoran doctors and nurses have also been sponsored for training outside of El Salvador by Gift of Life International affiliates around the world. We are fortunate that acclaimed and highly respected pediatric cardiac healthcare professionals have shared their knowledge and skills regularly during our training visits.

Expert teams from UCLA Medical Center, the University of Michigan, Boston Children’s Hospital, and Global Partner Chain of Hope have worked side-by-side with the healthcare professionals of Hospital Bloom in San Salvador. Our Salvadoran affiliate Latidos de Esperanza continues to provide strong local support for the program, while Salvadoran Rotarians and local businesses such as Tellus, Dono, Melher Chocolates, The Sheraton Hotel and Digicel El Salvador continue their loyal financial support. Over $2.6 million USD has been invested to support: (1) training of the Salvadoran pediatric cardiac team; (2) acquisition of essential equipment; and (3) supplementing of supplies and medications.

Our goal in 2016 is to: (1) ensure the dedication of a pediatric cardiac unit at Hospital Bloom, with a dedicated budget, staff and Director and (2) support the treatment of 250 children (200 surgeries and 50 catheterizations).