The November 2017 Training Visit to the Uganda Heart Institute (UHI) was focused on the treatment of children with Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) in need of surgical intervention. Data suggests that over 130,000 school-aged children in Uganda have RHD. At least 3 to 5 million children in all of Africa are affected by RHD. Only through the Outreach and Education program in the Gulu District are children with RHD being diagnosed and treated for the first-time ever. This program provides education to local clinics, schools and parents regarding preventative measures and treatment which was not previously offered. Additionally, the outreach program is increasing the rate of early detection of RHD making treatment a viable option for children who would have previously perished. Children being diagnosed through the RHD program in Gulu are now able to receive treatment at UHI.

The visiting medical team from Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. worked side by side with the Ugandan team to enhance their knowledge and skills in the treatment of 10 children with RHD. In early 2017, they conducted a training visit at UHI focused on the treatment of children with RHD who were able to be treated via interventional catheterization. Three children were treated during the cath mission.

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Craig Sable and his team for their dedication to addressing the Rheumatic Heart Disease crisis and their mentorship of the Ugandan team. We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many partners who contributed to the Rotary Global Grant sponsoring these lifesaving training missions. Last, but certainly not least, we are proud of the Ugandan healthcare professionals for their commitment to increasing the capacity of their program and treating children with heart disease in their country of birth.
THANK YOU TO OUR VISITING TEAM FROM CHILDREN’S NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

DR. PRANAVA SINHA
Cardiac Surgeon

DR. CRAIG SABLE
Cardiologist

DR. ANDREW MATISOFF
DR. JOHN RUTH
Anesthesiologist

GERALD MIKESELL
Perfusionist

DR. ASHA NAIR
Intensivist

CHONA PACIS LOPEZ
Scrub Nurse

NANCY FRANCIS
LEAH AROLD
CABRINA CACIOPO
ASHLEIGH HARLOW
ICU Nurses

OSWALDO RIVERA
Biomedical Engineer

THANK YOU TO THE GULU SUPPORT TEAM

ALYSSA DEWYER
AMY ASCHEEL
FRANCIS ODONG
JENIPHER THEMBO
Thank you to the 
Uganda Heart Institute Team

**UHI Director:** Dr. John Omagino

**Pediatric Cardiac Surgeons:** Dr. William Namyillirah, Dr. Tom Mwambu, Dr. Michael Oketcho

**Pediatric Cardiologists:** Dr. Peter Lwabi, Dr. Sulaiman Lubega, Dr. Twalib Aliku, Dr. Emmy Okello, Dr. Isaac Ssinabulya, Dr. Judith Namuyonga

**Anesthesiologists:** Dr. Cornelius Sendagire, Dr. Catherine Namutebi

**Perfusionists:** Muura Pascaline

**ICT Technician:** Enoch Kibalizi

**Scrub Nurses:** John Obwin, Ben Oyang

**ICU/Ward Nurses:** Anna Oketayot, Sarah Namatovu, Rachel Mwina, Samalie Kitooleko, Harriet Namukwaya, Simon Peter Okiror, Noah Balaga, Moureen Onegiu, Arthur Kisakye, Daphne Asaasira, Fred Opon, Kamin Nabibuga, Ceasar Mbabazi, Afra Daphne Abooga, Yvonne Namungoma, Haifa Nambooze, Zainab Namirembe, Stella Adong

**Intensivist:** Dr. Lameck Ssemogerere

**Administrators:** Lydia Namuli, Susan Birungi, Patrick Jaika

**Pharmacist:** Jessica Namuyanja

**Drivers:** Andrew Twesigye, Arafat Kiggundu, George Okalebo, Paul Matovu, James Mwesigwa, Paul Olwe, Rogers Kalule

Thank you to Personnel from 
Samaritan’s Purse 
Children’s Heart Project

Stella Kalera
Edith Nabulya
Michael Etwalu
Elsie Muyama
Aloysius Watmon
Rheumatic heart disease (RHD) remains a leading cause of morbidity and mortality among young adults in the developing world, accounting for at least 345,000 deaths annually.
THANK YOU FROM RUTH
13 YEARS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: Mitral Valve Replacement, Tricuspid Valve Repair

THANK YOU FROM JENNIFER
20 YEARS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: Mitral Valve Replacement

THANK YOU FROM ANGIOLETTA
12 YEARS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: Mitral Valve Repair

THANK YOU FROM JOY
16 YEARS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: Mitral Valve Replacement
RHD is the long term consequence of rheumatic fever, an autoimmune response to Group A streptococcal pharyngitis.

In Uganda, RHD is the most common cause of heart disease in young adults. As is true in many underserved areas, Ugandan patients tend to present late in the disease course, and almost half present with a complication.
Developing a Sustainable Pediatric Cardiac Program to Provide Hope to Ugandan Children with Heart Disease