13 Children Treated

Thank you to all Rotary Global Grant sponsors including the Rotary Clubs of Bucuresti, Newbury Park, Cambria, Greenfield, Bridgeport, Satu Mare, Baia Mare 2005, Bistrița Nosa, Cluj Napoca SAMVS, Bremen-Neuenlande, Rotary Districts 5240, 2241, 1850, 6960, 6890, Rotarians Ragnar Storm, Dana Moldovan, The Rotary Foundation, Transylvania Heart Foundation, Gift of Life 7500 Foundation, Gift of Life Rotary District 7190, Gift of Life Inc., Gift of Life Long Island, Gift of Life Romania, and Rotary District 7255 Youth Services.
ROTARIANS IN ACTION
Healing more little hearts in Romania

The October 2018 Training Visit was the seventh to Grigore Alexandrescu Hospital (GAH) in Bucharest, Romania since the opening of the state-of-the-art pediatric cardiac unit in 2016. The local team, led by cardiac surgeon Dr. Manuel Chira, was comprised of healthcare professionals from the Cluj Napoca Heart Institute and from Grigore Alexandrescu Hospital. The visiting team from Albany Medical Center, led by pediatric interventional cardiologist Dr. Harm Velvis, returned for their third training mission. The addition of the Cluj surgical team and the enhanced skills of the GAH nurses and OR staff have allowed this program to move forward in their ability to treat Romanian children in their country of birth.

A total of 13 children were treated during this mission week - 8 open heart surgeries and 5 interventional catheterizations. Additionally, 1 diagnostic catheterization was completed and 1 more interventional catheterization which was unsuccessful in the correction of the heart defect. All open heart surgeries were completed under the leadership of Romanian surgeon, Dr. Manuel Chira.

In addition to healing the hearts of these precious children, a formal presentation of operating theatre instruments and imaging equipment purchased through this Rotary Global Grant was made to the administration of the Cluj Napoca Heart Institute.

Our heartfelt thanks to Rotarians Victor Martin, Radu Popescu and Roxana Ciufu from GOL Romania for their dedication, organization and hospitality to ensure a successful week. We are grateful to all Rotary Global Grant contributors for their partnership in healing little Romanian hearts.
THANK YOU TO THE VISITING TEAM FROM ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER

DR. HARM VELVIS  
Interventional Cardiologist

DR. MICHAEL CAMITTA  
Cardiologist

DR. WALTER EDGE  
DR. JAMES HORSTMANN  
Intensivists

DR. GURO GRINDHEIM  
DR. GUNNAR BENTSEN  
Anesthesiologists

KRISTA GLEESON  
Perfusionist

JEANNE SEDGEWICK  
OR Nurse

JOHN ALBERS  
KENDALL HITT  
LISA DICE  
KATHERINE BLAIR  
CALYN AUSTIN  
ICU Nurses
Thank you to the Cluj Napoca Heart Institute and Grigore Alexandrescu Team

**Pediatric Cardiac Surgeons:**
Dr. Manuel Chira, Dr. Andrei Barsan, Dr. Renate Schwarzkopf (Resident), Dr. Norbert Uto (Resident)

**Pediatric Cardiologists:**
Dr. Ioana Bejan, Dr. Cristina Olteanu

**Interventional Cardiologist:**
Dr. Pavel Platon

**Radiologist:**
Dr. Radu Nicolaescu

**Anesthesiologist:**
Dr. Adrian Stef

**Anesthesia Nurse/Tech:**
Liliana Butnariu

**Perfusionists:**
Viorel Paraschiv, Daniel Surubariu

**OR Nurses:**
Florentina (Irina) Ostrosina, Dana-Florica Ciotlaus

**ICU Nurses:**
Marcela Cojocaru, Mihaela Coliba, Mihaela Lazar, Lulia Dobre, Georgiana Farcasanu, Marinela Letea, Ionela Diaconescu, Carmen Maroiu, Alina Duica

**CV Ward Nurses:**
Georgeta Cioroianu, Daniela Popa, Marilena Regea, Margareta Matei, Ionela Pirvu, Loredana Stanciu, Cristina Stiuca

**Pharmacist:**
Daniela Iova

**Engineer:**
Eduard Mircea
LOCAL AND VISITING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS
LOCAL AND VISITING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS
THANK YOU FROM
ALEXANDRA
1 YEAR OLD
DIAGNOSIS: VSD
Ventricular Septal Defect (Surgery)

THANK YOU FROM
ELENA
11 YEARS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: ASD
Atrial Septal Defect (Surgery)

THANK YOU FROM
STEFAN
6 MONTHS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: COARC
Recoarctation (Interventional Cath)

Little Hearts That Are Now Healed
THANK YOU FROM LEONORA
13 MONTHS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: ASD
Atrial Septal Defect
& Pulmonary Valvotomy
(Surgery)

THANK YOU FROM STEFAN
11 MONTHS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: TOF
Tetralogy of Fallot
(Surgery)
Sweet Stephan is an orphan and therefore we are not allowed to show his beautiful face. We are grateful his heart has been healed.

THANK YOU FROM VERONICA
14 YEARS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: PS
Valvar Pulmonary Stenosis
(Interventional Cath)
THANK YOU FROM ADRIANA
18 MONTHS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: BiDirectional Glenn (Diagnostic Cath & Surgery)

THANK YOU FROM SOFIA
2 YEARS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: ASD Atrial Septal Defect (Surgery)

THANK YOU FROM ANDUCEA
4 YEARS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: VSD Subvalvar Pulmonary Stenosis & VSD (Surgery)

THANK YOU FROM DAMIEN
2 YEARS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: PDA Patent Ductus Arteriosus (Interventional Cath - Unsuccessful Attempt)
THANK YOU FROM
SOFIA
8 YEARS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: ASD
Atrial Septal Defect
(Interventional Cath)

THANK YOU FROM
DAVID
6 YEARS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: ASD
Atrial Septal Defect
(Interventional Cath)

THANK YOU FROM
DANIELA
6 YEARS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: ASD
Atrial Septal Defect
(Surgery)

THANK YOU FROM
SARA
4 YEARS OLD
DIAGNOSIS: ASD
Atrial Septal Defect
(Interventional Cath)
Gift of Life International (GOLI) is a Rotarian based program that provides cardiac care to children throughout the world. GOL was started by the Rotary Club of Manhasset in Rotary District 7255 USA and is currently sponsored by Rotary Clubs and Rotary Districts around the world. Gift of Life International is a non-profit organization which is tax exempt according to IRS Code 501c3. Tax ID#56-2322626

Developing a Sustainable Pediatric Cardiac Program to Provide Hope to Romanian Children with Heart Disease