A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO DEVELOP A SUSTAINABLE PEDIATRIC CARDIAC SURGERY AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM AT BUSTAMANTE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE AND ADDING LINKS TO THE CHAIN OF HOPE
Partnering to Provide Hope

Gift of Life programs have been helping to treat Jamaican children with congenital heart defects for more than a decade. GOL Jamaica was created in 2000 and since then over 30 children have been provided life-saving surgeries through its efforts.

Chain of Hope (COH) is one of Gift of Life International’s (GOLI) global partners. Since 1996 they have been working to provide care for Jamaican children who suffer from heart disease. In 2010, GOLI joined their efforts to not only treat children who were suffering from congenital heart disease but additionally, we announced a partnership that would work, along with other international and Jamaican partners, to develop a sustainable pediatric cardiac program at Bustamante Hospital for Children in Kingston.

Approximately 400 Jamaican children are born with a congenital heart defect every year, with an additional 2 out of every 100 of these children suffering from rheumatic heart disease. Many of these children will never reach the age of 15. Accordingly, the need is present for the development of a program within Jamaica that will ensure reliable surgeries for these children without requiring them to travel abroad for treatment.

GOLI has joined the COH as its partner to strategically build and equip a Cardiac Unit on the grounds of The Bustamante Hospital for Children. This facility will have a new:

- Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with 10 beds
- Dedicated Cardiac operating Theatre
- Catheterization Lab

The new ICU will triple the current number of ICU beds available for children in the entire region and the Catheterization lab will enable children to be diagnosed in a timely fashion.

Additionally, an innovative 5-year training program has been initiated to provide continuous skills transfer to the Jamaican Surgical and Aftercare Team.
The development of this program is based upon five overarching objectives:

- Construct and Equip a new, state-of-the-art cardiac unit at Bustamante Hospital for Children that will ultimately treat 250 children per year
- Develop a technical team that will maintain this unit
- Provide Skills Transfer to the Jamaican Surgery and Aftercare Team
- Develop Nutritional Assistance Program for children treated through the surgical program
- Ensure continued financial support from the Jamaican Government and business community
OUR PARTNER CHAIN OF HOPE UK:
A History of Caring for Jamaican Children

Chain of Hope UK (COH) was formed in 1996 with the vision of developing sustainable pediatric cardiac centers in developing countries to treat children with heart diseases. This treatment was otherwise unavailable and children and their families had little hope for help. Since its inception, COH has been sponsoring visits to Jamaica of expert medical and surgical teams so that Jamaican children suffering from heart disease would receive life-saving treatment and care. All services were provided free of charge to the families of the children in need. Over the past 2 decades, COH has conducted over 20 medical and training visits to Jamaica, helping to save the lives of over 450 children as well as providing invaluable hands-on training and practical experience to the Jamaican Surgical and Aftercare.

OUR PARTNER CHAIN OF HOPE JAMAICA:
Dedicated to the Children of Jamaica

Chain of Hope Jamaica (COH JA) was established in 2007 to support the development of the sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare program at Bustamante Hospital for Children. Since that time, 250 Jamaican children have been treated for heart disease with all the financial support coming from COH JA. Additionally, COH JA has coordinated the training visits which resulted in the treating of another 150 children. As a result of COH JA efforts, 400 children have received life-saving heart surgery in their country of birth.
No one organization on its own can achieve the goal of developing a sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare program. There are a multitude of issues that must be addressed and the reality is that a collaborative effort provides the greatest chance for success. In 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by interested organizations which stipulated each party’s obligations in the development of the program. There are additional local partners in this endeavour who provide invaluable support and resources: Digicel Foundation, Digicel Jamaica, COH JA, The Shaggy Foundation, Sagicor, The Usain Bolt Foundation and Jamaican Rotary Clubs. Other international partners are: The Caribbean Heart Menders Association (CHMA), Rotary International, and The Congenital Heart Institute of Florida/Cardiac Kids Foundation (CHIF/CKF). This network will ultimately develop a pediatric cardiac center of excellence to treat the children of Jamaica and elsewhere in the Caribbean.
The date of February 27, 2013 will be remembered for a long time in Jamaica for it was the day that ground was broken for the construction of the new cardiac unit at Bustamante Hospital for Children. Thanks to the generosity of The Digicel Foundation, Chain of Hope UK, and Sagicor, a state of the art Catheterization Lab, 10 bed Intensive Care Unit and Operating Theatre will be constructed to support the pediatric cardiac program. This is the beginning of a new era of care for children in Jamaica and the Caribbean that suffer from heart disease.
Thanks to the ‘Our Hearts are in Jamaica’ program, Jamaican mothers now have hope as their children are given a second chance at life. As the program evolves and reaches sustainability, Jamaican medical professionals care for Jamaican children as the links in the chain of hope continue to grow.

Dr. Sherard Little, a pediatric cardiac surgeon at Bustamante Hospital in Kingston, Jamaica has performed a total of 263 pediatric cardiac surgeries over the past 4 years. With the implementation of the ‘Our Hearts are in Jamaica’ program in 2011, there was a definite increase in the number of children treated as a result of medical training visits and the acquisition of essential supplies and medications. It is expected that more than 100 Jamaican children will be treated at Bustamante Hospital in 2013.
The Cost of Excellence

The cost of developing this project is estimated to be around $6 million.

All of the money will be raised by the partners of this project. To date, Digicel, Sagicor and COH UK have committed the $1.75 million to construct the cardiac unit. Another $150,000 was contributed by GOLI and COH UK to pay for the professional fees associated with the development of the construction and architectural plans.

Additional monies have been raised or are being raised to cover the expenses of equipping the:

- Intensive Care Unit: $1 million
- Operating Theatre: $500,000
- Catheterization Lab: $1.2 million

Organizations contributing to this effort are: GOLI, COH UK, The Shaggy Foundation and The Usain Bolt Foundation.

Moreover, another $1.4 million will be raised to support the ongoing training programs for the Jamaican Surgical and Aftercare Team.

GOLI and our partners have already committed to invest the following monies:

- COH UK: $1.4 million
- Digicel: $1.2 million
- GOLI/Rotary: $700,000
- National Health Fund: $400,000
- The Shaggy Foundation: $400,000
- Sagicor: $360,000
- First Caribbean: $50,000
PROVIDING HOPE
Jamaicans caring for Jamaicans...
CHILDREN WITH HOPE
Where there was once only despair...There is now hope...
CREATING A SUSTAINABLE PEDIATRIC CARDIAC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE CARIBBEAN

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