

GIFT OF LIFE to Speak at Leadership Development Summit Rotary Zones 28 & 29 September 27, 2018

1 in 100 children born every day are born with a life threatening congenital heart defect. In the US, we just fix it. One surgery and that child can live a normal life. In the developing world, children go undiagnosed. If they survive, they are likely to die before the age of 5.

Gift of Life started with one Rotary club on Long Island in 1975 bringing in one child at a time. Saving one life at a time is great for that child and her family...but does little in meeting the world's need nor is it sustainable.

In 2002 the 12 Gift of Life programs in the US joined to map out a sustainable future. Gift of Life international was formed in 2003 and challenged to find a better way. We changed our model from bringing one child to the skills and resources of our community to, the mission of delivering the skills and resources to multiple children within their own community.

Medical teams from across the developed world conduct 2 week missions into developing world hospitals. Members of each team are not only are charged with lifesaving heart surgery but to also teach, train and equip their local medical counterpart to serve their own kids. Equipment and operational needs are assessed and improved upon through our partnerships. Building the local capacity and empowering local teams to care for their own children is sustainable.

There are now over 80 Gift of Life programs worldwide. We served 10,000 children in our first 30 years. We have now served another 20,000 children in just the last 10 years and are growing rapidly. Almost 250 Ro-



tary Clubs and more than 50 Rotary Districts are partnering with their local health care communities creating and supporting missions and exchanges within Gift of Life core programs; "Heart Centers of Excellence" and "Countries of Focus".

District 6630 with our Gift of Life North East Ohio is completing its role in two Countries of Focus. We are near completion of a Humanitarian Grant in Egypt with Rotary Club and District partners around the US and throughout the Cairo region, including Gift of Life Cairo. This one grant has

saved the lives of over 30 Egyptian children, all by medical teams from northern Egypt.

In Haiti, we have completed our second Rotary "Vocational Training Team" grant focused on exchanges between St. Damien Children's Hospital in Haiti and Akron Children's Hospital in Ohio. Much of the Pediatric ICU and Surgical suite was equipped and staffed by Haitians involved in the "VTT". Together, with Gift of Life International and other partners in the US and Haiti, GoLNEO has supported multiple surgical mission into Haiti performing surgery on +/-40 children a year, a quarter of the countries need. Haiti's first Pediatric Cardiologist will complete her training to become the core of future children's heart care in Haiti. "Empowering local teams to care for their own children". We hope to share how your district can become part of this rapidly expanding sustainable children's heart care program around the developing world. Together we are making a difference.

TOP NEWS

Laura Bush to speak at convention

Former First Lady of the United States Laura Bush, an advocate for literacy, education, and women's rights, will speak at the 2018 Rotary Convention in Toronto this June. For decades Mrs. Bush has fought for key national and global issues including launching groundbreaking education and healthcare programs in the U.S. and abroad.



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