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(January 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021)

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## Partners



Alva had successful surgery in India



Christian had successful surgery in Tanzania



Sahara had successful surgery in Kenya

## Care for a Child's Heart

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## Care for a Child's Heart Annual Report

2020

### CFACH was at work even with the COVID-19 pandemic!

Early in 2020, CFACH had many patients who needed surgery but our efforts were briefly stalled when the world was engulfed by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Only one of our partner medical mission teams, Hearts of East Africa from the U.S. was able to travel to Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Kenya in January while others from Europe had to cancel their trips to Kenya throughout the year.

However, thanks to the unwavering support of our newest U.S. major partner, HeartGift, the indefatigable CFACH team in Kenya got to work and made arrangements to take the children to India and Tanzania for treatment. The planning, transportation and the surgical care were conducted in strict conformance with the established CFACH COVID-19 Protocols.

We are pleased to announce two new partnerships that were established with One New Heart Tanzania, a fellow NGO, and Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. These partnerships allowed us to help six patients receive the heart surgeries they desperately needed since CFACH was allowed to travel from Kenya to Tanzania.

#### In 2020:

- + 9 patients received surgeries – One in Kenya, Six in Tanzania and Two in India
- + 56 medical reviews were conducted
- + 24 families stayed at the Family Center
- + 7 post-operative home visits were made to follow up on patients in various parts of Kenya
- + 22 children received their necessary medications



Patients and family members travelled to Tanzania



Amira - successful Tanzania surgery



Irene - successful Tanzania surgery

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## A Message to our amazing supporters from our Chairman



The work we do together for CFACH providing lifesaving Pediatric Cardiac Care—including providing safe, affordable housing, meals, transportation to and from the hospitals and cardiac surgery from a community that cares—helps the families get through what can be an extremely difficult time with comfort and hope. We are so grateful for all our donors and supporters who have given to help us continue being their “home away from home” not to mention the surgical care that we facilitate. You’ve made a real difference in the lives of these families.

The New Family Center has come a long way since we opened our doors in 2019 and that’s all thanks to people like you. In 2020, we hosted twenty-four (24) families.

Some of the families were in transit through Kenya on their way to India or Tanzania for their surgical care. Others stayed at the Center after their follow up appointments.

From time to time, the funding of the Center proves to be a challenge. In a bid to supplement the funding for the Family Center, #runwithsolo was launched in January 2020. I set a goal to run 2020 kilometers in 2020. Every dollar collected in this effort was directed towards supporting the Family Center. The set goal was achieved on December 31, 2020 when I completed

the year having run a total of 2075 kilometers (1288.8 Miles). Through all the efforts and activities at the Family Center, CFACH had a remarkable year of learning and growth and we came out knowing how we could better care for our families.

In keeping with our Mission, CFACH was pleased to host Hearts of East Africa and their medical team when they came to Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Kenya to perform surgeries in January. Dr. Mike Liske, CFACH’s Medical Director and leader of one of the Heart of East Africa medical mission teams met with Irene Mukuria, CFACH’s Executive Director in Nairobi before traveling on to Tenwek Hospital.

In February, 2020, we participated in the Mobilizing Medical Missions (M3) Conference that was hosted by Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas to further develop our network of individuals and organizations which can help us fulfill our mission.

CFACH has always prided itself as an organization that not only provides pre-operative and surgical care, but also one that provides post-

surgical care. In the past year, our team of social workers visited seven families in remote areas of Kenya and provided follow up care (See the story of one of home visits this year). In keeping with our commitment to all the needy patients under our care, CFACH provided medicines for twenty-two patients during the course of the year.

We would not have had such a successful year without people like you. Whether you made a financial contribution, volunteered your time, attended a fundraiser, held your own birthday fundraiser on Facebook, shared one of our social media posts, or simply mentioned CFACH to someone you know, your support in spreading awareness of our mission and helping sustain our programs has made all the difference in the lives of many families. THANK YOU so much for supporting CFACH. I am excited to share more about our year with you in this 2020 Annual Report.

Sincerely,  
Solomon M. Musyimi



A family at the Family Center enjoying a meal



Dr. Mike Liske and Dr. Tom of Hearts of East Africa met with the Kenya CFACH Staff in Nairobi

## 7 years ago- November 6, 2013 - Kelvin’s new lease on life

It is a fairly chilly morning when the CFACH team arrives at Kelvin’s home in Machakos County. Kelvin and his two brothers, Reagan and Maxwell are cuddled together in one seat watching cartoons. It had rained the previous night and so their mother would not allow them to play in the mud outside.

Kelvin’s journey to the theatre for a heart surgery to correct Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF) began in 2010 when he was one-year-old. TOF is a combination of four related heart defects that occur together and need complex open heart surgery to correct. He had just begun to learn to walk when his mother noticed he got so tired after only a few strides. With his increased physical activity, also came shortness of breath.

The first impression was that little Kelvin suffered from pneumonia but this was ruled out when he did not respond

to treatment. His parents sought alternative opinion and this led to a TOF diagnosis. His doctor advised that he urgently needed surgery.

At that time, Kelvin’s mother, Elizabeth, now a small scale trader, was working as a casual laborer in a nearby factory. John, his father, is a metalsmith. With their combined income only able to cater for their daily living expenses, the cost of a heart surgery was beyond their reach. Fortunately, Kelvin’s grandmother heard of CFACH that in turn presented Kelvin’s case to Heart Gift who sponsored his surgery at the Dell Medical Center in Austin, Texas.

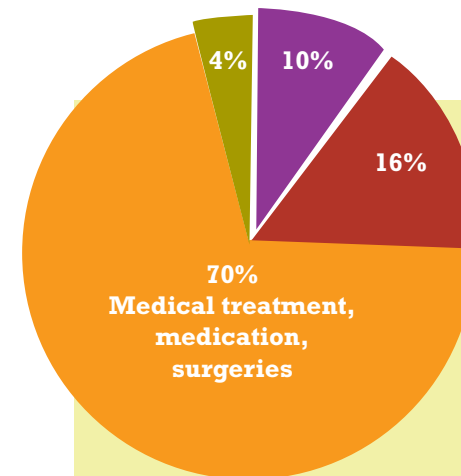
When asked about Kevin’s ordeal, the mum said, “It was a long journey, but I was willing to do anything for my son. It was my first time travelling out of the country, let alone by air. Thankfully, we arrived in Austin to the warm reception of the Ross family to whom we are forever grateful! On 6th



CFACH’s Matron with Kelvin (center) and his family

November, 2013, Kelvin’s surgery was conducted. It was the longest eight hours of my life. He was in the ICU for 2 days and he spent another 5 days in the wards. His doctors monitored him for a week after discharge from the hospital before we could travel back home. From then on, he has never had any health challenges. He is leading a healthy, normal life.”

Kelvin, now 11 years old, is in grade 5. He is an above average performer in class and enjoys playing soccer. His eyes are set for the cockpit when he is of age and his little brother, 4-year-old Maxwell tells us he will be Kelvin’s first passenger!



### How donor support makes a difference

Without the generosity of our donors and funders, CFACH would not be able to make a difference in the lives of these children and their families, restoring their health and giving them the strength to do what all children do – run, play, and smile.

### CFACH and Heart Gift in Texas form new partnership

CFACH, formerly Take Heart Association Project (THAP), has had a long relationship with Heart Gift over the years. As you read in Kelvin’s story, in the past our patients needed to travel to Texas for heart surgery. Our new partnership focuses on helping patients who suffer from congenital heart disease get the medical care they need closer to home rather than traveling to the U.S. Heart Gift grants to CFACH have enabled us to send two children to India and six to Tanzania in 2020. An increased number of children will receive the necessary medical care they need thanks to this ongoing partnership.

### Successful fundraising campaigns this year

#runwithsolo – raised close to \$30,000 in contributions and matching corporate gifts

Hear from Ryan about the Run with Solo Campaign’s Heart Heroes — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMczYVfW4Mc>

Medical Back Pack Campaign - Reached our goal to provide 20 medical back packs by raising \$2500 to meet our donor’s match!