



**CARE FOR  
A CHILD'S  
HEART**

[WWW.CFACH.ORG](http://WWW.CFACH.ORG)

# **2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## A YEAR OF **HEARTFELT** IMPACT

In 2024, CFACH (Care for a Child's Heart) marked a record-breaking year: we performed 73 lifesaving surgeries for children with congenital heart disease. This achievement—a 22% jump over the previous year—was driven by the generosity of our donors and the dedication of volunteer medical teams. Each surgery means a child's life transformed: from gasping for breath to running and laughing. In July, for example, CFACH made history by performing East Africa's first Nikaidoh heart surgery (see page 4), giving 5-year-old Sahara a new heart and a new future. These milestones reflect our mission: bringing world-class cardiac care to every child in need.





# OUR MISSION & IMPACT

*We are at the highest point we've been since we begun. Congratulations to everyone!*

- Record Year: 73 surgeries and 30 cardiac catheterizations completed in 2024, setting a new organizational benchmark. This topped the 72 surgeries achieved in 2023.
- Family Support: The CFACH Family Support Center in Kenya hosted 98 families (average 14-day stays), ensuring parents could stay close during their child's treatment. We covered all medical, travel, and housing costs so families could focus on healing.
- Global Collaboration: Volunteer specialists from Italy, the USA, Tanzania and beyond joined Kenyan surgeons to double local surgical capacity. Together we trained dozens of Kenyan nurses and doctors, leaving local teams stronger after each mission.
- Key Partnerships: Organizations like HeartGift, Medtronic, Emirates Airlines Foundation, and Texas Children's Hospital provided flight support, equipment, and supplies. Their contributions, along with every donor's gift, are the beating heart of our work.





## 2024 MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Each mission brought hope to new communities:

- **Feb 2024** – Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital (Mombasa): 13 patients . This first mission of the year set the stage with lifesaving care for children from western Kenya.
- **March 2024** – Tenwek Mission Hospital (Bomet): 1 patient. Our teams operated in two locations simultaneously, reducing treatment backlogs.
- **May 2024** - Almoosa Specialist Hospital (Saudi Arabia) - 2 patients
- **May 2024** - MP Shah Hospital (Nairobi) - 6 patients
- **Jul-Aug 2024** – Coast General (Mombasa): 23 patients, including the region's first-ever Nikaidoh heart operation. (See Sahara's story on the next page.)
- **Sept 2024**- King Fahad Hospital (Saudi Arabia) - 2 patients
- **Nov 2024** – M.P Shah Hospital (Nairobi): 25 patients – CFACH's largest mission to date, dramatically cutting waiting lists for critical cases.

Together, our 2024 missions delivered comprehensive cardiac care to over 200 children, doubling the reach of the previous year. "This operation represents more than just helping one child," said Dr. Roberto DiDonato, CFACH's mission leader. "With the right support, we can bring the most advanced cardiac procedures to regions where they were previously unavailable." His words exemplify our approach: sharing knowledge and capability so that Kenya's healthcare system grows stronger with each mission.



## COAST GENERAL (MOMBASA) MISSION



In July, CFACH partnered with HeartGift and the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to change lives on the Kenyan coast. Under the leadership of Dr. Roberto DiDonato, our team treated 23 children through cardiac surgeries. The highlight was 5-year-old Sahara, who underwent a groundbreaking Nikaidoh operation. Sahara's heart, once failing, was rebuilt; she recovered quickly and left the hospital with her bright smile restored.

"I will always remember watching Sahara take her first steps after surgery," says her mother. "We had been afraid she'd never run or laugh like other children. Thanks to CFACH, my daughter has a new life." Sahara's journey was made possible by many supporters: Medtronic donated surgical supplies; the Emirates Airlines Foundation flew our doctors; Texas Children's Hospital sent equipment. Their support gave Sahara a chance – and demonstrated how a global partnership becomes a local triumph.



## MAKING HISTORY IN EAST AFRICA



**SAHARA ABDULRAZAK AHMED**

Diagnosed with a rare heart defect at age 5, Sahara faced a fate few Kenyan children escape. When CFACH screened her case, Dr. DiDonato identified that the Nikaidoh procedure offered the best hope. This complex 8-hour surgery was a first for East Africa. The operating room was filled with eager learners as the Kenyan and international team worked seamlessly. By the next morning, Sahara was recovering calmly and breathing room air – her cyanosis gone.

Her family's joy was palpable. "When Sahara came home and smiled for the first time, my heart filled with hope again," Sahara's mother said through tears. "We thought she'd always be sick, but CFACH gave my daughter life."

**Donor's Perspective:** "I traveled to Kenya with CFACH and still remember Sahara's smile. That moment – her tiny hand in mine as she beamed – underscored why we give. Every gift, big or small, becomes part of a child's new heartbeat."

Each success story fuels us onward. Sahara's journey reminds us that behind every statistic is a child who gets to dream of tomorrow.



## OUR SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

Every surgery, review, and moment of healing is made possible by donors and partners who share our vision. We thank each person who gave:

- **Individual donors:** Your contributions funded medical fees, travel, and meals. You are at the heart of every treatment.
- **Foundations & Corporations:** HeartGift Foundation (accommodation and general bills), Medtronic (surgical supplies), Emirates Airlines Foundation (airfare), Texas Children's (equipment) and many others provided vital resources.
- **Volunteer clinicians:** Over 50 medical professionals – surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses – donated their time, serving as guardian angels for our children.

“Witnessing a mission firsthand was humbling,” shares one CFACH supporter. “Every dollar I gave became a child’s heartbeat.”

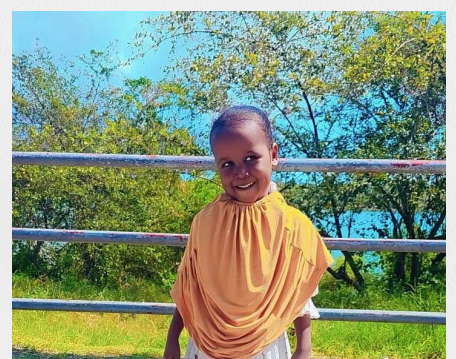


Together, we are a community of hope. As you read this report, know that your support saved lives and built brighter futures.

Thank you for joining us in this life-saving mission



# CFACH HEROES 2024





# CFACH HEROES 2024







73

SURGERIES COMPLETED

128

ACCOMMODATIONS

12

DIAGNOSTIC  
CATHETERIZATIONS

92

NHIF CONTRIBUTIONS

253

REVIEWS

236

DRUG DISPENSATIONS



# 2024 CFACH NUMBERS

 **73**  
SURGERIES  
CONDUCTED

 **12**  
Diagnostic  
Catheterizations

 **253**  
REVIEWS

 **128**  
Families  
Accommodated

 **92**  
NHIF  
Contributions

 **236**  
Drug  
Dispensations

## TOTAL REVENUE

**\$1,215,922.00**

**Partnerships**

**\$ 38,382.00**

**Non Medical Donations**  
(consumables and equipment donations)

**\$42,115.00**

**Donated Medical Hours**

**\$510,326.00**

**Individual gifts and contributions**

**\$95,862.00**

**Kenyan Government Subsidies**

**\$154,440.00**

**Grants**

**\$374,797.00**

**\$0**

**COST TO THE CHILDREN WE SERVED**

**75%**

**Surgeries/evaluation and cardiac costs**

**12%**

**Transport and Housing**

**10%**

**Maintenance of the CFACH Family Support Center**

**3%**

**Drug Dispensations**



## CFACH PARTNERS



**Heart Gift**



**Emirates  
Foundation**



**Healing Little  
Hearts**



**Chain of  
Hope**



**Gift of Life**



**Fehling  
Instruments**



**Medical Bridges**



**Danbury Hospital  
(Nuvance Health)**



**Texas Children's  
Hospital Cardiac  
Alliance**





**SINCE OUR FOUNDING:**

**400 +**

**SURGERIES PERFORMED**

**800 +**

**CHILDREN RECEIVED  
MEDICAL CARE**

**600 +**

**PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS  
HAVE BEEN HOSTED AT OUR  
CENTER**







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