



The Philosophy The Novick Cardiac Alliance

Statement of Purpose:

The Novick Cardiac Alliance is committed to bringing sustainable health care solutions to children with cardiac disease in the developing world. We are dedicated to improving the skills, knowledge, technology and experience of local health care providers in regions of the world without access to quality Pediatric Cardiac Care. We aim to provide comprehensive care to all children with congenital or acquired heart disease regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, political ideation, genetic factors or economic means. Our vision is that in the future all children with heart disease, no matter where they are born, will be able to receive the medical and surgical care they require to live a long and healthy life.

How do we achieve our Mission?

Collaborate:

With Governments, Health Ministries Local health care professionals and Humanitarian Organisations to provide total cardiac care to children in developing countries.

Educate

Local health-care professionals and work with their educational institutions to improve the standard of training and care provided to children with Heart disease.



Sustain

Our goal is for our partner hospital to develop independence over time and to have them operate on the children without us. We commit to maintaining professional relationships with those hospitals and personnell well into the future.



Cardiac Alliance is an educational charity and we collaborate with hospitals in developing countries in order to assist them to develop a functional Pediatric cardiac surgery programme that can provide surgical options for children with congenital heart disease in their home country. We do this by making multiple 2 week mission trips – usually 4 per year- where we aim to do a number of surgeries while offering clinical and academic learning opportunities for the health care professionals in our partner hospital. We do not go to hospitals and ‘take over’ their space but, rather, work with them on all aspects of the planning and care of children so that they develop the skills to take care of these children independently in the future.

At the beginning of a project we take volunteers from all of the specialties required to perform cardiac surgery on children and a typical team will consist of:

- 1 or 2 Paediatric cardiac surgeons
- 1 or 2 Cardiologists
- 1 Cardiac anaesthetist/anaesthesiologist
- 1 Perfusionist
- 1 Scrub nurse/ Operating Room nurse
- 1 Pediatrician (if requested by local team)
- 2 Intensivists
- 4-6 PICU nurses



As each hospital progresses and the local team’s skills improve we will take fewer volunteers on each trip and eventually the local team will not need our help at all. We aim to make the need for Cardiac Alliance obsolete in the hospitals that we serve within 5 or 6 years. As a volunteer with Cardiac Alliance you will need to have enough experience, knowledge and confidence in your own skills to teach the local team in a way that is safe for the patients in our care.

On the first few trips we aim to do collaborative surgery on uncomplicated cases with such as ASD, VSD on children who weigh more than 10 KG. This allows for the local team to begin to write protocols and embed the new clinical practice into their current system. During this phase if a complex child



is operated on the Cardiac Alliance team will care for that child so as to enable the local team to focus on the care of the other children. As time goes on we will increase the complexity of the surgery performed and operate on smaller children and infants until at the end of the project the local team will be performing complex surgery on all ages of children including neonates.