



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING OUR 18TH YEAR!



Message from Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2023, we are profoundly grateful for the unwavering support that has propelled us to reach a significant milestone in our journey: impacting the lives of over 5000 children over the past 18 years.

Your commitment and generosity have been the driving forces behind this remarkable achievement.

From our humble beginnings sparked by a single act of compassion, we have evolved into a global movement, reaching children in need across 74 countries.

Most recently, Micronesia became the 74th nation whose children we've had the privilege to assist.

Reaching and surpassing our 5000th child in 2023 marks a pivotal moment in our journey, symbolizing years of dedication, patience, and collective effort. It is a testament to the transformative power of compassion and generosity.

As we stand on the threshold of a new chapter, emboldened by our collective impact, it is crucial to recognize that our success transcends mere numbers. While we celebrate the over 5000 children mended, what truly resonates is the ripple effect of our efforts.

Countless lives have been saved through direct knowledge exchanges, empowering local surgeons and medical staff to provide life-saving care.

Through our collaborative work, we've elevated standards of care, leaving a legacy that extends far beyond our immediate surgical procedures. This legacy has an enduring impact on communities, empowering local healthcare providers to sustain and enhance healthcare independently.

Looking ahead, we are committed to strengthening partnerships to amplify our impact and extend our reach even further. We embody the essence of answering the call, assessing the need, and collaborating with our mentees to support their growth toward self-sustainment.

Thank you for being an integral part of our remarkable and ongoing journey. Your dedication has made a lasting impact on children worldwide.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Together, we are Mending Kids.



Isabelle Fox
Executive Director



Overseas Surgical Program

Cambodia Ear, Nose & Throat

- 13 Kids
- Dr. Lia Jacobson, University of California- San Francisco Benioff Children's Hospital

Jan
21-29

Guatemala Ear, Nose & Throat

- 74 Kids
- Dr. Namrata Varma, Southern California Ear, Nose, and Throat

Apr
15-22

Paraguay Interventional Cardiology

- In collaboration with Surgeons of Hope
- 24 Kids
- Dr. Juan M. Gil Jaurena, Hospital Gregorio Marañón, Madrid

Jan
14-29

Tanzania Anorectal Malformation

- 20 Kids
- Dr. Jason Frischer and Dr. Beth Rymeski, Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Mar
11-18

Nicaragua Interventional Cardiology

- 12 Kids
- Dr. Michael Womack, St. Luke's Hospital, Boise

Apr
17-21



**Jun
19-23**

**Philippines Regional
Interventional Cardiology**

- Tacloban City
- 14 Kids
- Dr. Jean Villareal, Philippine Heart Center, Manila

**Oct
9-13**

**Philippines Regional
Cardiac**

- Zamboanga City
- 13 Kids
- Dr. Alex Chan, Philippine Heart Center, Manila

**Nov 27-
Dec 1**

**Peru
General and Dental**

- 13 Kids
- Dr. Vincent Duron, NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital and Dr. Gabriela Ganoza-Duron, Mondovi Dental, Purchase, NY

**Mauritius
Cardiac**

- 9 Kids
- Dr. Salvatore Agati, Bambino Gesù Hospital, Taromina, Sicily

**Oct
1-6**

**Tanzania
Cardiac**

- 34 Kids
- Dr. Darren Berman, Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Dr. Ermanno Bellanti, Bambino Gesù Hospital, Taromina, Sicily

**Oct
15-20**

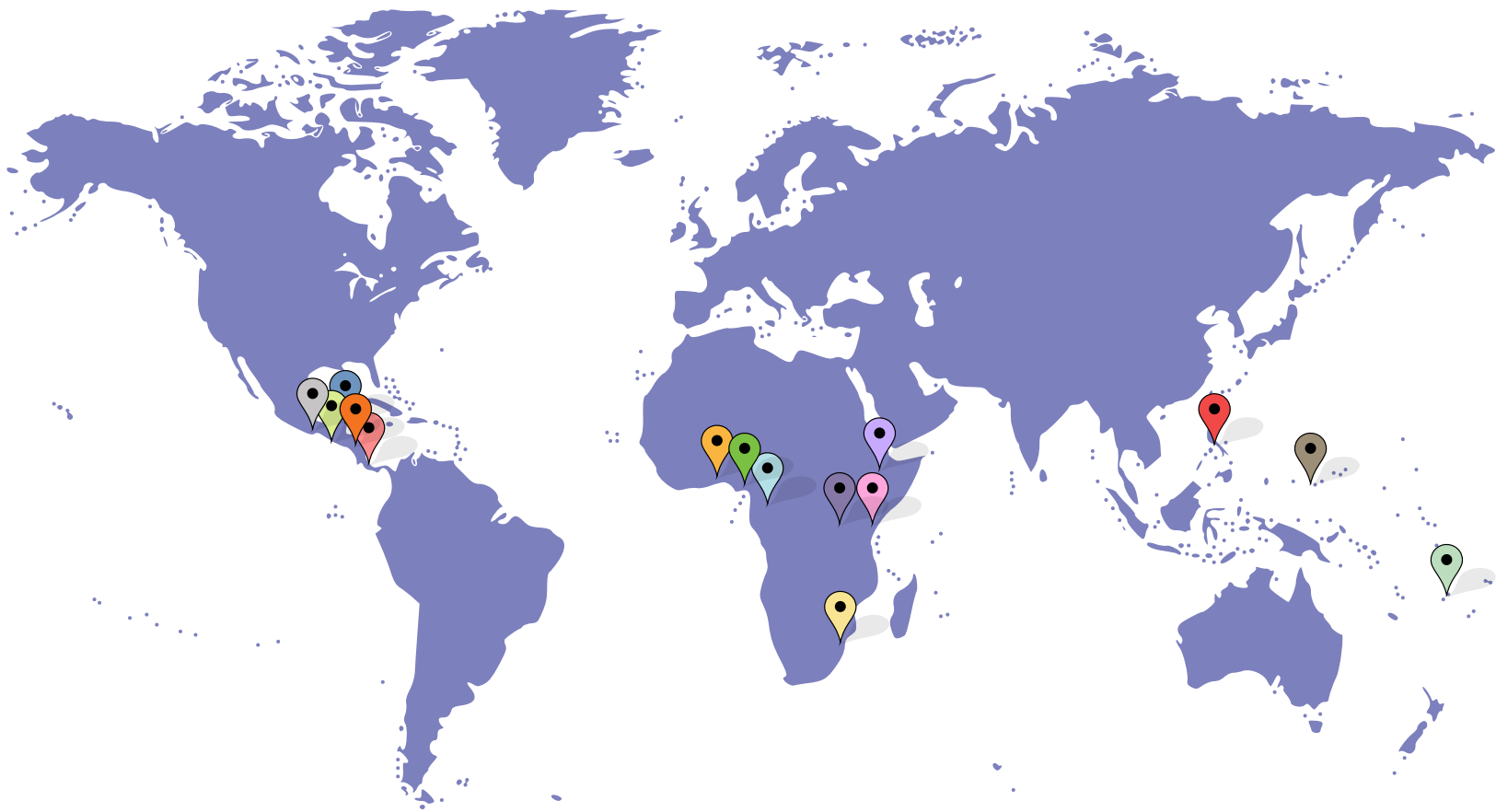
**Mauritius
Cardiac**

- 25 Kids
- Dr. Evan Zahn, Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children's and Dr. Salvatore Agati, Bambino Gesù Hospital, Rome

**Dec
17-22**



32 Individual Surgical Cases from 15 countries



- 1 Cameroon
- 2 Costa Rica
- 3 El Salvador
- 4 Eswatini
- 5 Ethiopia

- 6 Fiji
- 7 Ghana
- 8 Guatemala
- 9 Honduras
- 10 Kenya

- 11 Micronesia*
- 12 Nicaragua
- 13 Nigeria
- 14 Philippines
- 15 Uganda

*Micronesia became the 74th country reached by Mending Kids programs in 2023



Milestones

This year, Mending Kids positively transformed the lives of 286 kids from 21 different countries. Since the inception of our overseas missions and surgical care programs, we have provided life-changing surgical care to 5146 children from 74 countries, as of December 31st, 2023.

11

OVERSEAS SURGICAL
MISSIONS

286

KIDS MENDED IN 2023

74

COUNTRIES SERVED
AND COUNTING

5146

CHILDREN MENDED
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

7289

MEDICAL VOLUNTEER
SERVICE HOURS

2023 Financials

Special Events	\$1,044,316
Individual Contributions	\$176,704
Foundation Grants	\$237,687
Corporate Giving	\$135,175
Other Income	\$60,561

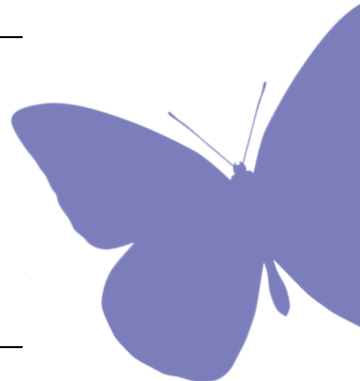
\$1,654,443

In-kind Medical Supplies Donated	\$577,434
In-kind Flights Donated	\$56,980
In-kind Service Hours Donated	\$966,738

\$1,601,152

"In-kind donations" refer to a form of charitable giving where medical goods and services are gifted instead of monetary donations. Mending Kids receives a substantial number of such donations annually in the form of service hours from medical professionals, free or discounted surgical supplies and equipment, facility rental fee reductions, and valuable items and experiences that are auctioned off at our events.

The above financial information is based on our unaudited interim financial statements as we are undergoing our 2023 annual independent audit.



Building Sustainable Healthcare Partnerships

In our ongoing commitment to fostering self-reliance and sustainable healthcare solutions in Tanzania, our overseas programs have taken an innovative turn. Since 2015, we have dedicated our efforts to supporting cardiac programs in Tanzania, collaborating closely with the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Center. A pivotal development in this journey has been the integration of members from the Center's ICU into our missions. By inviting their intensivist and two ICU nurses to join our teams, we've not only expanded our expertise but also set a precedent for collaboration and knowledge exchange. Their presence serves as a living testament to the transformative power of partnership and shared learning. Moreover, they now serve as guiding lights for our endeavors in emerging programs like Mauritius. Their journey exemplifies the potential unleashed when collective efforts, hands-on exchanges, and safety nets converge to elevate skills, enhance patient care, and build resilient healthcare systems. Together, we are paving the way for a brighter and healthier future, one mission at a time.

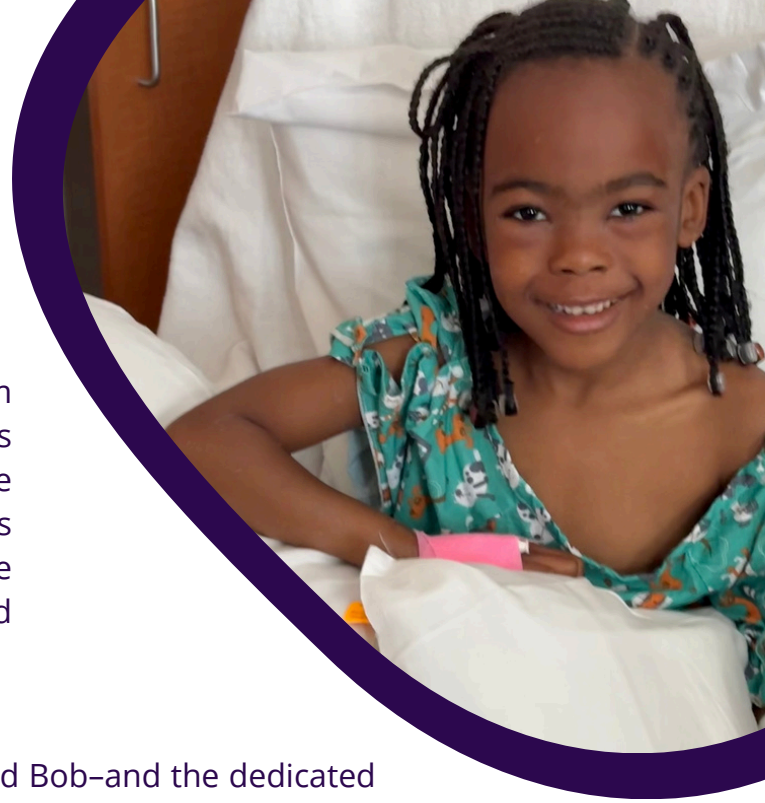


Regional Missions Philippines

Mending Kids partnered with the Philippine Heart Center for two regional missions in the Philippines in 2023. These missions took us to Tacloban City, where Dr. Jean Villareal served as the lead surgeon, and Zamboanga City, where Dr. Alex Chen led the first cardiovascular surgical mission. Through these missions, we aimed to enhance the standard of care and provide cardiovascular treatment to children who lacked access to it and might not afford the journey to the capital of Manila for specialized care. In total, we successfully treated 27 children in 2023.

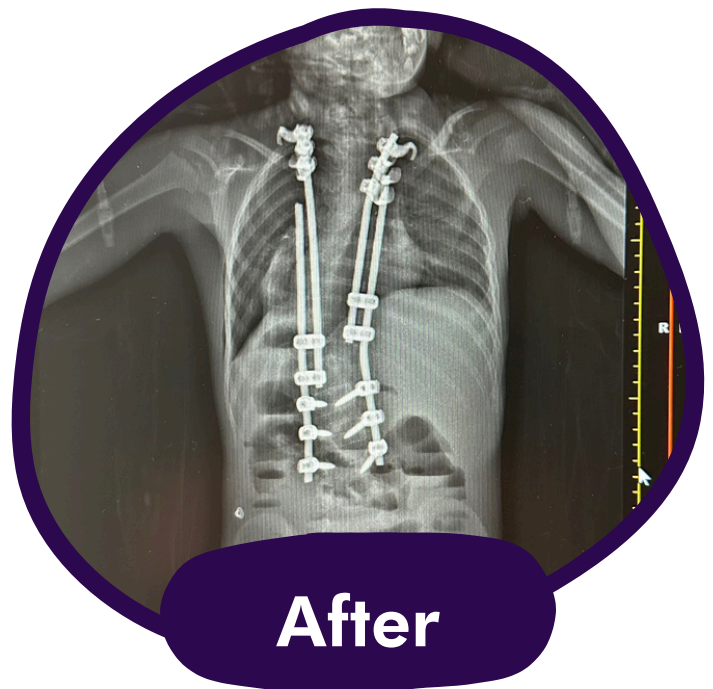
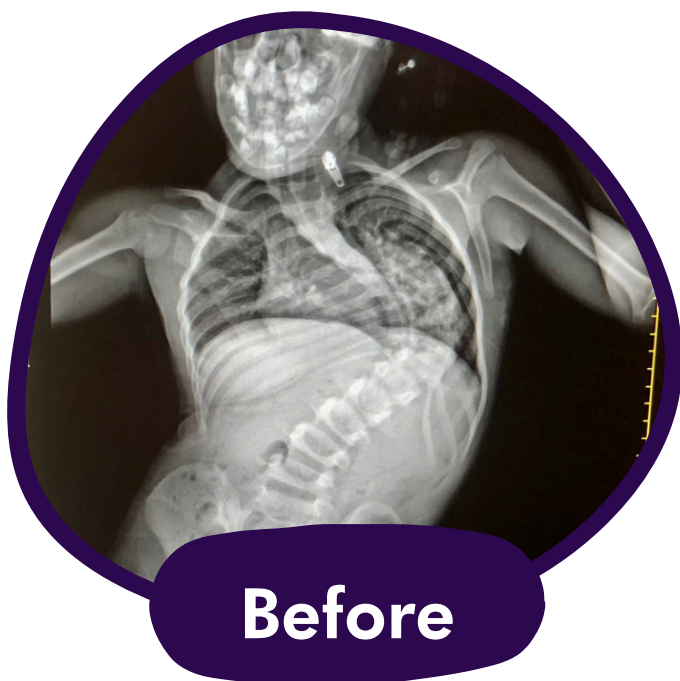
Elise

Three years ago, we met 6-year-old Elise from **Cameroon**. She faced significant challenges stemming from a congenital spine malformation. Proper medical care was unavailable in Cameroon, resulting in Elise being bullied at school due to her hunched back.



Thanks to her host family—the amazing Kate and Bob—and the dedicated care from Shriners Children’s Southern California and Dr. Robert Cho, Elise underwent **the first two of six life-changing surgeries** in March and December 2023. We are honored to be a part of Elise's journey and can't wait to see what her future holds. Elise is not an anomaly; there are countless more children just like her, waiting to receive care that will transform their lives.

By medically fostering a child through Mending Kids, a host family can make a real difference in the life of a child and his/her family. Join us by providing a **safe and loving** environment for children to recover and heal while offering them the opportunity to receive the medical care they need to thrive.



Gene-rosity

We extend heartfelt thanks to Gene Simmons for his remarkable donation, outreach, and dedication of his birthday to Mending Kids. His contributions, alongside those of our other valued donors, form the cornerstone of our ability to fulfill our mission. Every donation, regardless of size, plays a crucial role in empowering us to provide the best possible care to those in need.

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of all our donors, whose collective generosity enables us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our patients. Thank you for your continued commitment to our shared vision of a healthier, brighter future for all children.

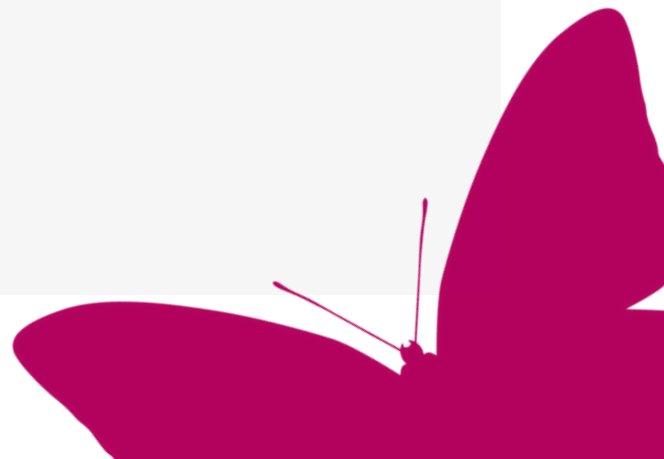




Our Heroes

Hospitals and Surgical Centers

- Bugando Medical Center, Mwanza, Tanzania
- Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children's, Los Angeles, California
- Children's Surical Center - Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Cotabato Regional & Medical Center, Cotabato City, Philippines
- Fortis Institute, New Delhi, India
- Hospital La Mascota, Managua, Nicaragua
- Hospital Manolo Morales Peralta, Managua, Nicaragua
- Hospital Regional de Loreto "Felipe Santiago Arriola Iglesias", Iquitos, Peru
- Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Linden Surgical Center of Beverly Hills
- Manipal Hospital, Bangalore, India
- MemorialCare Outpatient Surgical Center, Long Beach, California
- Moore Center, Guatemala City, Guatemala
- Narayana Health, Bangalore, India
- Philippine Heart Center, Manila, Philippines
- Shriners Hospitals for Children
- The Shalom Foundation, Guatemala City, Guatemala
- The Trust Fund For Medical Care - Cardiac Center Pamplermousses, Mauritius





Doctor Affiliations

- Bambino Gesù Hospital - Centro Cardiologico Pediatrico del Mediterraneo
- Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children's
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- Colorectal Center, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach
- NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, Columbia University
- St. Luke's Boise Medical Center
- University of California, San Francisco Medical Center

Medical In-kind Donors

- Abbott
- AmeriCare
- BBraun
- Cook
- Cooper Surgical
- Edwards Lifesciences
- Henry Schein
- ICUmedical
- MAP International
- Medshare
- Medtronic
- Merit
- Numed
- Occlutech
- Scanlan Life Programs
- Smith & Nephew
- Terumo
- Vyaire





Angels

- 7-Eleven, Inc
- 90210 Surgery Medical Center, LLC
- Alesia Family Foundation
- Andrew Forrest
- Anonymous
- Avery Dennison Foundation
- Bear Givers
- Belinda Stronach
- Bob and Gaye Harris Foundation
- Chad Brownstein and Holly Schroeder
- Charity on Top
- Chris Norch
- Christina Vitagliano
- Cynthia Hames
- Danielle Del
- David and Judy Shore Foundation
- David Lowy
- David Seewack
- Edwards LifeSciences LLC
- Erin and Paul Stanley
- Funko Pop
- Gene Simmons
- Harry Ross Industries
- High Standard Capital Corp
- Hilary Hendershott
- House Giving Fund
- Jeffrey and Leslie Frost
- Joseph Sprung
- Kevin TeBeest
- Lambeau's Sports Bar & Grill
- Lori and Dan Sandel
- MATTER.NGO
- McCarthy Family Fund
- Michael and Caroline Cusumano
- Monster Mini Golf Frisco
- Naomi Carmona-Morshead & Donald Morshead
- Oracle Health Foundation
- Rebecca Bowman
- Rebecca Pollack Parker
- Richard Ryncarz
- Saban Charitable Support Fund
- Saul and Leslie Bernstein Family Foundation
- Surgeons of Hope
- The Charlie and Moll Anderson Foundation
- The Fox Beauregard Family Charitable Fund
- The Hainer Foundation
- The Hausman Family Foundation
- The Helen & Jose Colton Foundation



2023 Board Officers

Ayal Willner, MD, President
Pediatric Surgeon
Southern California Ear, Nose
and Throat

Leslie Wright Frost, Vice President
Community Volunteer

Alexis Crump, Treasurer
Attorney, Partner
Lewis Brisbois

Richard Tabura, Secretary
Attorney
Greenberg Traurig LLP

Directors

Carmela de Brouwer
Realtor
Keller Williams Realty

Dorothy Lucey
Reporter
Media Personality

Evan Zahn, MD
Director
Congenital Heart Program
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Jason Frischer, MD
Director, Colorectal Center
Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Mindy Wechsler, DC
Chiropractor

Rebecca Bernstein
Chief Executive Officer
Southwest Washington
Regional Surgery Center

Robert Bernstein, MD
Chief of Staff
Shriners Hospital

Trisja Malisoff
Realtor
Compass





Our Vision

All children, regardless of where they live, their ethnic background, religious affiliation, or ability to pay, deserve access to quality surgical care to help save and mend their lives. We believe that an organization sometimes has to stretch its resources in order to go where others don't and take care of children that others can't.

"Here's a startling fact - worldwide around 5 BILLION people lack access to safe and affordable surgical care; it is estimated that almost half of that number are children. 16 times more people die from conditions needing surgical care than HIV/AIDS. This is unfathomable to most reading this, as we have the luxury of going to any number of doctors and/or hospitals and can't imagine surgical care not being available in our time of need."

Dr. Beth Rymeski
Colorectal Center,
Cincinnati Children's Hospital



Together, we are Mending Kids

With your continued support, we can restore futures.

[Click to Mend a Child](#)



1-818-843-6363



Tax ID: 95-4394305



[Mendingkids.org](https://mendingkids.org)



21255 Burbank Blvd,
Suite 120
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

