



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

*Our sweet 16th year of mending kids*



Hello out there,

As 2021 came to a close, 138 kids had their futures restored. Nearly 800 medical providers from 50 countries registered for our virtual symposia. We deployed the long-awaited ENT mission to Tanzania that helped 25 children and trained local medical personnel, and supported 3 regional cardiac missions in the Philippines. Not to mention the 15 children who were mended during our U.S. Hometown Mission in July.

No matter the challenges we have faced, none of these life-saving victories would have been possible were it not for our partnerships with supportive foundations, like-minded organizations and dedicated medical providers and volunteers.



# 138

Children mended

# 4

Overseas missions accomplished



# 800+

Participated our online symposia

# 15

Children mended on our LA Hometown Mission

Mending Kids looks forward to the great restoration of health we will make happen in 2022: overseas surgical missions, regional missions, individual surgical cases, virtual symposia, another Hometown Mission or two. Now more than ever, we remain dedicated to providing access to critical surgical care to as many children as possible, while expanding and intensifying the impact our exchanges of knowledge provide. On behalf of all of us at Mending Kids, and the families whose children we serve, we want to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your life-saving support. Together, we are Mending Kids.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isabelle Fox".

Isabelle Fox, Executive Director



# OUR VISION



All children, regardless of where they live, their ethnic background, religious affiliation, or ability to pay, deserve access to quality surgical care. 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.

## IN-KIND DONATIONS RECEIVED

Hometown Mission & Individual US Surgery Program: services donated by medical professionals, facility and equipment discounts donated by surgical center partners:

**\$316,271**

Overseas Surgical Missions: time and services donated by medical professionals:

**\$235,133**

Medical Supplies Donated:

**\$51,952**

Symposia (ENT & Cardiac): time and lectures donated by medical professionals:

**\$48,734**





# OVERSEAS MISSION TO TANZANIA

Mending Kids' November 2021 mission to Tanzania was a massive success, both from a surgical and teaching point of view. We operated on 25 kids and gave 8 lectures to local medical personnel, including one by a guest lecturer from UCSF. We held multiple hands-on airway training workshops that, while challenging, oriented the local team to the equipment we left with them, thanks to a generous donation from Karl Storz. We performed numerous critical cases, all of which resulted in exceptional outcomes and served as pertinent teaching opportunities.

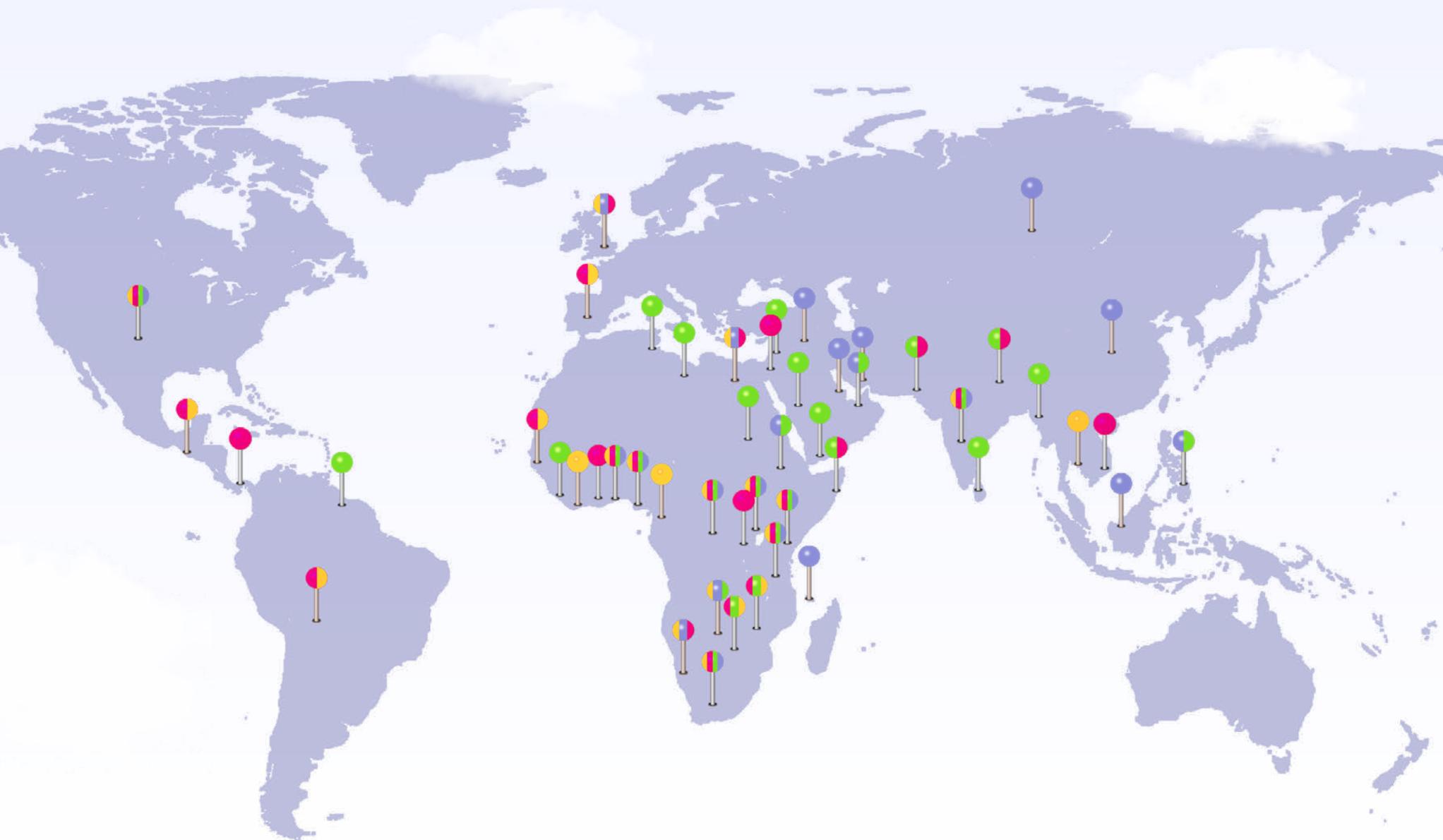


## REGIONAL MISSIONS TO FOSTER SUSTAINABILITY

In October and November 2021, Mending Kids sponsored three regional missions in the Philippines, to Cagayan de Oro, Marawi City, and Tacloban City, respectively. Together with Deputy Executive Director and Lead Surgeon, Dr. Gerardo S. Manzo, and Department Manager, Dr. Juliet J. Balderas, the team from the Philippine Heart Center (PHC) in Manila performed various heart surgeries, such as Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD) patch closure and Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA) closure. The PHC team also trained and educated local medical personnel in each city, with the goal of improving the quality of specialized pediatric cardiac care in the Philippines. Thanks to the amazing efforts of the PHC medical team, and tremendous support from the Philippines Department of Health, Mending Kids provided 37 children and their families a second chance at life.

# SYMPOSLIA

Throughout 2021, Mending Kids delivered 4 online symposia thanks to the help of 19 doctors from various hospitals around the U.S. and the world: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Nationwide Children's Hospital, UC San Francisco Benioff Children's Hospital, Stanford University, Medical City Children's Hospital, Red Cross Hospital Cape Town, Harare Children's Hospital, and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center.



**Congestive Heart Failure:  
CHD and Non-CHD**

**175** Participants  
**28** Countries  
**7** Doctor Presenters

**210,611**  
Patients Impacted

**June 1**



**Diagnosis & Mgmt of  
Common Arrhythmias in  
Children & Adults**

**190** Participants  
**23** Countries  
**7** Doctor Presenters

**133,391**  
Patients Impacted

**Nov 11**



**Tonsils to Tracheal  
Stenosis: Safe Surgery in  
Special Circumstances**

**250** Participants  
**26** Countries  
**5** Doctor Presenters

**964,387**  
Patients Impacted

**March 18**



**Pediatric Sinus Disorders  
and Management**

**165** Participants  
**22** Countries  
**4** Doctor Presenters

**227,954**  
Patients Impacted

**Oct 27**

# SMART GLASSES & TRAINING

Through usage in the operating rooms, smart glasses allow our surgeons to provide remote surgical training to partners anywhere on the planet.



Update From

Dr. Panossian

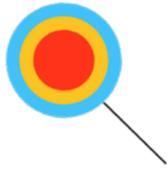


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The Vuzix smart glasses have offered us a new option in offering surgical expertise across the globe. As the world becomes more connected, modalities such as smart glasses offer an incredibly convenient option for collaborating with doctors from all over the world. This is especially important for countries that are isolated geopolitically or due to economic factors. Smart glasses offer these doctors an opportunity to tap into expertise not readily available in their home country. We have been able to successfully conduct 5 surgeries with our partner doctor in Armenia. Smart glasses may offer us a new way to not only provide real-time assistance to these physicians in addition to serving as a training tool for new doctors in training.



Dr. Harutyunyan  
In Yerevan, Armenia



As 2021 came to a close, we received a grant to purchase a pair of smart glasses for our partners in the Philippines. Thanks to the help of Pepperdine University Financial Development of Nonprofit Organizations and Ohana One, the glasses were shipped to the Philippine Heart Center in Manila. The lenses will allow for remote screenings of patients ahead of mission deployments, and for eyes-on/hands-on follow-up care of patients recovering from cardiac surgeries after the mission. Advances in technology, such as Vuzix, allow us to support communication and exchanges of knowledge between providers, while facilitating and improving the standard of care.



# OBSERVERSHIP

## Dr. Demeke Mekonnen

*Ethiopian Pediatric Cardiologist*

Dr. Demeke Mekonnen, a pediatric cardiologist from Ethiopia, spent 2 months in Italy observing and practicing under the guidance of Dr. Salvatore Agati, Chief of Congenital Heart Surgery—Centro Cardiologico Pediatrico Mediterraneo Bambino Gesù and Mending Kids volunteer surgeon.

During his 2 months stay, he was exposed to arrhythmia care, both diagnostic and therapeutic, as well as fetal cardiac care. He helped the local team perform 8 percutaneous interventions and over 50 outpatient surgical procedures.

### Mentor:

**Dr. Salvatore Agati**

Cardiac Surgeon

MK Volunteer Surgeon



## MILESTONES

As part of our 2021 Individual Surgical Care program, Mending Kids transformed the lives of **35 children** from **15 countries** around the world. As of December 31st, 2021, Mending Kids has helped 4637 children from 68 countries throughout our various overseas mission and surgical care programs.

**4637**

**Mended Kids**

**68**

**Countries served**

- 15 U.S. Hometown Mission Surgeries
- 34 surgeries performed on the Philippines regional missions
- 25 surgeries provided on Tanzania Surgical Mission
- 35 Individual Surgical Care patients helped from 15 countries, including 5 surgeries performed through TRI smart glasses



# TAITHZY'S TRAVELS



We don't take no for an answer. When our local partner hospital called to say they were canceling Taithzy's surgery due to scheduling conflicts and recommended we send her home to Nicaragua until next year (2022), we said, not so fast. This would have meant another round of delays, not to mention costs of new flights and visa applications. We thought about all the time and effort this would tax all involved, and then did what we do best: brainstormed our way out of the box.

3 phone calls later, Taithzy and her mom were off to Oregon thanks to our friends at Shriner's Medical Center in Portland. Our precocious 9-year-old saw more of the United States and finally received her long-awaited scoliosis surgery. She was discharged in time to return home and celebrate the New Year with her family, standing tall. Equally important, we have expanded our network to include a new city.

Thank you, Portland.



**Taithzy**

9 year old girl from Nicaragua  
Scoliosis - sideways curvature of spine,  
September 2021



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 PARTNERS

Thank you to all of you **who kept believing in us, and supporting us**, in our mission. You helped us push forward, so that our medical volunteers could elevate the standards of care amid virulent obstacles.



## HOSPITALS

Memorial Care Outpatient Surgical Center,  
Long Beach (United States)  
Shriners Children's Portland (United States)  
Manipal Hospital (India)  
Hospital Bautista (Nicaragua)  
Narayana Health (India)  
FOCOS Orthopedic Hospital (Ghana)  
Surigao Health Specialist Clinic (Philippines)  
Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (Tanzania)  
Noor Eye Clinic (Afghanistan)  
Artemis Hospital (India)  
Givi Zhvania Hospital (Georgia)

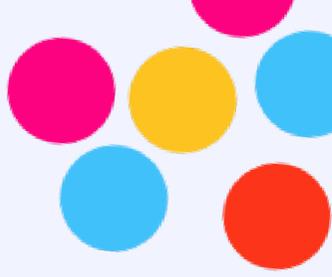
Hospital Roberto Gilbert (Ecuador)  
Bugando Medical Center (Tanzania)  
Bambino Gesù Hospital (Vatican)  
Philippine Heart Center (Philippines)  
Arabkir Medical Center (Armenia)  
Department of Health Service Los Angeles (United States)  
Cento Colorrectal Para Ninos, Hospital Angeles (Mexico)  
Shriners Children's Southern California (United States)  
Babcock University Teaching Hospital (Nigeria)  
Sarvodaya Hospital (India)  
Boston Children's Hospital (United States)  
Wolfson Medical Center (Israel)



## ORGANIZATIONS

Global Health Education Initiative  
Madaktari  
Fresh Start  
Ronald McDonald House  
Mercy Medical Angels  
Ohana One  
Save a Child's Heart  
Medshare  
Operation Smile  
MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's  
Hospital Long Beach

Project Giving Kids  
Bear Givers  
Action for Disadvantaged People (ACDIPE)  
Isla Medical Foundation  
Americares  
Storz  
Clean Water Amabassadors  
Pepperdine University  
MAP International



WITH YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, WE CAN RESTORE FUTURES.

*Together, we are Mending Kids!*

HELP US MEND MORE KIDS



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Mendingkids.org

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