



Quarterly Newsletter



A Word From Our Founder, Dr. William Novick

As we enter the last months of the year at Global Cardiac Alliance, I'm thrilled to share the highlights of our spring & summer trips. Visiting communities and hospitals worldwide, we strengthened partnerships and gained invaluable insights to improve cardiac care.

Looking further into the year, I'm excited about the upcoming training programs and new initiatives that promise to enhance our impact and save more lives.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission.

Together, we are making a real difference.

Best Regards,

Consider your special 'way to give' to Global Cardiac Alliance [here](#).

In this newsletter you can expect:

Introducing GCA

Tiny Hearts
Documentary

'The Story of
Blueberry'

'The Big
Numbers'

Upcoming Trip
Information

'Meet our big -
hearted
volunteers'



Introducing Global Cardiac Alliance

The Novick Cardiac Alliance rebranded as the Global Cardiac Alliance to better reflect our expanded mission and international reach. The new name underscores our commitment to providing cardiac care and education worldwide, aligning our identity with our global impact and partnerships in underserved regions. This change highlights our broader vision of enhancing children's heart health across the globe.

[Insert Dr. No video here]

Read more about our updated changes: [Introducing GCA](#).



Upcoming Holidays

As we look forward to the remainder of the Fall, here are some significant holidays around the world:

- **Breast Cancer Awareness** - October 1 - 31 (USA)
- **Halloween** - October 31 (Ukraine)
- **Diwali** - October 31 (India)
- **Black History Month** - October 1 - 31 (UK & Ireland)
- **Daylight Savings Time Ends** - November 3
- **World Kindness Day** - November 13 (Global)



Become a Volunteer

To become a volunteer for Global Cardiac Alliance:

- Take a look at our upcoming [trip calendar](#).
- Visit our volunteer page and fill out our [contact form](#) if you're interested in attending an upcoming or any future trips.

Jean Towne will get in touch with more information.



***Tiny Hearts* Documentary**

Thank you for your donations!

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we are thrilled to share that we raised over **\$23,000** to bring the vision of *Tiny Hearts* to life. Your support will directly assist with final mixing costs and other essential expenses needed to complete this powerful film, bringing its message of hope and resilience to audiences worldwide.

We couldn't have done this without you. Your commitment to sharing the stories of children with congenital heart disease fuels our mission and moves us one step closer to making a lasting impact in their lives.

Thank you for being part of the *Tiny Hearts* journey. Together, we're making a difference, one heartbeat at a time.

[insert trailer here]

The Story of Blueberry

Basra Oil Company Hospital

Basra

January, 2024

"A couple who had a 33-day-old baby girl came to the hospital anxious for our help. Unaware of the severity of their child's condition, but knowing something wasn't quite right, they were desperate. Upon assessing the baby, we learned their daughter had been born with Transposition of the Great Arteries (TGA). This is a condition where there are two separate circulatory systems of the blood – one between the heart and lungs with oxygenated blood; and the other between the heart and the body with poorly oxygenated blood.



If someone has two circulatory systems, the body is unable to create and distribute oxygenated blood, as we would normally. A healthy person would typically saturate their blood with oxygen at or above 96% on room air.

The lack of oxygen in the blood is what causes a baby to look blue; the medical term is cyanosis. Their fingers, lips, and toes are affected most but. As cyanosis increases, their skin can take on a bluish hue.

This little girl's oxygen saturation was only 20%, and while receiving oxygen via nasal tubes, her saturation crept up to 40%. She became agitated during an ECHO which caused her oxygen levels to fall further ...worsening her bluish appearance.

***"This particular child was such a deep blue,
that we affectionately nicknamed her "Blueberry."***

Blueberry's lack of oxygenation was resulting in a state we call "failure to thrive", which stunts growth, and can result in death. After significant deliberation, conversations were held between numerous doctors and the family. It was clearly communicated to the parents that the surgery was extremely risky, and chances of her surviving were low. The parents were gracious yet understood that her odds of surviving without surgery were obvious. They insisted that we risk it to simply give her a chance. The next day's OR schedule was reorganized to make Blueberry a priority.. In a short procedure, a hole was created in the septum – the wall between the left and right sides of her heart – allowing the deoxygenated and oxygenated blood to mix, increasing her saturations, which would allow her to further develop and grow until she was strong enough for a complete repair in a few months' time.

The day following her procedure, no longer a blueberry, little Assinat was saturating in the 70's on room air –her color had greatly improved! We were all excited and invigorated by her outcome. Her parents were beyond thankful and were appreciative of the life we had given her, and the opportunity for their family to remain whole.

Without our team, the parents would've undoubtedly lost this beautiful baby girl, perhaps in a matter of days."

Rob Sparks, GCA Volunteer



The Big Numbers

As we navigate through 2024, the Global Cardiac Alliance faces significant funding challenges to continue our life-saving missions. Here's a detailed look at our current situation and future projections:

Trip Funding Recap

Kigali, Rwanda (Aug 18-31)

- Overall Costs: \$81,500
- Breakdown: Salaries (\$21,500), Supplies (\$12,000), Airline Tickets (13 @ \$3,000 each, \$39,000), Admin Support (\$9,000 for 2 weeks)

Nairobi, Kenya (Oct 6-19)

- Overall Costs: \$95,700
- Breakdown: Salaries (\$35,700 for 9 staff), Supplies (\$12,000), Airline Tickets (15 @ \$2,600 each, \$39,000), Admin Support (\$9,000 for 2 weeks)

L'viv, Ukraine (Dec 7-21)

- Overall Costs: \$60,100
- Breakdown: Salaries (\$11,500), Supplies (\$8,000), Hotel Expenses (\$4,000), Airline Tickets (\$21,500), Bus In/Out of L'viv (\$1,600), Hotel Overnights in Krakow (\$3,400), Team Lunches (\$1,100)

Administrative Costs

Our monthly administrative support costs \$17,800, covering Jean and Donald but excluding salaries for Martina and myself unless we are traveling. For the remainder of 2024, we require approximately \$150,000 for Q3 and Q4, bringing the total funding needed to around \$400,000 to \$450,000 to complete the year.

Potential New Initiatives

- Libya: Approval for 9 trips totaling \$1.4 million, pending a start date.
- Angola: Potential for 4 trips at \$97,500 each, with supplies and accommodations covered.

Projected Costs for Upcoming Initiatives

- Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Program in Zanzibar, Tanzania
 - 4 Trips (2 weeks each): \$500,000 (75-80 children)
 - 6 Trips (2 weeks each): \$750,000 (110-125 children)

If funding for Angola does not materialize, we would need an additional \$390,000 to provide 4 trips in one year, allowing us to operate on 120-140 children.

Progress Report and Funding Challenges

So far in 2024, we have completed six trips (Libya, Iraq, Egypt, Rwanda, Ukraine) and are currently on our seventh in Lubumbashi. We have operated on 130 children with a hospital and 30-day mortality rate of 7.6%. By the end of the L'viv trip, we anticipate surpassing 150 surgeries in the first six months of 2024.

Our biggest challenge is raising funds for these trips, as inflation has significantly increased the cost of tickets and accommodations. To double our current output, we need to raise \$4,000,000 to \$4,500,000 annually.

We urgently need more donors and corporate sponsors to continue our critical work.





Trips & Events

Travel Recap

In Spring 2024, the Global Cardiac Alliance visited 5 countries while operating on over 85 children. GCA is anticipating 3 or more trips before the end of the summer.

Notable volunteers that attended these trips are listed below:

Kigali, Rwanda, February 25 - March 9, 2024

Volunteers: Anita Parker, Mark Gelatt, Diane Gelpi, Paula Clark, Hannah Stapleton

Cairo, Egypt, March 1-8, 2024

Volunteers: Only internal staff

L'viv, Ukraine, April 3 - 20, 2024

Volunteers: Trevor Richens, Jack Cornell, Oliver Ross, Joanna Thirsk, Iain Macintosh, Ian Mackay, Kristin Newman, Alicia Said, Vaness Gilbertson, Lena Guenebaut, Alex Reynolds, Isaac Lies

Zletin City, Libya, April 14 - May 11, 2024

Volunteers: Alexis Valenciano

Lubumbashi, DRC, May 19 - June 1, 2024

Volunteers: Zeljko Duric, Lindsay Bailer, Rupal Bhakta, Ariel Warren, Katie Amoruso

L'viv, Ukraine, June 15 - 30, 2024

Volunteers: Ali Dodge-Khatami, Andriana Anagnostopoulou, Jack Cornell, Igor Polivenok, Sergey Liauchonak, Isabelle Cambel, Jessica Wendling, Ralph and Valerie Caldin

Kigali, Rwanda, August 18 - 31

Volunteers:

[Insert more trips here]

For more information on becoming a volunteer, fill out the Global Cardiac Alliance site contact form [here](#).

Would you like to sponsor a trip?

Contact the Global Cardiac Alliance office at 1-901-302-9500 to discuss your sponsorship.

Volunteer Spotlight

'Meet our big - hearted volunteers'

Unpaid and unselfish. Brave and gentle. Fearless and phenomenally talented. What does it take to travel with the Global Cardiac Alliance team to the Congo, Iraq, Ukraine...meet the team and find out.

**MEET THE SURGEONS, DOCTORS, SPECIALISTS
AND NURSES WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE.**



Jessica Wendling

Operating Room Nurse, United States

What motivated you to volunteer with the Global Cardiac Alliance?

"I was introduced to the organization by a volunteer perfusionist who lives very close to me. His account of the organization and their work was both fascinating and inspiring. They work hard, but are so supportive of one another and dedicated to a worthy set of ideals and challenges."

What new skills or knowledge have you gained through your volunteer experience?

"The utter ingenuity employed by the group: in-country clinicians, volunteer and faculty GCA clinicians, the governmental adjuncts, the parents and the patients... Everyone making more and better with what others may say is less has been amazing on hundreds of occasions. This positivity is contagious in real time."



Volunteer Spotlight

'Meet our big - hearted volunteers'



Maggie Cavanaugh

PICU Nurse, United States

What motivated you to volunteer with the Global Cardiac Alliance?

"I had heard about GCA, formerly NCA from a few old colleagues and they spoke highly of their experience. I have done volunteering with a few other organizations and was wanting to do more. Volunteering to take care of pediatric cardiac patients is one of the most satisfying and REWARDING things I can do personally and professionally. It fills my heart in a way my paid work just can't do. I love collaborating with other institutions globally, and teaching is usually bidirectional in these places."

How has volunteering with the Global Cardiac Alliance influenced your personal or professional life?

"I would say it has influenced me personally by showing me that on a basic level, wherever you are in the world, people want to care for children, and that includes children who need life saving heart surgery. A mom is a mom anywhere, same with a father. Physicians and nurses want to do the best for their patients all over the world. Some places just pose huge obstacles to cardiac care. At the end of the day, we are the same. We might speak different languages, eat different foods, pray to (or not) to different Gods, but we are more alike than we are different."

Can you describe a specific instance where you felt your contribution was particularly impactful?

I would say my trips to L'viv since the war began have been impactful even more so now to the families and medical teams there. The act of willingly going to a country under siege of war to help sends a message that you are quite serious about the work you do and are willing to take the added risk to help. Children can't help it when they are born with a life threatening condition and where they live struggles to help them.

Volunteer Spotlight

'Meet our big - hearted volunteers'



Alicia Said

PICU Nurse, United States

How would you describe the support and resources provided by the Global Cardiac Alliance to its volunteers and patients?

Unlike other organizations, GCA pays for all transportation and housing during your trip. It makes your volunteering so much easier when you don't have to worry about the logistics and financial considerations.

What is 1 patient story that you have that touched your heart? Where was this trip and when was it?

My favorite patient story is a boy named Dmitry who was a VSD that we repaired in Sept 2022. At the time he was a toddler with a lot of energy and within 3 days after surgery, he was running up and down the hallways, playing hide and seek with the staff, foreign and local. His giggle was infectious and it was so heartwarming to help a Ukrainian family during the war so that they had 1 less thing to worry about in their lives.

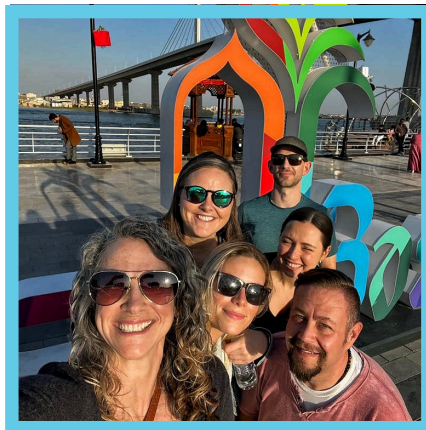
What new skills or knowledge have you gained through your volunteer experience?

Working in the field of pediatric cardiac surgery, you are constantly learning new and alternative ways to medically manage this complex patient population. Going on different trips throughout the last couple of years, I have gained a wealth of knowledge on how to possibly do things better or improve your current practice working alongside other volunteers from different walks of life. You learn from each other and become a better nurse because of the different people you are exposed to. You also learn to appreciate the things that you take for granted in your current job like supplies and medications that are not accessible to everyone. All in all, volunteering with GCA makes you a better person and gives you hope for the future and makes a difference in the lives of children with congenital heart disease.



Volunteer Spotlight

'Meet our big - hearted volunteers'



Rob Sparks

Perfusionist, United States

What do you appreciate most about the volunteer community and culture at Global Cardiac Alliance?

The volunteer community is amazing! It is great to be surrounded by those who are like minded and want to help those otherwise unable to receive the care they so desperately need. Healthcare professionals coming from all corners of the world to learn, teach, and work together is inspiring.

Every volunteer brings their unique experience and expertise with them, along with a personal story of why they are willing to volunteer. The things I appreciate most about the culture of Global Cardiac Alliance are twofold: First, high expectations. As healthcare professionals, we are expected to be at the top of our game and be the best of the best. Those who are dedicated, hardworking, and passionate will find fulfillment and will be rewarded the greatest from volunteering. Second, I have long admired the approach Dr. Novick has taken throughout his career which can be explained by citing a proverb accredited to Lao Tzu; "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." In addition to providing the necessary services, educating, and helping the local staff acquire the skills necessary to perpetuate care has exponentially increased the benefits and efficacy of GCA's presence.

Would you recommend volunteering with the Global Cardiac Alliance to others? Why?

Without question! However, do not misconstrue volunteering as a light duty "vacation". Our priority is to serve those who need our services. Truthfully, days are hard, long, and you will be stretched well beyond your personal limits. You are forced to adapt, compromise, and improvise with things you aren't used to, but you learn how to work together and get things done. As a result, you will grow in unimaginable ways; both personally, and professionally. You will become a better practitioner and person. More importantly, the desire to serve others and love our friends and neighbors around the world will spark and ignite a brand new you. The hosts always ensure we are well cared for, entertained, fed, and kept safe. Experiencing the culture, customs, and food is an amazing part of the experience too! Each trip is a life changing experience in its own unique way and something everyone should do. Each place you serve gives you fond memories and will occupy a very special place in your heart.



Thank you for reading!

Global Cardiac Alliance would like to thank all volunteers, donors, and stakeholders for their consistent support of our organization. We look forward to serving as many countries around the world as possible, providing critical cardiac care and making a lasting impact on countless lives.

For more information on Global Cardiac Alliance or to become a volunteer, contact us:

GLOBAL CARDIAC ALLIANCE	1-901-302-9500
CARDIAC-ALLIANCE.ORG	GLOBAL CARDIAC ALLIANCE INC. 1750 MADISON AVENUE, STE. 500 MEMPHIS, TN 38104

