



Repairing Ethiopian Hearts In India

We now have fourteen patients in India undergoing heart procedures by Dr. Krishna at the AIMS-Amrita Hospital in Cochin, India. We are not fully funded and would greatly appreciate contributions - from small gifts to full sponsorships of \$5,000 per child. Detailed information is available on each patient.

Tax-deductible donations to JDC's Heart and Spine Project can be made via www.Rickhodes.org.

Contact Us: Ethiopianhearts@gmail.com.

Thank you! Rick Hodes, MD and the JDC-Ethiopia Heart and Spine Team



Tadesse is a friendly 18-year-old boy who moved to Addis Ababa to receive medical treatment. He is originally from Gondar, 400 miles northwest of Addis Ababa, where his parents and eight siblings live. His parents are both farmers and until he became sick eight years ago, Tadesse enjoyed helping them on the farm. Due to rheumatic fever, his mitral valve is extremely narrow and the blood pressure in his lungs is too high. This forced him to drop out of school. He is currently working at a hotel in Addis Ababa to support himself while receiving medical treatment, but when he returns from India, he hopes to go back to Gondar to study biology.



Bethlehem is a bright and bubbly 7-year-old girl with 4 older sisters. Her sisters are all successful students and Bethlehem is following in their footsteps. She ranks #1 in her class at school and especially loves English class. When shortness of breath started a year ago, one of our spine surgery patients told her about us. Although she cannot play right now due to her heart, Bethlehem loves soccer and cannot wait until she is strong enough to play again. She has a congenital defect, a patent ductus arteriosus, which will be closed in India.



Enkuhonech is a 16-year-old orphaned girl who lost both parents at an early age. She lives with her older sister, the sole provider for Enkuhonech and her younger brother. She was heartbroken when her illness forced her to drop out of school. A dangerously narrowed mitral heart valve caused weakness and fainting spells, one of which left her with a small scar by her eye as a result of hitting a desk as she fainted. After her heart procedure, she looks forward to returning to school to continue her academic studies and being able to play sports with her friends again. Without our help, her lifespan would measure in months.



Nasir is a hardworking man from Southern Ethiopia who was diagnosed with tight mitral stenosis – rheumatic fever has been narrowing his mitral valve since age 16. Shortness of breath has become progressively worse, making it difficult to farm. When his health deteriorated, his wife left him taking his son and unborn child with her. A niece told him about Dr. Rick and he traveled the long journey to Addis Ababa in order to meet us. After his procedure, Nasir is looking forward to returning to farming, helping his relatives and others in need.



Dera is simply amazing: She graduated from university with a degree in law but has been unable to work for the past few years due to her heart condition. In addition, Dera is totally blind! She lives alone and misses her family who lives in the Oromiya region of Ethiopia. She loves reading the bible and prays for the less fortunate. She was very excited when her neighbor told her about us, and after her procedure, she plans to help other people as much as possible. She has tight mitral stenosis as a result of rheumatic fever.



Tsehay is an environmental science teacher from Sululta, Ethiopia. She is the sole provider for her husband and 7 year old daughter, but due to her weak heart she has been unable to teach recently. She has a dangerously narrowed mitral heart valve from rheumatic fever. It is difficult for Tsehay to be apart from her family while she receives medical care. She especially misses helping her 1st grade daughter with schoolwork. In her spare time Tsehay enjoys reading an assortment of different types of books. Tsehay cannot wait to return to her family and to her work following her procedure.



Meseret is an impressive 21 year old girl from Addis Ababa. She lives with her mom who owns a tiny grocery store. After graduating from college with an accounting degree, Meseret was quickly able to find a job. However, her weak heart made it difficult to climb the stairs to her fourth floor office, forcing her to stop working. After being told her illness was too complicated to be treated locally, a former patient referred her to us. Following her heart procedure, she is excited that she will be able to return to work and put her accounting degree to use.



Birhanu is an optimistic 24 year old fellow. Originally from Gondar, after his parents died, he moved to Addis Ababa to live with foster parents. He is suffering from tight mitral stenosis, a result of rheumatic fever as a child. He is in his final year of college, but due to his heart condition he finds it difficult to make the hour-long journey to his classes. When he is not studying, Birhanu loves gardening. He has an assortment of plants and vegetables in the garden at home.



Sara lives in a small rented house in Harar, Ethiopia with her parents and 10 brothers and sisters. Sara's symptoms started ten years ago and she is getting progressively weaker. She gets tired quickly and faints after physical activity. We diagnosed pulmonic stenosis, severe narrowing of the pulmonary valve. Although Sarah loves to learn, she dropped out of school because her family was unable to afford the school fees. She cannot wait until after the procedure when she will have more energy and can train for a job to help provide for her family.



Dina is a loving 10-year-old girl with one older sister. She enjoys learning and consistently ranks at the top of her class. Dina loves to read and constantly asks for new books. She originally came to us with for a spinal curvature and hand deformity. In preparation for spine surgery, we discovered that she had a heart problem as well, a patent ductus arteriosus. Once corrected, we will be able to send Dina for spine surgery in Ghana. Dina loves to play with dolls and give them an assortment of different hairstyles. She hopes one day she can be a doctor and help kids like herself.



Tsegaw is a 12-year-old boy with an amazing sense of humor. He lives with his parents and 18-year-old brother in Addis Ababa. His dad is a driver and his mother is a tailor. Shortness of breath began a year ago and relatives told them about our work. We diagnosed life-threatening mitral stenosis. He is in grade 5 and likes school so much that he is unable to pick a favorite subject. Tsegaw loved to play soccer. Now, he's excited, and cannot wait until he is able to play soccer again.



Abraham is an 18-year-old boy from Wello, over 100 miles north of Addis Ababa. For years, Abraham tired easily and was teased by kids for being weak. The 11 mile journey to and from school each day was especially arduous for him and he often had to miss classes when he was too weak to make it. After fainting during an exam, he traveled to Addis Ababa. He was misdiagnosed and given the wrong medicine, which could have been fatal. A nurse spotted the error, and another patient advised him to visit Dr. Rick. Rick diagnosed a very narrow pulmonary heart valve. He is the only child in his family and wants to return to his mother when he is stronger to help her with his logging business.



Tarik is a 27 year old woman who graduated from Gondar University. After becoming orphaned, she and her brother moved in with her aunt. Tarik has had progressive weakness and shortness of breath for over 10 years, forcing her to quit her job as a laboratory tech. When she first arrived at the public hospital in Addis Ababa, she was worried because she would be unable to afford expensive treatment. Another patient told her about us. After her procedure, she is excited to reunite with her family and begin working again. Her mitral valve is so dangerously narrowed – less than .5 cm² - that her lifespan would be in months.



Meklit is a 3-year-old girl – always smiling! A kindergarten student, she's a very quick learner, and very popular. Born premature, she had a constant cough that had worried her mom. A doctor diagnosed a congenital heart condition called PDA – patent ductus arteriosus. She is an only child and her widowed mother fears losing her. With a heart procedure, Meklit will be able to continue her learning as well as play on the swings and start pre-school.

