

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-4900
(916) 445-6577
DISTRICT OFFICE
15 15 CLAY STREET, SUITE #2202
OAKLAND, CA 94612
(510) 286-1333

California State Senate

SENATOR
DON PERATA
NINTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



ELECTIONS &
REAPPORTIONMENT, CHAIR
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INSURANCE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
TRANSPORTATION
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
BAY AREA TRANSPORTATION,
CHAIR

October 28, 2002

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
10100 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 1000
Los Angeles, CA 90067-4011

Dear Sir or Madam:

With my highest recommendation, I would like to nominate Heart to Heart International Children's Alliance for the Hilton Humanitarian Prize.

Worldwide, ninety percent of people with heart disease go without appropriate treatment. Seventeen million people die each year from some form of treatable heart disease, exceeding the number of deaths due to communicable disease.

In response to these overwhelming numbers, three dedicated professionals founded Heart to Heart International. Along with a growing number of exceptional medical specialists and talented administrators, Heart to Heart has successfully addressed the problem of untreated pediatric heart disease in St. Petersburg, Russia. Since the organization was founded in 1989, three thousand children have been successfully treated and are alive today.

It is no wonder that Heart to Heart has elicited hands-on involvement from a growing number of medical professionals, volunteers, and contributors. I am proud each time I read a Heart to Heart newsletter. Every year, more children's lives are saved, additional Russian cardiac specialists are trained, and generous donations allow for the purchase of additional diagnostic machines and equipment.

Heart to Heart hopes to establish self-sustaining heart care programs throughout Russia. With the help of the Hilton Humanitarian Award, they would move one step closer to achieving their goal. Thank you for your consideration of this truly remarkable organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Perata".

DON PERATA

