

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**U.S. DOCTORS MARK 53rd TRIP TO RUSSIA TO SAVE CHILDREN
WITH HEART DISEASE**

**Leading Pediatric Cardiac Surgeons Launch New Site in Rostov-on-the-Don,
Make Final Educational Training Mission to Samara**

OAKLAND, CA – October 6, 2009 – Each year worldwide 1.3 million children are born with congenital heart disease: only 10-15% have access to modern heart care. For 20 years, Heart to Heart, a non-profit organization, has been leading teams of American volunteer heart specialists to save the lives of babies with congenital heart disease in the Soviet Union and the new Russia. Today Heart to Heart announced that 12 pediatric cardiac specialists and medical interpreters, including three doctors from the Bay Area, will depart on the team's 53rd mission on October 19, 2009.

This trip will launch Heart to Heart's fourth site located in Rostov-on-the-Don, near the Black and Caspian Seas. Here Heart to Heart, in cooperation with the district's local Ministry of Public Health and the Regional Governor, will begin to develop the area's first pediatric cardiac care center serving a region of 21 million people.

The volunteer medical team consists of 12 American pediatric cardiac specialists from UCSF, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Emory University Medical School, Mayo Clinic, and several medical interpreters from around the country. The team plans to perform and demonstrate diagnostic techniques, surgeries, and post-operative care, as well as provide strategic guidance to establish the program over the next five-seven years.

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At its sponsored sites in Russia, Heart to Heart (based in Oakland, CA) already has saved the lives of more than 8,000 children who would otherwise have died in infancy or lived short, painful lives. The forthcoming mission also marks the organization's seventh and final trip to Samara -- the site of a now fully self-sustaining state-of-the art infant cardiac care program.

“The surgical outcomes for Samara are comparable to any fine U.S. pediatric cardiac program,” said Dr. Mark Cocalis, pediatric cardiologist at UCSF Medical Center. “Our colleagues in Samara are now participating in national and international conferences and most importantly, parents throughout Russia are confident that their children at last will receive modern, compassionate heart care in their country's heartland.”

Media Availability:

Available for interview from October 5 -16th:

- Dr. David Teitel, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology and Medical Director and Drs. Mark Cocalis and Michael Brook, pediatric cardiologists, at UCSF Pediatric Heart Center.
- Heart to Heart Executive Director, Josie Everett.

About Heart to Heart

Since 1989, Bay Area-based Heart to Heart (www.heart-2-heart.org) has saved the lives of more than 8,000 children at its sponsored sites in Russia by providing compassionate, competent heart care. With a network of hundreds of medical volunteers from some of the most prestigious hospitals in the U.S., Heart to Heart's team has made more than 50 surgical-educational missions to train pediatric cardiac specialists in the USSR and the new Russia.

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U.S. DOCTORS TRAVEL TO RUSSIA TO SAVE CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE

Leading Pediatric Cardiac Surgeons Make Educational Training Mission to Samara

OAKLAND, CA – October 2, 2008 – Each year worldwide, 1.5 million children are born with congenital heart disease, but only about 10-15% have access to modern heart care. Heart to Heart, a non-profit organization leading teams of American heart specialists to save the lives of babies born with heart disease in the Soviet Union and the new Russia, today announced four cardiac specialists from around the country will depart on the team's 51st mission on October 5, 2008.

Heart to Heart has been bridging the gap between the U.S. and Russia for 20 years through the common goal of saving children's lives. The group, founded by Northern California's Dr. Nilas Young and several colleagues, has already saved more than 6,000 children dying of heart disease in Russia. The upcoming mission to one of Russia's more important, but lesser known cities, Samara, will include performing five to ten infant cardiac surgeries involving leading pediatric cardiac specialists in the United States.

Beginning in St. Petersburg in 1989, Heart to Heart has created self-sustaining, state-of-the art programs in infant cardiac care. In 2002, the organization expanded its scope into Russia's heartland with the goal of giving every child access to the miracle of modern heart care.

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“Every minute of every day, two children are born somewhere in the world with congenital heart disease. And while this is almost completely curable, nearly 90% of the world’s children have no access to life-saving modern heart care,” said Dr. Gary Raff, Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon, UC Davis Medical Center and lead surgeon for Heart to Heart’s Samara program. “Heart to Heart’s success comes from teaching the fundamentals that are used by our colleagues after we have departed. The local talent and commitment of the heart hospitals contributes to the success of this unique collaboration that has transcended generations, political climates and world events.”

The traveling volunteer team includes: Mark Cocalis, MD, Pediatric Cardiologist, UCSF Medical Center; Laura Diaz, MD, Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesiologist, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Gary W. Raff, MD, Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon, UC Davis Medical Center; Josie Everett, Executive Director & Chief Operating Room Interpreter, Heart to Heart and Natasha Lusin, Ph D, Operating Room Interpreter, Heart to Heart Volunteer.

Media Availability:

Dr. Gary Raff and Heart to Heart Executive Director, Josie Everett, are available for interview and photos Thursday – Saturday October 2 – 4, 2008 and prior to noon departure on Sunday, October 5th from SFO. Call 510-282-4383 to arrange.

About Heart to Heart

Since 1989, Bay Area-based Heart to Heart (www.heart-2-heart.org) has saved the lives of more than 6,000 children by providing compassionate, competent heart care at sponsored sites throughout the Russian Federation. With a network of hundreds of medical volunteers from some of the most prestigious hospitals in the U.S., Heart to Heart’s team has made over 50 surgical-educational missions to train pediatric cardiac specialists in the USSR and the new Russia.

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DOCTORS HONOR COLLEAGUES FOR 20 YEARS OF SAVING RUSSIAN CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE

Leading Pediatric Cardiac Surgeons from Russia and U.S. Commemorate Anniversary of Surgical-Educational Missions by Bay Area's Heart to Heart

OAKLAND, Calif. – February 5, 2009 – Each year worldwide, 1.3 million children are born with congenital heart disease, but only about 10-15% have access to modern heart care. Heart to Heart, a non-profit organization leading teams of American heart specialists to save the lives of babies born with heart disease in the Soviet Union and the new Russia, will celebrate 20 years of bridging the gap between the U.S. and Russia through the common goal of saving children's lives.

On Saturday, February 14, 2009 the organization will host its medical volunteers, contributors and Russian colleagues to honor them for outstanding commitment to the program, which has saved the lives of more than 7,000 children dying of heart disease in Russia.

In 1989, after performing a pro bono surgery on a young Russian girl visiting Children's Hospital in Oakland, Dr. Nilas Young launched Heart to Heart in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) to create self-sustaining, state-of-the-art programs in infant cardiac care. In 2002, Heart to Heart expanded its scope into Russia's heartland with the goal of giving every child access to the miracle of modern heart care.

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On Valentine's Day, Heart to Heart will host and honor its American and Russian colleagues at a gala celebration, "In XXaltation of Miracles," at the Claremont Resort and Spa in Berkeley. Eleven of the program's volunteers will be honored for distinguished service to Heart to Heart, including:

- **Gary Raff, MD:** Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeon, UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, CA
- **Frank Cetta, MD:** Division Chair of Pediatric Cardiology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
- **Hersh Saluja:** CEO, E2 Consulting, Emeryville, CA
- **Michael Osborne:** Artist & Designer, Michael Osborne Design, San Francisco, CA
- **Rose Glickman, PhD:** Retired professor & author, Berkeley, CA
- **Michelle Hastings, RN:** Retired Pediatric Nurse, Children's Hospital Oakland, Oakland, CA
- **Natasha Lusin PhD:** Assistant Director of Research, Modern Language Association, NY, NY
- **Elena Senotova:** Interpreter, St. Petersburg, Russia
- **Svetlana Kuzmina-Krutetskaia, MD, PhD:** Director of Cardiology, Medical Academy of Post Graduate Studies (MAPS), St. Petersburg, Russia
- **Vadim Lubomudrov, MD, PhD:** Chief , Pediatric Cardiac Surgery, Children's Hospital No. 1, St. Petersburg, Russia
- **Professor Alexandr Zorin, MD, PhD:** Chief, Cardiac Surgery, Adult Hospital No. 2, St. Petersburg, Russia

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“Heart to Heart’s success comes from teaching the fundamentals used by our colleagues after we have returned home to the U.S.,” said Dr. Nilas Young, Founder and Medical Director, Heart to Heart and Chief of Cardiac Surgery at UC Davis Medical Center. “The local talent and commitment of the heart hospitals contributes to the success of this unique collaboration to transcend generations, political climates and world events. We are honored and grateful to our colleagues and volunteers for their commitment to the success of the program. We look forward to the next 20 years of saving children’s lives in Russia and throughout the world.”

Special guest and award recipient, Elena Senotova, will travel from St. Petersburg, Russia with her daughter Maria – Heart to Heart’s first patient treated at Children’s Hospital Oakland in 1989 – to attend the event. Elena shares her story of traveling from St. Petersburg to Moscow every year for seven years, seeking medical treatment for Maria’s life-threatening congenital heart defect. Each year, her daughter was rejected for surgery in the USSR, compelling her to seek help from an American, Jo Ann McGowan, while McGowan was traveling in the Soviet Union on a business trip. Returning to Northern California, Jo Ann enlisted Dr. Young and his colleagues at Children’s Hospital of Oakland to perform the medical procedures pro bono.

Upon returning to Russia after her daughter was given a second chance at life, Elena helped Heart to Heart build rapport with its Russian colleagues to coordinate the examination of children in Heart to Heart’s early days in Leningrad. Elena became an inspiration and a beacon of hope to hundreds of other mothers across the Soviet Union.

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Heart to Heart 20th Anniversary

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Commending Heart to Heart for 20 years' of service, James L. Cox, President & CEO of the World Heart Foundation said, "In my opinion, no other organization has been as successful as Heart to Heart in the delivery of cardiac surgery to needy children in the world and it is now the model that all other such organizations emulate. I send my congratulations to all of you on your monumental contributions to the unfortunate. Your efforts and accomplishments are ones to be admired and applauded by the entire world."

About Heart to Heart

Since 1989, San Francisco Bay Area-based Heart to Heart (www.heart-2-heart.org) has saved the lives of more than 7,000 children by providing compassionate, competent heart care at sponsored sites throughout the Russian Federation. With a network of hundreds of medical volunteers from some of the most prestigious hospitals in the U.S., Heart to Heart's team has made over 50 surgical-educational missions to train pediatric cardiac specialists in the USSR and the new Russia.