



Heart to Heart Global Cardiac Care

Measurably Expanding Access Since 1989

SITE: NATIONAL HOSPITAL
LOCATION: ASUNCION, PARAGUAY

APRIL 04-13 2019
EXPLORATORY SURGICAL-
EDUCATIONAL MISSION



THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Celestino is remarkably strong and fit, particularly for his age. He learned to farm as a boy and has cultivated land his entire life. His family owns an orchard where they grow corn, mandioca (similar to yucca), and poroto (a common bean). Celestino understands Spanish, but his native language is Guarani, an indigenous language common in Paraguay, Bolivia, Argentina, and Brazil. The government of Paraguay recognized Guarani as an official national language in 1992; since then it has been taught in all elementary schools across the country.

MEDICAL HISTORY

To conduct our interview with Celestino, we work with his daughter, Vivianna, who interprets his statements from Guarani to Spanish for us. Valvular heart disease runs in Celestino's family. His father died from it, as did his brother at the age of 42, due to a lack of access to cardiac surgery. Celestino began feeling symptoms around six or seven years ago when he began to tire more easily. Last year, his shortness of breath became problematic. Accustomed to working from sunrise to sunset, his condition forced him to reduce his efforts considerably, ending his workday by noon. Celestino tells us he is happy that his heart surgery will be performed by the joint Heart to Heart-Paraguay team.

CURRENT CONDITION

On April 10, 2019, he successfully underwent open heart surgery to replace both his mitral and aortic valves with bioprosthetic valves donated by Edwards Lifesciences in partnership with Americares. After a short stay in the intensive care unit, Celestino returned home to his family and his orchard. His symptoms should diminish, and his strength should return now that his heart valves are functioning well. Heart to Heart is confident that Emiliano will now get to spend many years with his family, and doing what he loves, working outside, farming, and being close to the land.

PATIENT PROFILE

Name	Celestino C.
Age	64 years old
DOB	May 19, 1955
Home	Luque, Paraguay
Diagnosis	Aortic valve insufficiency, mitral valve insufficiency
Surgical procedure	Aortic and mitral valve replacements April 10, 2019
Discharged from hospital	May 2, 2019

Based on an interview conducted by Josie Everett, Heart to Heart staff, with the aid of a volunteer interpreter.