



# Heart to Heart Global Cardiac Care

IN COLLABORATION WITH:  
SAENZ NAT'L CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
MAYO CLINIC, ROCHESTER, MN

*Measurably Expanding Access Since 1989*

SURGERY: APRIL 2022  
CONGENITAL DEFECT: TOF  
HOMETOWN: ASERRI, COSTA RICA



## PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Juan Pablo L.
Age	7 years old
DOB	January 12, 2015
Home	Aserri, Costa Rica
Parent	Mariana
Diagnosis	Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF); s/p RV-PA conduit, VSD closure (2015, Costa Rica); conduit replacement and LPA plasty (2015, Costa Rica); bilateral PA stent implantation (2017, Costa Rica)
Open heart surgery	RV-PA conduit replacement, branch pulmonary arterioplasty (April 6, 2022, Mayo Clinic)
Discharged from PCICU	April 10, 2022

*Based on an interview conducted in Spanish by Lucie Everett, Heart to Heart staff.*

## HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY

Juan Pablo lives in the city of Aserri, about half an hour from the country's capital San Jose, with his mother, Mariana, and his older brother, Santiago. The three of them live near Mariana's siblings and parents – the extended family is very tight-knit. Mariana runs her own business, a home-based bakery. She bakes specialty cakes, desserts, and treats for birthdays, graduations, and other milestones. She advertises on social media and, with her earnings, is able to support herself and her two sons.

## CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

When Mariana was six months pregnant with Juan Pablo, doctors informed her that her baby would be born with a heart defect. At birth, he was diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF), and underwent surgical repair in Costa Rica at three months of age. Since that time, he has undergone two additional interventions to improve blood flow from his heart to his lungs. As Juan Pablo grew, the stents which had been implanted into his pulmonary arteries were no longer large enough to hold open his growing vessels. He needed bigger stents and a new, larger conduit (tube) to connect his heart's right ventricle to his pulmonary artery.

When Heart to Heart medical volunteers first learned of Juan Pablo's condition in November 2021 during our cardiac training mission to Saenz National Children's Hospital, Saenz specialists readily agreed to submit his case to the Mayo Clinic's International Charity Program.

In early 2022, Juan Pablo was accepted for pro bono heart surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Thanks to Heart to Heart's longstanding partnership with Mayo, Saenz's lead pediatric cardiac surgeon, Margarita Camacho, was able to travel with Juan Pablo and his mother to observe the Mayo team operate on him.

## CURRENT CONDITION

On April 6, 2022, Juan Pablo underwent open heart surgery at the Mayo Clinic. His surgery was successful and, despite some bumps along the way, he was able to fly home to Costa Rica just over one week later. Upon his return, Juan Pablo was examined by his pediatric cardiologist, Rafael Gutierrez, who will continue to monitor Juan Pablo's heart condition on a regular basis. Like many patients who have undergone valve procedures, Juan Pablo may eventually require additional valve repair or replacement. Many such interventions are now performed via minimally invasive procedures: patients who undergo these types of catheter-based procedures generally enjoy a quicker postoperative recovery than those who undergo open heart operations.