



# 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

Adolfo, our first surgical patient in Paraguay, and his wife Sandra live in the center of Asuncion, the capital. He has lived in there his whole life. Adolfo has four grown children and one grandchild. He proudly tells us a little bit about each one of them.

Adolfo is warm and outgoing, and his English is fluent enough to communicate directly with our lead surgeon, Dr. Nilas Young, to discuss his heart condition and the recommended valve replacements. Adolfo shares his personal story as Sandra sits close by – clearly concerned about him. Their love for each other is palpable to all in the room from the tenderness they extend to one another. Naturally, Sandra is pleased that Adolfo will receive the new valves he desperately needs, but she cannot help feeling fearful of losing him, even though she has heard that his surgery is relatively low risk.

## PATIENT PROFILE

Name	Adolfo G.
Age	62 years old
DOB	March 18, 1957
Home	Asuncion
Diagnosis	Mitral regurgitation and aortic valve insufficiency
Surgical procedure	Aortic and mitral valve replacement April 8, 2019
Discharged from ICU	April 10, 2019

## MEDICAL HISTORY

As a young man, Adolfo was informed that he had a heart murmur. But last year, a cardiologist informed him that his “little murmur” had become a “giant murmur” and referred him to one of Paraguay’s leading cardiac specialists, Adrian Ebner, MD for a diagnostic catheterization. Test results indicated that Adolfo’s aortic and mitral valves were becoming increasingly dysfunctional and needed to be replaced. Adolfo sings the praises of Dr. Ebner, who is known for “his aid to the poor.” Adolfo, speaking in English, tells us, “Dr. Ebner is a doctor for the people, not a doctor for money.” As Dr. Young explains the advantages of bioprosthetic valves in this case, Adolfo profoundly thanks us and says, “This is like a miracle for me.”

## CURRENT CONDITION

On Monday, April 8, 2019, the joint Heart to Heart-Paraguay team performed open heart surgery on Adolfo. His aortic and mitral valves were replaced with bioprosthetic valves. Adolfo’s life was saved thanks to our collaboration with Paraguayan cardiac specialists, Edwards Lifesciences, and Americares.

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