



2020 YEAR-END REPORT

Year of Courage





Daniella from Ghana was treated in 2020. She celebrated her fourth birthday in the Children's Home.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year was unlike any other. In the face of a new reality, we gathered strength from our community of medical professionals, supporters, children, and families around the world. We remained steadfast in bringing children to Israel for life-saving heart procedures and screenings, welcoming more than 300 through our doors from Morocco, Zambia, Iraq, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Senegal, the Ivory Coast, Gambia, the Palestinian Authority and Gaza.

Despite the challenges, we are keeping our promise that as long as children with rheumatic and congenital heart disease around the world continue to suffer without access to care, we will treat them, train medical professionals and raise the level of pediatric heart care worldwide.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Simon".

Simon Fisher, Advocate
Executive Director, Save a Child's Heart

OUR IMPACT



To date, **5703** children have been treated. **349 children** were **treated in 2020**.



To date, **more than 10,000** children and former patients have been screened. **809 children** and former patients were **screened in 2020**.



To date, we've **reached 62 countries**, including **11 countries in 2020**.



To date, we've **trained 136 medical professionals** from **17 countries** around the world. In 2020, **13 medical professionals** from **5 countries** participated in our training program at the Wolfson Medical Center.



To date, we've **embarked on 111** screening, medical, and training **missions abroad**, including **2 in 2020**.

- 17 treated on Catheterization Mission Tanzania 2020
- 395 screened on Mission Zanzibar 2020



This year, our partners in Romania and in Ethiopia treated **61** children with financial support from SACH; **40** were treated in Romania and **21** were treated in Ethiopia.



In 2020, SACH-trained medical teams treated **291** children: **126** surgeries and **86** catheterization procedures took place in Tanzania, **40** children were treated in Romania, and **39** in Ethiopia.



Dr. Lior Sasson and Nurse Irena Nosal, Director of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery and Head Nurse in the Pediatric ICU at the Wolfson Medical Center

2020 WAS DIFFERENT.

This year, 349 children suffering from life-threatening heart disease were treated, 13 international medical personnel trained with the SACH team in all aspects of pediatric cardiac care so that they can return home and better serve the needs of their own populations and we also embarked on two international medical missions, during which 17 children were treated and 442 were screened in Tanzania and Zanzibar!

This year also brought the unique challenge of the COVID-19 global health crisis and simultaneous international border closures. In the face of this new reality, we promised that as soon as flights resumed we'd be here to welcome children again. In May, we resumed activities, first bringing children from the Palestinian Authority and Gaza and then welcoming our first international group from Ethiopia, followed by another from Zambia. In November, we treated our 5,555th child, and in December, treated our 300th child this year. Our efforts wouldn't have been possible without our hard-working team in Israel and the ongoing support provided by our generous donors and friends. Thank you to those who stayed committed to our mission during these unprecedented times.

LIFE-SAVING HEART PROCEDURES BY COUNTRY IN 2020

Country	Total
Ethiopia	54
Gambia	1
Ghana	1
Iraq	3
Ivory Coast	5
Morocco	1
PA/Gaza	181
Romania	41
Senegal	1
Tanzania and Zanzibar	54
Zambia	7
TOTAL	349

[illegible]

MAHMAD, THE 5555TH CHILD



Mahmad at the Wolfson Medical Center



I was sure that my son was sick, that if he had access to the right treatment he could be healed.

- Mahmad's mother

At just two weeks old Mahmad was brought to the hospital in Gaza, breathless and failing to gain weight. His mother was understandably worried, and when told that Mahmad's case didn't require intervention, she insisted otherwise:

Thankfully, the family was made aware of Save a Child's Heart by Dr. Abdelrahim Azab, a pediatric cardiologist in Gaza and partner of Save a Child's Heart. At 5 months old, Mahmad was referred to SACH and was brought to Wolfson Medical Center where he underwent surgical intervention that saved his life. At the time the family knew that he might have to return for a follow up procedure. Although hospitalization can be difficult on children and families, Mahmad's mother was mostly relieved that a treatment plan was finally in place:



I felt so powerless before. I knew that I had to be an advocate for my son, and I was empowered by how important it was to give him the best life possible. That is one of the many reasons I am so grateful to Save a Child's Heart - they fought for my

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son's life as hard as I did. We ourselves were dependent on others for their expertise, and for their financial support as my husband is unemployed. Save a Child's Heart gave us everything we needed. They are like family to me.

Back home, Mahmad has two brothers and one sister. His family is also expecting another child: "Mahmad's treatment has brought great joy and relief to my family. When a child is sick it is not just the child who suffers. "We are now able to live our life as one family with the comfort of knowing that our son will be able to grow up like other children."



Mahmad post-op at the Wolfson Medical Center

Dr. Sagi Assa, Head of the Interventional Pediatric Cardiology Unit at Wolfson Hospital who performed Mahmad's life-saving cardiac catheterization procedure together with his team, acknowledged that children like Mahmad represent the best of what we do:



Save a Child's Heart is a global family and of course, we feel deeply connected to our closest neighbors. Being able to watch our Palestinian patients grow up before our eyes, like Mahmad, brings immeasurable joy and meaning to my life.

Mahmad's life-saving journey was covered by THE JERUSALEM POST and in an ILTV interview with Dr. Assa. You can watch it [here](#).

YOUSSEF'S COURAGEOUS JOURNEY



Youssef at the SACH Children's Home

Youssef's story is the story of an 8-year-old boy with Down syndrome from Morocco, who embarked on an incredible international journey with his sister Fatima in 2020 for life-saving heart surgery. Along the way, they faced unexpected and extraordinary challenges. Through it all, they made it to Israel and back home with the help of people ranging from friends to strangers located in places from Morocco to Israel and Turkey, speaking Hebrew, English, Moroccan, Arabic, Turkish, and French, and spanned Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths.

Youssef was born in Casablanca with congenital heart disease, a condition common to children with Down syndrome. But his family had no access to or money for heart surgery. One day, the family met a woman who had a friend living in Israel, Evelyn Shriki, a Moroccan Israeli living in Haifa. Evelyn knew about Save a Child's Heart through her friend Uri Kertes, a SACH board member. Together, they connected Youssef's family to SACH, which decided to bring him to Wolfson Medical Center for surgery. In February 2020, Youssef traveled to Israel for surgery with his older sister Fatima accompanying him as his guardian. In March 2020, he underwent open-heart surgery. The surgery was successful, saving his life.

Around the same time as Youssef's surgery, COVID-19 was sweeping the globe. Countries, including Israel, began closing their borders to keep out the virus. Suddenly Youssef was stuck in Israel indefinitely. As the weeks stretched into months, a Christian organization in Jerusalem,

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Shevet Achim, offered to house and feed Fatima and Youssef and show them around the city. Every time SACH tried to arrange a flight to Morocco, it was canceled.

Finally, SACH was able to book a Turkish Airlines flight to Morocco, connecting through Istanbul, departing August 20, 2020, from Ben Gurion Airport. SACH knew that Youssef and his sister would need COVID-19 test results, so they were taken for nasal swab tests the day before the flight. After six months, it looked like Youssef and his sister would finally be able to go home. Youssef and Fatima made it to Istanbul in time for the connecting flight home but were stopped at the gate to the flight. Morocco had imposed additional requirements on people entering the country, and they needed a blood-based COVID test to board. Fatima and Youssef did not have blood-based test results. As they struggled to understand what was happening, the airport authorities told them to go into Istanbul to find a place that did blood-based testing and return with the results.

Fatima and Youssef sat down sadly in the lost-and-found in the baggage claim area. They had no working telephone and could not speak Turkish or English. They had not eaten in hours and had almost no cash. SACH knew that Fatima and Youssef had not boarded their flight, but had no idea what had happened. A team of people started making calls to contacts in Istanbul, from the airport to police and rescue teams. Hours went by.

Meanwhile, in the airport, Fatima was buying a SIM card for her phone. Within seconds she was able to connect with SACH via WhatsApp. On the other end of the line, Simon Fisher and Tamar Shapira brought Evelyn Shriki into the call, as well as Orna Kahane, a SACH travel agent. With the help of Evelyn translating what the siblings were saying from Arabic to SACH representatives who were prepared to speak in English to people in Istanbul, Fatima began walking throughout Istanbul's massive airport, trying to find a Turkish Airline information desk.

Finally, at the information desk, the team learned that the next flight to Casablanca was not until Sunday, three days away. The desk clerk pointed the siblings in the direction of the testing area of the airport, so they began looking for the testing center. Fatima knew she would have to pay for the tests, but would first have to change her money to Turkish money. At the currency exchange booth, it became clear that Fatima would come up \$5 short of what she needed to obtain the tests, and the testing center did not accept credit cards. The siblings seemed to be at an impasse.

At some point, Fatima gave her phone to the cashier and the team tried to explain the situation. Orna Kahane, the Save a Child's Heart travel agent, begged the cashier to disregard the missing \$5. The cashier said she would give Fatima \$5 of her own money to pay for the tests.

Fatima then began walking to the testing center at the airport, only to arrive and discover that the COVID tests done at the airport were not blood tests. The siblings were dismayed and overwhelmed after learning that they would most definitely have to go into the city to get a COVID blood test. Returning to Israel was not an option. The team on the line scrambled to find a hotel as Fatima and Youssef wandered the airport. Suddenly, a young Turkish man stopped the siblings and asked them if they needed help. He said his name was Tayfun. Fatima handed the phone to Tayfun, who told SACH his uncle had a travel agency in the airport and

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wanted to help. As Tayfun sent pictures of the travel agency and a business card, the team was still a little unsure about everything.

What Tayfun said next convinced them to trust him. He said his nephew had Down syndrome, and that he had a soft spot in his heart for children with this condition. This was the reason he spoke to Fatima and Youssef in the first place. By this time, the team knew they could trust Tayfun. They had been on the phone with Fatima and Youssef for a total of three hours. SACH asked Tayfun for an official quote. By WhatsApp, he texted them a hand-written quote for airport transfers, transportation to get a COVID blood test, and hotel and meals for Youssef and Fatima for three days. The team agreed. Tayfun took the siblings to the hotel, gave them three meals a day, and took them to do the COVID-tests.

Every hour, SACH representatives and Evelyn Shriki stayed in touch with Fatima and Youssef, making sure that the two were safe and taken care of. Fatima kept sending messages and pictures of the hotel, the restaurants, etc, very excited about everything. On Sunday morning, Tayfun took the siblings to the airport and made sure they boarded the flight to Casablanca.



The day after their arrival in Casablanca, Fatima sent us a picture of Youssef with his mother and father, in their home, sitting and smiling.

MEDICAL TRAINING PROGRAM



Dr. Abebe (R), Dr. Ziwa (C back), Dr. Loth and Dr. Sherman (C) transferring a patient post-op to the Pediatric ICU.

Count	Name	Specialty	Country	Began Training
1	Dr. Tolesa Waktola Gemechu	Anesthesia	Ethiopia	Nov 2015
2	Dr. Fitsum Argaw Abebe	Surgery	Ethiopia	Oct 2020
3	Dr. Yared Agidew Awano	Surgery	Ethiopia	May 2018
4	Dr. Mervat Al-Faraha	Anesthesia	PA/Gaza	Oct 2020
5	Dr. Muid Hamad	Anesthesia	PA/Gaza	April 2015
6	Dr. Yasmin Dawwas	General Surgery	PA/Gaza	Nov 2018
7	Dr. Adas Abd Elkareem	Surgery	PA/Gaza	Mar 2012
8	Dr. Ahmed Zarour	Surgery	PA/Gaza	Jan 2013
9	Dr. Abdullah Abu Zant	Radiology	PA/Gaza	Nov 2020
10	Dr. Alex Loth Ernest	Anesthesia	Tanzania	March 2019
11	Dr. Stella Mihayo Mongello	Cardiology	Tanzania	February 2019
12	Dr. Vivienne Mlawi	PICU	Tanzania	January 2019
13	Mudaniso Kunani Ziwa	Surgery	Zambia	Dec 2018

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In 2020, 13 medical professionals from Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia, the Palestinian Authority and Gaza participated in our medical training program at the Wolfson Medical Center. Two new medical professionals joined the program: Dr. Fitsum Argaw Abebe, training in pediatric cardiac surgery from Ethiopia, and Dr. Mervat Al-Faraha from the Palestinian Authority began training in Anesthesia. Dr. Abu Zant, a Palestinian physician, re-joined the program to continue his training in radiology and cardiac MRI.

Following a two-year fellowship in pediatric cardiology, Dr. Stella Mongella has returned to Tanzania to support the SACH-trained team at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute. She is joined by Dr. Vivienne Mlawi who also completed her three-year fellowship as an intensivist in the Pediatric ICU at the Wolfson Medical Center.



Front (L-R): Dr. Ahmed Zarour, Dr. Vivienne Mlawi, Dr. Mudaniso Kunani Ziwa, Dr. Yasmin Dawwas, Dr. Stella Mihayo Mongello. Back (L-R): Dr. Fitsum Argaw Abebe and Dr. Tolesa Waktola Gemechu

Dr. STELLA MONGELLA FINISHES HER TRAINING



Dr. Stella Mongella in the Catheterization Laboratory on Mission Tanzania 2020



My inspiration is very basic. It's frankly the need. The children in Tanzania really need good pediatric care. We have a lot of babies who need quality care and we have so few pediatric cardiologists. The need has really been my motivation to be able to train well and go back home and serve Tanzanian children.

- Dr. Stella Mongella, Tanzania
SACH trainee in Interventional Pediatric Cardiology

Tanzania has about 50 million people, and the birth rate is about 2 million per year. The incidence of children being born with heart diseases at 0.8%, so about 16,000 babies across Tanzania are born with heart conditions per year. All these children and more rely on the sole cardiac hospital in Tanzania, the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) in Dar es Salaam, for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.

Following two years of training in Israel, Dr. Stella Mongella returned to Tanzania in mid-December to begin working side-by-side with the local team at JKCI, with 11 other medical professionals trained by SACH, including the country's first pediatric cardiac surgeon (her husband)! "We think like our mentors," Dr. Mongella says. "We know they are just a phone call away."

MEDICAL MISSIONS

Save a Child's Heart embarked on two medical missions abroad this year. Unfortunately, the advent of COVID-19 made international travel impossible for the remainder of the year. We look forward to commencing mission activities in 2021.



The medical team with the children saved during Mission Tanzania 2020

MISSION TANZANIA

Our first mission of 2020 was a Cardiac Catheterization Mission at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania from Saturday, January 18th, 2020, to Wednesday, January 22nd, 2020. This was a joint Canadian-Israeli-German- Tanzanian effort to save children's lives. This mission was supported by SACH Canada.



We're very grateful for the collaboration between Save a Child's Heart Israel, Wolfson Medical Center, and the German Heart Institute in Berlin. And we also thank SACH Canada for their support of the project in Tanzania.

- Professor Mohammed Janabi,
Executive Director of the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute

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Representatives from SACH Canada joined the mission to assist the team and gain greater insight and understanding of the work performed by SACH in Tanzania. In addition to being a catheterization mission, this was also a training mission.

For the fourth year, Dr. Sagi Assa, Senior Pediatric Cardiologist & Head of the Interventional Pediatric Cardiology Unit at WMC, worked together with his mentors from the Deutsches Herzzentrum in Berlin, Drs. Felix Berger and Stephan Schubert and CATH Lab nurses, Anke Skupch and Susanne Barneback.

Assisting in the Cath Lab was Dr. Deogratas Nkya, a pediatric cardiologist from Tanzania, who hopes to advance his skills in interventional cardiology. Dr. Alex Loth Ernest and Dr. Stella Mongella, both Tanzanian doctors currently in a SACH Canada two-year outreach training program in Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesiology and Pediatric Cardiology at the WMC worked hand-in-hand with their mentors from WMC, Dr. Gluch, and Dr. Assa, respectively. Also in the Cath Lab, was Chinese pediatric interventional cardiologist, Dr. Zhao Lijian, who is working at JKCI as part of a friendship partnership between the government of China and the government of Tanzania.

During the five-day mission, the Israeli, German, Tanzanian and Chinese medical team members worked together, teaching and sharing their skills, treating 16 children and 1 adult, and screening 46 children and 1 adult.



Children treated during Mission Tanzania 2020

MISSION ZANZIBAR



SACH medical team members together medical team members at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital on Mission Zanzibar 2020

From January 30, 2020 - February 2, 2020, SACH embarked on its annual women-led cardiology clinic in the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital on the Island of Zanzibar in order to examine 395 children suffering from heart disease. In addition to screening children for interventions in Israel, the Israeli team members worked with our local partners, training and sharing knowledge to help further the program in Zanzibar.

Led by Dr. Alona Raucher Sternfeld, Head of Pediatric Cardiology, the medical team which included Yifat Brosh, medical technician and Nava Gershon, Head Nurse Pediatric Surgical Department, examined children suffering from heart disease as well as children previously treated by SACH. Joining them, was also Tamar Shapira, Deputy Executive Director and Director of International & Public Relations for SACH.

The Israeli delegation worked together with a team from the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, led by Dr. Omar Suleiman, a dedicated and talented doctor trained by SACH in Israel, who has since become a key partner of the organization in Zanzibar.

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On the morning of Thursday, January 30, Vice President Sef Ali Iddi greeted the team as they began to screen and diagnose the dozens of children who waited at the hospital with their parents.

Thank you to SACH Canada for supporting this mission.

A HEARTFELT REUNION



It's like seeing a normal, healthy, heart!

So exclaimed our medical team upon seeing Fatma, our 5,000th child at the screening clinic in Zanzibar in February 2020. Eight months after her life was saved in Israel, her doctors could see the difference. Fatma is a happy little girl, who loves to run around, play, and laugh. Fatma's mother, Balkis, who is a past patient is thrilled to see her little girl so healthy!



Fatma with her mother, Balkis, a former SACH patient, treated more than 20 years ago

RESPONDING TO COVID-19



Nzali from Zambia being tested for COVID-19 upon arrival in Israel

In an effort to help healthcare workers on the front lines of the crises, SACH launched a campaign for urgently-needed hospital space and equipment at the WMC. At the same time, SACH expertise was employed to save lives at WMC, from on-site training by the intensive care unit team for the entire hospital staff, to expert medicine practiced on patients on ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) by SACH team members. [Watch our timely response to COVID-19.](#)

On March 18, 2020, Israel closed its borders to foreigners amidst the outbreak of COVID-19. From that day on, although SACH was suddenly unable to bring children to Israel for life-saving heart procedures, we promised to resume as soon as we could.

All efforts were put towards resuming our core activity and we commenced bringing children to Israel in May despite international border closure because we believe that when challenging times disrupt access to cardiac care, we must work even harder to ensure children around the world have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

As of May 12, we began treating children from the Palestinian Authority and Gaza and on June 1, [the first group of Ethiopian children arrived](#), followed by a group from Zambia on June 15.

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Like people everywhere, the SACH team has had to adjust to a new normal that involves a period of quarantine for each new group, requiring the previous one to move into the hospital for the same duration. Despite the challenges, SACH is still able to perform the same amount of weekly procedures as it was prior to the spread of the pandemic, which is a testament to the dedication of the medical team, our global partners, and local and international staff.



Closing the borders between Israel and the Palestinian Authority and the rest of the world was very concerning to us.

- Dr. Lior Sasson
Director of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery, Wolfson Medical Center

HAMZA'S LIFE-SAVING STORY



Hamza and his mother reunite. Hamza was accompanied home by his physicians.



We are so grateful for the care you all gave us, the high level of expertise, skill, humanity and conscience."

- Hamza's mother

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Hamza Ali Mohammed was born with a life-threatening congenital heart defect and had his first surgery as an infant. The SACH medical team decided early this year that he needed a second surgery to survive. On February 24, 2020, Hamza underwent open-heart surgery at WMC carried out by the SACH medical team.

His recovery from this surgery was very complicated. "We tried to extubate Hamza a few times after his surgery, but he had a hard time breathing by himself. We had to connect him to an ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) machine, and it kept him alive for a few weeks," said Dr. Racheli Sion Sarid, a senior physician in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at WMC. He was very close to death several times. "I was sure he wouldn't make it, but every time, somehow, it felt like some kind of a miracle. There is some kind of magic with these children." In addition to the challenge of keeping Hamza alive through this period, the medical team had to face another major obstacle.

Hamza's parents, who went home to Ramallah for a short visit to see Hamza's siblings, could not return to Israel due to the COVID-19 lockdown. "The whole medical team in the Pediatric Cardiology Unit became his parents," said Dr. Ahmed Amer, a pediatric resident at WMC. Dr. Amer, an Israeli-Arab physician who is part of the SACH medical team, became the main contact person for Hamza's parents since he speaks Arabic. As Hamza's condition improved, he was able to communicate with his parents through video calls and even celebrated his birthday together with the medical team and his parents, on video.

On May 7, 2020, Hamza was finally able to return home, accompanied by both Dr. Racheli and Dr. Ahmed. Together, they traveled to the Hizma checkpoint, where Hamza's parents waited to be reunited with their son. In tears, Hamza's mother thanked the medical team and hugged her son.

Watch Hamza's story [here](#).

ONGOING ACTIVITIES



Partners on the ground: Zambia

In January of 2020, SACH Executive Director, Simon Fisher spent 48 hours in Lusaka to consolidate and articulate the three-year-old memorandum of understanding between SACH and the Ministry of Health of Zambia. There, he also witnessed the progress of the new specialist hospital being built and set to open within the year. Dr. Daniel Makawa from the Zambian Ministry of Health (MOH) and Israel's honorary consul in Zambia, Sinya Mbale, organized a meeting with Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs to discuss their ongoing commitment to the partnership between SACH and the MOH. Additional candidates for training in anesthesia and PICU have been identified and hope to come to Israel in the next year.



Ongoing support: Ethiopia

Following our medical mission to Ethiopia in November of 2019, Dr. Yayu Mekonnen, the country's first pediatric cardiac surgeon, who trained with SACH in Israel for five years followed by a fellowship at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, continued to perform surgeries independently at the Cardiac Center in Addis Ababa.

In 2020, Dr. Yayu treated 39 children. 21 of them were treated thanks to the use of consumables generously donated by SACH US.



Tanzanian Team Performs catheterization independently, with equipment donated by SACH Canada

We are very proud of our Tanzanian partners at Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute in Dar es Salaam, who recently performed a catheterization independently, saving the life of eight-year-old Jesca, with equipment donated by Save a Child's Heart Foundation Canada! The procedure was performed by the Tanzanian Cath Lab team together with Drs. Lijian Zhao and Deogratas Nkya, utilizing the training, equipment, and techniques of their mentors, the SACH medical team from the WMC.



Former SACH patient returns to volunteer

Sabrina Fakih is a 25-year-old former patient from Zanzibar who returned to Israel this year to volunteer at the Children's Home. Sabrina was originally treated by SACH in 2007 and had a dream to return to help other children like her. This year, She came to Israel with a group of children with heart disease, from Zanzibar. Amidst the pandemic, she remained by their sides and finally flew home with the group this April after spending several months at the Children's Home.



Ongoing support: Romania

We are proud to update you on the achievements of our partners in Romania, Gift of Life Romania - Salvati Inima Unui Copil Association. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, they have successfully treated 40 children since the beginning of 2020! This accomplishment carries on the good work of developing an independent center of excellence in Romania as our partners aim to treat more children with heart disease at the Children's Grigore Alexandrescu Hospital in Bucharest.



Julius Graduates

We first met Julius in 2011. Due to his heart condition, he couldn't run or play and although when our doctors first met him they weren't sure that it would be possible to save his life, they took on the challenge. Julius stole our hearts as the main character of the documentary 'A Heartbeat Away,' which followed his remarkable journey from Tanzania to Israel. After his successful surgery, we stayed in touch with Julius and watched him grow. Today, he is 15. He has just finished his Grade 7 National Exam and received the 2020 award for disciplined student of the year at his school.

FIVE CHILDREN ARRIVE FROM THE IVORY COAST

On October 15, 2020, we welcomed a new group of children from the Ivory Coast. Aaron, Mia, Lukman, Zeinab were brought to Israel thanks to our partners Menomadin Foundation and its President Haim Taib, who is the President of Save a Child's Heart Africa, and Mitrelli Ivory Coast and its Director Eva Peled. The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs MASHAV and the Israeli Embassy in the Ivory Coast sponsored the group's journey to Israel.

While at SACH, the group was paid special visits by the Menomadin and Mitrelli Groups as well as by Madame Koffi, the wife of the Ambassador of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire to the State of Israel and members of the mission.



Five children and their mothers arrived from the Ivory Coast in October



I couldn't be more happy that my daughter is receiving surgery here in Israel. At home we couldn't afford this life-changing surgery. SACH has given us a chance to change our lives. It is a dream come true that Zeinab will have a normal life like every other child.

- Kone, Mama Zeinab
See our interview with Mama Zeinab [here](#).

THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS AND A CHANGING MIDDLE EAST - Minister for Regional Cooperation, Ofir Akunis, visits the Sylvan Adams Children's Hospital



MK Ofir Akunis, the Minister for Regional Cooperation, visits the new Sylvan Adams Children's Hospital



We want the children of the entire Middle East to live alongside us in health, peace, and security. The Ministry of Regional Cooperation, under my leadership, will continue to support this wonderful project of Save a Child's Heart."

- Mr. Ofir Akunis
Minister for Regional Cooperation, State of Israel

The year wrapped up with a visit from Israel's Minister for Regional Cooperation. The Ministry of Regional Cooperation has been supporting Save a Child's Heart's humanitarian work since 2010 and has since contributed to the lifesaving treatment of more than 1,600 children with heart diseases and defects, from across the region, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Gaza, and the PA, Syria, Morocco, and South Sudan.

On his visit to the Center, Minister Akunis toured the Sylvan Adams Children's Hospital, which is currently in its last stages of construction, and met children who were brought by a Save a Child's Heart to the Wolfson Center from Zanzibar, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Romania, and

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the Palestinian Authority. Minister Akunis spoke with the children and their mothers, and also met doctors from Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia, and the Palestinian Authority who are taking part in the association's training program in Israel.

Minister Akunis' visit was part of a larger effort to expand Save a Child's Heart's activities and introduce the organization to new partners in the Middle East.

ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER GABI ASHKENAZI HOSTS SAVE A CHILD'S HEART IN JERUSALEM



L to R: SACH Executive Director Simon Fisher, SACH member of the board Yoram Benita, Minister Gabi Ashkenazi, Wolfson Executive Director Dr. Anat Engel, and SACH lead surgeon Dr. Lior Sasson

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As doors opened in advance of the signing of the Abraham Accords between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States, Executive Director, Simon Fisher, SACH Lead Surgeon, Dr. Lior Sasson and Chairman of the Board, Yoram Benita, met with Minister Gabi Ashkenazi, Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs, to discuss the ways in which the project could be presented as an opportunity to make inroads with the UAE government and other subsequent signatories of the Accords.

ISRAEL'S MINISTER OF HEALTH YULI EDELSTEIN VISITS THE SYLVAN ADAMS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Israeli Minister of Health, Yuli Edelstein, visited the International Pediatric Cardiac Center & Children's Hospital

Israeli Minister of Health, Yuli Edelstein, visited the Sylvan Adams Children's Hospital and the SACH International Pediatric Cardiac Center and toured the building together with the Save a

Child's Heart team and the management of Wolfson. The Minister acknowledged that "Today we are all one big unit, helping each other, caring for each other." Minister Edelstein praised Save a Child's Heart for its global humanitarian effort as well as its contribution towards Israeli society through the establishment of a new children's hospital at WMC which will not only save the lives of thousands of children from all over the globe but also serve as a state of the art children's hospital for the population of Holon, Bat Yam, South Tel Aviv, and Jaffa.

THE SYLVAN ADAMS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND SACH INTERNATIONAL PEDIATRIC CARDIAC CENTER



The exterior of the new Sylvan Adams Children's Hospital on-site at the Wolfson Medical Center

While the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted Israel greatly in 2020, the construction of the new Sylvan Adams Children's Hospital & SACH International Pediatric Cardiac Center was not hindered and is at its final stages of completion.

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Current construction work was focused on the external surrounding areas which include parking and access roads while internally quality inspections continue with repairs being addressed by the contractor. The entire building has been connected to all the necessary infrastructure lines and has dedicated water, electricity and power, air conditioning, medical gas, and fire safety.

Save a Child's Heart and the Wolfson Medical Center (WMC) are in the process of receiving all the advanced medical equipment and furniture in conjunction to prepare gradual handovers of the floors to the WMC.

The first floors to be operated in early Q1 will be the Pediatric Department (4th) and Pediatric Surgery Department (5th) as there is a great need to occupy them as soon as possible in order to vacate these departments from their current location in the Wolfson Medical Center main building. The vacated space will be reappropriated to enlarge the COVID-19 treatment department. Plans are underway for the 2nd-floor Outpatients Clinic & 3rd-floor Medical Education and Simulation Center to be completed in 2021-2022. SACH is excited as the expected official opening nears with the operation of the Sylvan Adams Children's Hospital and IPCC planned for the end of Q2 2021. Special thanks to our donors and supporters who have made this dream a reality, we cannot wait to welcome you in 2021!

INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATS VISIT SAVE A CHILD'S HEART

At the start of the year, the Governor of Antwerp, Cathy Berx, met the children of SACH at the Children's Home and we introduced the work of SACH to politicians from New South Wales and members of the German Bundestag.



Ambassador Hans Docter of the Netherlands and SACH Netherlands Board Member Robert Baruch



Ambassador Martin Chungu Mwanambale of Zambia with Zambian children



Ambassador Hannah Ama Nyarko of Ghana and Hannah from Ghana

2020 Report

We were very excited to welcome several ambassadors to the Children's Home this year too, including Amb. Hans Docter of the Netherlands, Amb. Martin Chungu Mwanambale of Zambia, and Amb. Hannah Ama Nyarko of Ghana.

We also hosted an online conversation with Deputy Head of Mashav Ambassador Yuval Fuchs and the ambassadors of Ghana and Tanzania, introducing them to children from their countries via Zoom. Also in November, SACH Israel and SACH Australia participated in the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce (AICC) virtual welcome call for Ambassador Paul Griffiths, Australia's new ambassador to Israel.

In September, team members from the Palestinian Affairs Unit of the US Embassy in Israel came to see our Children's Home and tour the Wolfson Medical Center to learn more about our program.



Members of the German Bundestag visit the SACH Children's Home

MORE VISITS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



At the beginning of the year, international youth groups, schools, Israeli soldiers, and individuals from around the world, were welcomed to the Children's Home. Outside of the Home, SACH team members represented the organization at meetings and events with local and visiting groups from AIPAC, AIJAC, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as Israeli organizations and companies.

In January, we welcomed an annual mission to Israel with Christian Protestant Ministers in training, led by Rabbi Brad Hirschfield, as well as MBA students from California State University, Long Beach. In the same month, we welcomed the team of TD's Innovation Center in Israel for a Volunteer Day. We also hosted members of the Israel-Australia Chamber of Commerce and women in French media who visited through the European Leadership Network, which seeks to strengthen relations between Europe and Israel.

In February, we welcomed Paul Harris from England's Jewish Telegraph publication, a delegation of the Conservative Friends of Israel, guests from the America-Israel Friendship League, and Polish-born child Holocaust survivor and philanthropist George Blank also brought a group of adults from New Jersey to see the Children's Home.

Online were visits and activities sponsored by DLA Piper Israel, TD Bank Innovation Center Israel, and SACH UK supporters who threw a virtual party for SACH UK founder, Walter Felman, in honor of his 90th birthday.

GLOBAL EVENTS



350 guests came together in Melbourne this February for Save a Child's Heart

IN PERSON EVENTS

On the evening of February 13, 2020, 350 guests came together in Melbourne, for 30 Tables to Save 30 Lives, raising over \$660,000AUD for Save a Child's Heart. The event was hosted by Save a Child's Heart and Alex Waislitz, representing the Waislitz Family Foundation. On this night Melbourne's corporate community came together and saved the lives of 33 children. The evening was a huge success, with speakers including SACH Australia CEO, Hannah Wollan, Alex Waislitz, and Dr. Yayu Mekonnen, Ethiopia's first pediatric cardiac surgeon, trained by SACH in Israel.



On January 7, 2019, the Jerusalem Music Centre Young Israel Philharmonic Orchestra hosted a concert to benefit Save a Child's Heart at the Charles Bronfman Auditorium in Tel Aviv. Prior to the performance, the orchestra visited the Save a Child's Heart Children's Home and played for the children and mothers.

SACH AT AIPAC

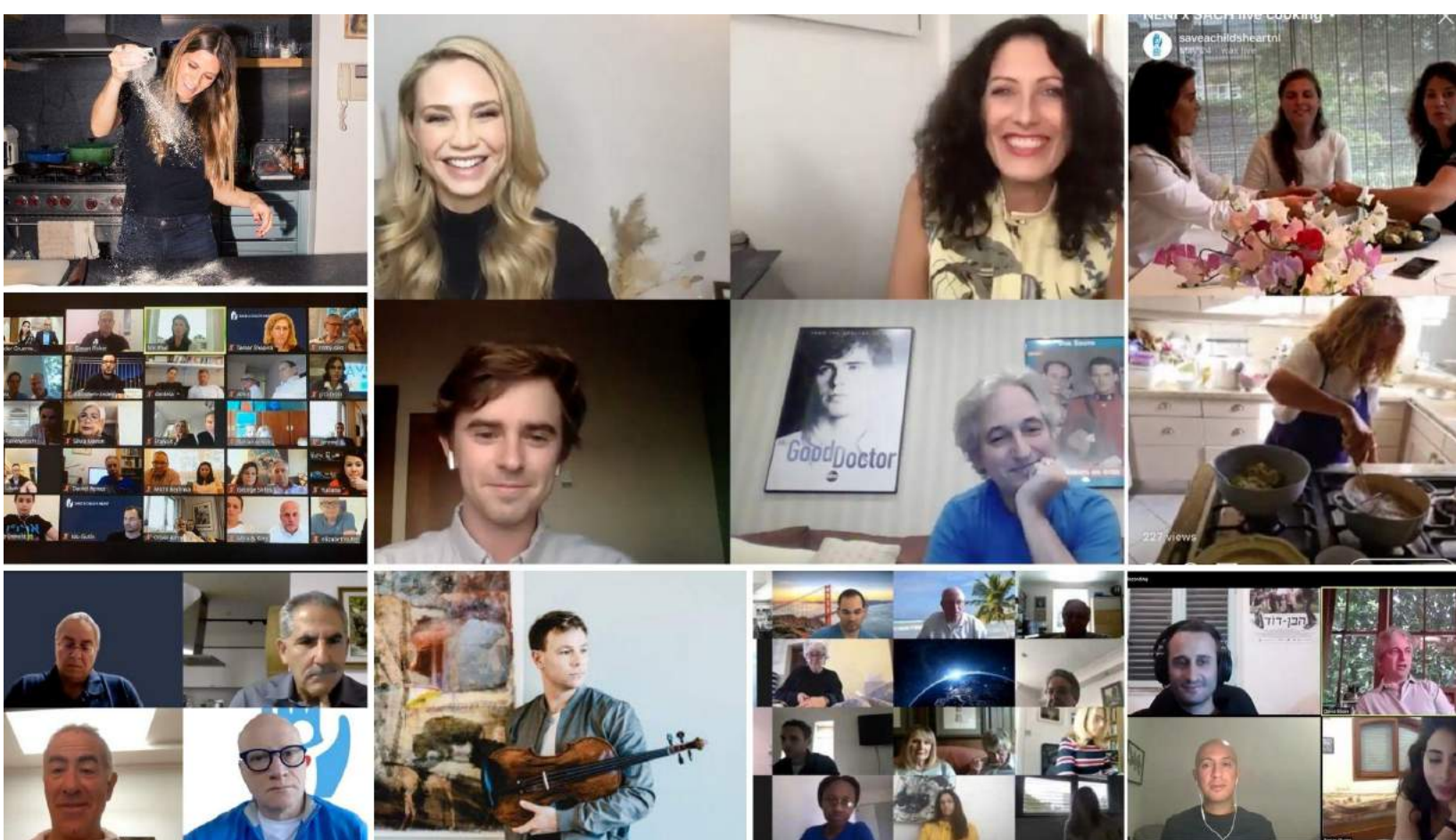


Clockwise: SACH story featured at the AIPAC plenary session, the SACH team at the SACH booth in the AIPAC village, Deputy Ambassador, Benjamin Krasna, speaks before a crowd at the Embassy of Israel in Washington

The AIPAC Policy Conference is the largest gathering of America's pro-Israel community. Save a Child's Heart was honored to be represented by Dr. Sagi Assa, Head of the Pediatric Interventional Cardiology department at the Wolfson Medical Center, and Tamar Shapira, Deputy Director and Director of Public Relations. On the first day of the conference, Tamar spoke at a breakout session on Israeli humanitarianism. The organization also had a special opportunity to share our work at a specially-designed booth in the AIPAC village. Our time at AIPAC concluded with a feature video on the final day's plenary session. Produced by AIPAC, featuring the 5000th child and her mother, Balkis, who was treated by Save a Child's Heart more than 20 years ago, the video was watched by more than 10,000 attendees and streamed by tens of thousands around the world.

Coupled with SACH's appearance at this year's AIPAC Policy Conference, SACH US hosted a gathering at the Mark Hotel, where Dr. Sagi Assa spoke with guests about SACH's life-saving work, and another well-attended event at the Embassy of Israel in Washington D.C., with featured speakers including the Deputy Ambassador, Benjamin Krasna, SACH Deputy Director, Tamar Shapira, and Dr. Assa. Following AIPAC, SACH US and SACH Canada hosted speaking events in Los Angeles and Toronto with Ms. Shapira.

VIRTUAL EVENTS



In an era of social distancing, SACH went virtual hosting the cast and crew of Fauda for a conversation where creator Avi Issacharoff discussed SACH's life-saving work in May. SACH Netherlands hosted a cooking masterclass with NENI's founder and Masterchef Haya Molcho. In partnership with JNF Vancouver, SACH Canada hosted its own Fauda event to support further development of the Pediatric Heart Institute. This spring, they also an exclusive first viewing of Paw Patrol Dino Rescue and an online cooking class with best-selling authors Julie Albert and Lisa Gnat for World Heart Day,

Also online, SACH UK hosted an updates-from-the-field webinar with SACH's lead pediatric cardiac surgeon, Dr. Lior Sasson, Executive Director, Simon Fisher, and Pediatric Cardiologist Tanzanian Fellow, Dr. Stella Mongella, and continued to promote the organization to synagogues and local Rotary clubs in Birmingham. Hemel Hempstead and Watford. They also hosted a live cookery demonstration with Judi Rose and Dr. Jackie Rose on the occasion of their new cookbook and a joint event with the Israeli Embassy and the Jewish Medical Association for World Heart Day.

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BUILDING BRIDGES & TELLING STORIES: A Fauda & Save a Child's Heart Virtual Event

Join Save a Child's Heart as we host the cast and crew from the international hit TV series, FAUDA. Hear directly from the series creator (Avi Issacharoff) and two of the main actors from Season 3 as they bring you behind-the-scenes of the global TV phenomenon and share updates from Save a Child's Heart, which recently restarted providing lifesaving cardiac procedures for children with congenital heart disease from Gaza, the West Bank, and beyond.



Avi Issacharoff,
Creator of FAUDA

Ala Dakka,
Bashar in FAUDA Season 3

Samar Qudus,
Haifa in FAUDA Season 3

Moderator: David Shore,
Executive Producer of The
Good Doctor and
Creator of HOUSE

REGISTER

May 31, 2020
2Pm EST

Live From the Doctor's Lounge:
The Stars of "The Good Doctor"
presented by SAVE A CHILD'S HEART

Jewish Medical Association UK

This year we are marking World Heart Day with a cause that is close to our hearts.

We invite you to join a webinar exploring **Save a Child's Heart (SACH)** remarkable mission, providing life-saving cardiac treatment to children from developing countries, and training health care professionals to deliver quality care in their communities.

The webinar will feature:

- Dr. Lior Sionson (Israel)
Save a Child's Heart Lead Surgeon
Head of the Paediatric Surgery Unit
Wolfson Hospital
- Dr. Sherie Mongile (Tanzania)
Save a Child's Heart Trainee
in Paediatric Cardiology
Wolfson Hospital

Moderated by: Professor Marilyn Druce

The webinar will take place on Wednesday 30th September, 8:30pm (UK time)

Register [here](#) to receive the Zoom details.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE SPEAKER SERIES
for CEOs, Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders

WINNING AND GIVING
Successful Strategies in Business,
Sports and Philanthropy

In June, long-time generous supporters of SACH, the Mary Bendet Foundation held a virtual Gala for its friends across the globe. SACH was honored to be featured during the event which also featured guest speaker Ambassador Nikki Haley.

Amihai Grosz, principal violist of the Philharmonie Berlin, performed an online benefit concert in Germany. SACH US began hosting online parlor events, a virtual luncheon, and webinars too, including a 'winning and giving' business webinar with Sylvan Adams. SACH in Atlanta hosted their 4th annual Play Your Heart Out tournament, this time encouraging supporters to participate in a virtual walk/run. Of course, their most popular event was a doctors lounge round table with the stars of the Good Doctor and writer (and SACH US board member) David Shore

YOUNG LEADERSHIP



Yardena Schwarcz has volunteered both at our Children's Home in Holon and on Mission Tanzania 2020.

In the first half of the year, our Young Leadership Director welcomed 56 groups from Australia, Canada, the United States, the UK, and Germany to the Children's Home. In addition, 30 volunteers, interns, and medical interns from Chile, Germany, Italy, the United States, Canada, and Israel participated in life at the Children's Home and hospital.

After her time as a SACH intern, Lina, from Lubeck, returned home to found SACH Young Leadership in Germany. Two young leaders also accompanied us on our medical mission to Tanzania.

On the occasion of Eitan Raucher's bar mitzvah, Eitan's aunt, Dr. Alona Raucher Sternfeld, brought her family to see the work of SACH at the Wolfson Medical Center and the Children's Home, where sounds of African drum music filled the air in celebration.

As COVID-19 travel restrictions took hold, SACH Young Leadership began online programming for volunteers slated to come to Israel in the summer of 2020, including online dance parties, karate classes with Kids Kicking Cancer, and educational demonstrations in children's native languages. We also brought the Children's Home to young leaders in the US with our summer

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series program featuring guest speakers including SACH medical team members and medical professionals in training.

We look forward to welcoming volunteers, medical interns, and visitors back into the Children's Home in 2021!

AROUND THE WORLD



This year, our annual Give Your Heart Out campaign to save lives in the month of February raised more than \$50,000, spanning 5 countries, dozens of campuses and events including New York's 10th Annual Valentine's Benefit, a musical bingo evening for young leadership in the UK, and a pub quiz in Amsterdam with SACH NL Young Leadership.

In March, as fundraising moved online, SACH Canada initiated a Masterclass series, bringing in over 100 viewers to cook with chef Eden Grinshpan and continued with Harry Hanson, an award-winning bartender and head bartender at Gusto 501. SACH Australia hosted online dating events and two online events about the future of Impact with SACH staff and medical team members featured as guest speakers. They also collaborated with SACH in TLV and SACH Netherlands to host a series of eight 'Sweat Your Heart Out' online workouts.

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SACH US held fitness, dating, and cooking events too as part of their 'Take Back 2020' campaign and encouraged young leaders to host their own micro-events.

SACH Netherlands banded together to support front-line workers, delivering SACH care packets to them to acknowledge their life-saving efforts and held events including a film screening of A Heartbeat Away at The Soho House and a 7K run for cardiac care. They also promoted a little cheer and competition, hosting a pub quiz later on in the year.

By summertime in Tel Aviv, the young leadership committee hosted a beach volleyball tournament with more than 100 participants to raise funds and increase local awareness. The committee also teamed up with Tel-Aviv based 'Hey Honey' for a honey sale in time for Rosh Hashana and a pop-up event at the new Selina in Tel Aviv. They topped off the year with a game night for Hanukkah across the city.

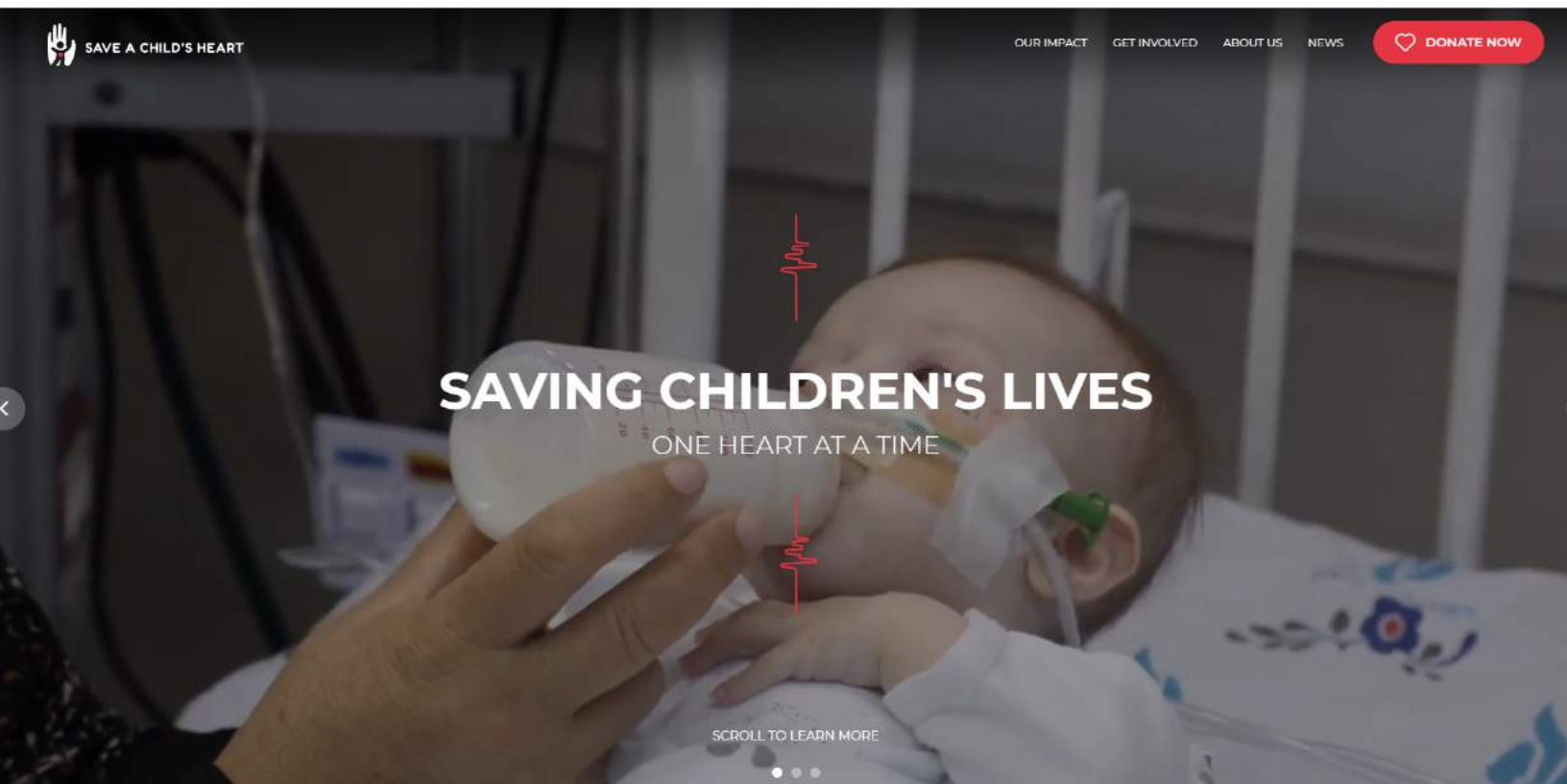
Meanwhile, in the UK, Lewis ran a solo marathon for SACH while 12-year-old Amelie walked the length of a marathon down the Thames Path and raised enough to save a life! Her incredible initiative was picked up by several news outlets and caught the attention of world-famous illusionist and SACH Goodwill Ambassador, Uri Geller, who generously contributed to the campaign.



Save a Child's Heart gave me the opportunity to experience a complete new level of joy, passion, bonding and social values such as equality and solidarity that will leave their indelible mark on me and I will forever be thankful for the new family I was given.

- Line Glöckner
Former volunteer and SACH Germany Young Leadership Founder
Read more about Line's experience [here](#).

A NEW LOOK AND FEEL



Screenshot from the header of the new landing page of www.saveachildsheart.org

In 2020, Save a Child's Heart launched a new website and branding materials.

The new look and feel focuses on four characteristic pillars of our organization; compassionate, inclusive, trailblazing and teamwork. Together, they represent the heartfelt courage it takes to save lives.

We emulate our founder, Ami Cohen, who was a trailblazer. He inspired us to muster the courage and compassion to save children one heart at a time. We instill in our volunteers the courage to serve; in our doctors the courage to heal; and in the parents and children the courage to trust in us to save a child's heart and transform a life.

Children are the heroes of SACH's imagery. The goal is to capture them at different points in their journey and show many of the emotions they are experiencing. Happy and sad, laughing and crying, courageous and scared, hopeful, and uncertain.

The medical team, the family members who travel to Israel with their children, and the staff and volunteers are all heroes of SACH too. Together, they make up a worldwide family that is there for one another, and above all, committed to treating children, training medical professionals and raising the level of pediatric heart care worldwide.

ON SOCIAL

Facebook Page Likes

205K

This year we focused our efforts on increasing our presence on Facebook, posting consistently (4x per week), highlighting our fundraising efforts, and sharing stories of the children, medical team, and organizational accomplishments. Together, our 234 posts to the platform yielded more than 1.25 million impressions and our page garnered 2,980 new likes.

Instagram Followers

16.4K

On Instagram, we focused on stories to give followers an inside look at the goings-on in the Children's Home and to introduce them to new children as they arrived.

Twitter Followers

2.5K

On Twitter, we've made an effort to increase the frequency of posts, follow relevant accounts and communicate directly with supportive accounts. This year, we increased our follower count by 7%, had 992 mentions and 3,657 profile visits. Our most popular tweets were about our treatment of Palestinian patients.

***There were nearly 18,000
website sessions
in December 2020.***

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