

La Prensa **CREATIVO**

The Tobin
Art
Alliance:
Creating
a Haven
For
SA Artists

Painter Luis Lopez working on a mural

VOL. I · NUM 7

www.LaPrensaSa.com

JUNIO 16, 2010

Saving children one heart at a time

By Angela Covo
angela.covo@gmail.com

Little Bolor-Erdene Amralt, a 14-month-old from Mongolia, was born with a heart defect ... one that would have killed him if it wasn't for a program in San Antonio called HeartGift.

Bolor-Erdene's story will be much different now – it will have a happy ending. Thanks to HeartGift San Antonio, he will travel to repair his congenital heart defect at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children's Hospital on July 23.

According to the International Children's Heart Foundation, one

out of every 100 children born in the developing world is born with some form of Congenital Heart Disease (CHD), the most common birth defect worldwide.

In the United States, our children have access to specialists and the sophisticated treatment and equipment to overcome any of these life-threatening conditions.

However, in many parts of the world, these conditions are often times not recognized, and also not treatable due to the lack of specialists and facilities.

Worse yet, according to the American Association of Thoracic Surgery, 93% of the world's population has no access to pediatric cardiac surgery at all.

But a charitable program, with

its roots in Texas, plans to make a difference. Since its founding in 2000, HeartGift has served more than 95 children in Austin and San Antonio, and soon will serve its' first child in New Orleans.

Dr. John Calhoun, a pediatric heart and lung surgeon, is one of the founders of HeartGift.

"A good friend of mine in Austin, Dr. Chip Oswald, started the program in Austin, and at the same time we were getting inquiries here about children needing help across the globe. We thought if we could help fund some of these kids, we could make a difference," stated Calhoun.

The funding is essential to the success of the program. Although the surgeons and physicians with HeartGift donate their services free, HeartGift reimburses the hospital \$15,000 per surgery. The same treatment for a self-paying patient in the U.S. would cost about \$165,000.

There are other expenses involved as well. According to HeartGift, these costs include travel for the child and caregiver, food and lodging while here, transportation to and from medical appointments, medications and more.

Local HeartGift volunteers provide meals, lodging and transportation while the child and caregiver are here and referring organizations provide transportation to and from the United States.

Factoring in travel and other non-medical care, the average expense for each HeartGift patient is \$24,000.

"We have a great team, with Dr. Adil Husain, a pediatric cardiologist, the critical care nurses, the anesthesiologists, and everybody involved, we are able to save lives," mentioned Calhoun.

Dr. Calhoun hopes the program will be able to help six children this year, depending on funding, and hopes to see the program grow more than that in the coming years.

"Children are dying for want of curative surgery and we are making a difference one child at a time," he said.

¿ESTÁ PENSANDO EN SUS OPCIONES DE PRESTAMO PARA VIVIENDA?

Comuníquese hoy mismo con su especialista en hipotecas o visite ibc.com
1-800-562-6408



IBC MORTGAGE

FDIC

EN LA BARRERA LINDER

DIABETES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have Type 2 Diabetes and Have you been diagnosed in the last 18 months?

If so, you may qualify to participate in a 9 month clinical research study that will test the use of the new anti-diabetic agent Januvia (Sitagliptin) in the improvement of diabetes and good blood sugar control and in the prevention of diabetes associated complications.

There is no cost for male or female, between 18-70 years old, who qualify to participate. If you qualify you will receive:

- Physical Exam and Blood Work
- Glucose meter and supplies
- Study related medication

You will be compensated for your time

Principal Investigator: Eugenio Cersosimo, MD PhD
Diabetes Research, Texas Diabetes Institute

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

RACHEL PESEK, RN
210-358-7212 or 210-358-7200
UT Health Science Center San Antonio



Building Corazón

¡Sea parte de la historia y cultura del Westside!

En conmemoración del Treinta Aniversario del Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, compra un boleto por \$20, \$30, ó \$50 y dónale su boleto a un ser querido. Los boletos se venderán el día del Teatro Guadalupe, junto a La Veladora de Jesse Treviño.

Llámanos al 210.271.3151 o visítanos en línea en www.guadalupeartscenter.org y cómpralo hoy.
*Después del Despiece del 50 de junio, el precio de los boletos de 4" x 6" subirá a \$30.