



Save a Child's Heart

Patrons: Elie Wiesel | Lord Levy of Mill Hill | Maestro Zubin Mehta | Professor Lord Winston

Special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council

Recipient of the 2012 Israeli Presidential Award for Volunteerism

Recipient of the 2018 United Nations Population Award

June 18, 2020

Save a Child's Heart Assistance During Covid-19 in Israel

Save a Child's Heart (SACH) is an Israeli based international non-profit organization with the mission of improving the quality of pediatric cardiac care for children in developing countries and creating centers of competence in these countries. Save a Child's Heart's goal is to improve the health and welfare of all children, regardless of the child's religion, gender, or nationality.

Assistance During COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic had significant impact on the entire world - from shutting down international travel to crippling the medical care systems of even the most advanced countries.

While Israel's rapid and aggressive COVID-19 response had proven its effectiveness with the low amount of fatalities relative to the rest of the world, it's public health system was unprepared to deal with a rise in expected critical patients requiring mechanical ventilation due to lack of advanced ventilators and of trained staff to operate them.

But perhaps the most alarming issue was that Israel's hospitals were lacking the most important resource, hospitalization beds for dedicated COVID-19 wards to operate while also maintaining ongoing health care for the public. As the pandemic began to peak in mid-March 2020, SACH had been requested by the Israeli Ministry of Health (IMOH) and the Wolfson Medical Center (WMC) to expedite the construction of the two pediatric inpatient departments within the new Sylvan Adam's Children's Hospital project making them operational by August 2020, some 3 months prior to the intended December 2020 opening. In doing so, the old pediatric departments in the old facilities would be vacated freeing up 60 more beds and enabling WMC to reach its goal of operating a 200-bed COVID-19 dedicated treatment ward by the expected 2nd wave of the pandemic in fall 2020, while children not affected by COVID-19 would be treated in the new departments of the Children's Hospital.

Since mid-March, SACH has been able to assist WMC as follows:

1. SACH along with the IMOH and WMC had expedited the construction on the two aforementioned department floors.
2. SACH pivoted its own fundraising efforts due to the situation via an emergency campaign to assist with the procurement of necessary medical equipment related to the treatment of COVID-19 symptoms as priority. Please watch related campaign video [here](#).



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3. SACH was granted contributions from two separate foundations totaling US\$ 540,000 for the purchase of 14+ advanced ventilators to be used on ventilated critical COVID-19 patients as may be required and returned to their original purpose in the new Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) that will open in the new Children's Hospital.
4. SACH was granted a 60,000 Euro contribution from another foundation towards the purchase of a new heart-lung ECMO machine intended for the new (PICU) which will be used as required by the COVID-19 ward to treat critically ill patients.

SACH's previously funded ECMO machine had already proven its necessity and saved the life of one of Israel's most critical patients during the 1st wave of the pandemic (please find information on this here -

<https://www.saveachildsheart.org/post/sach-medical-expertise-saves-lives>)

5. SACH's-WMC medical team's expertise (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit team) teams) has significantly assisted in the training of hospital personnel to treat COVID-19 critical patients

<https://www.facebook.com/saveachildsheart/posts/10158487721601180>

Save A Child's Heart is at מרכז רפואי וולפסון. April 26 · Holon · 🌐

In the past month, as part of the preparation to fight COVID-19, a training and simulation center was established at Wolfson to train the entire medical team of the hospital. In addition to their day-to-day work in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), the senior team members of the PICU including, Dr. Sion Hour, Dr. Racheli Sion Sarid, Irena Nosal, and Revital Cohen, took an active part in this initiative, training more than 400 medical team members to ventilate Corona patients and provide them with intensive care. These four, together with the whole team of the PICU at Wolfson, are key members of Save A Child's Heart. On normal days, they treat children with heart disease from Israel and around the world, now they are using expertise to teach others how to treat patients with complex respiratory and cardiac problems as a result of COVID-19.

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- 6. SACH trained physicians under its Doctor's Training Program to develop centers of competence have utilized their skills and knowledge gained to assist in the efforts to battle COVID-19 both in Israel and back in their home countries in solidarity and comradery.

SACH Ethiopian physician Dr. Yared Agidew Awano training in Pediatric Cardiac Surgery was called back to Ethiopia to lead the COVID-19 treatment center, Eka Kotebe Hospital with 650 bed capacity in Addis Ababa by the Ethiopian government. Dr. Awano had said that his experience in Israel has helped him with his leadership development and medical knowledge required for this role.



SACH Ethiopian physician Dr. Tolesa Wakolta training in Anesthesia –

Save A Child's Heart  April 27 · 

"I am one of the front-line physicians at the COVID-19 unit here at the Wolfson Medical Center in Israel (מרכז רפואי וולפסון). Today I assist people in Israel who in normal days support my training and provide me with tools to treat children with heart disease in Ethiopia. Though I am far away, my heart and thoughts are with my colleague physicians who are on the front line fighting COVID-19 in Ethiopia. We, medical team members in Israel and in Africa, will fight this pandemic and overcome it together." Dr. Tolesa Waktola is a physician from Ethiopia currently in training with Save A Child's Heart.



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7. SACH has continued the treatment of children in its care amidst COVID-19 and has resumed activities since mid-May with new children arriving for urgent care of their heart disease from developing countries as continued efforts are made to make up the lost two time and backlog of awaiting children who could not be helped during the months of March-May.
SACH has launched an ongoing campaign to support this effort - <https://www.saveachildsheart.org/resumes>