HOPEFUL HEARTS
GUANGZHOU
心的希望广州
ANNUAL REPORT 2024

April 2025

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PREFACE BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear supporters and friends of Hopeful Hearts,

As we look back on the past year, we are filled with gratitude and pride for everything we have achieved together. It has been a successful year for our charity, dedicated to supporting children with heart conditions and their families. Through our collective efforts, we were able to provide financial assistance to 20 children and their families, making a meaningful difference in their lives.

One of the year's highlights was the return of our beloved "Dare to Wear Party" after a two-year break. This event brought together supporters and friends in a celebration of hope and generosity. We were humbled by the overwhelming support we received from local restaurants and businesses, whose contributions were vital to making the event a success.

Additionally, we participated in numerous other wonderful events throughout the year, raising both funds and awareness for our cause. Each event reminded us of the incredible community we are fortunate to be part of – people who share our vision of ensuring that every child with a heart condition receives the care and support they need.

Another milestone for us this year was achieving official recognition as a fundraising charity. This new status not only legitimizes our efforts but also paves the way for even greater impact in the years to come.

A sincere expression of gratitude is extended to the Amity Foundation. They work tirelessly to ensure accurate accounting of our funds, careful expenditure, and the maintenance of positive relationships with our hospitals. We value their experience, appreciate their guidance and ideas.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers, donors and partners. Your kindness and commitment continue to inspire us, and we are deeply thankful for your unwavering support. Together, we have achieved so much, but there is still much to do.

As we move forward, we are more motivated than ever to expand our reach and continue making a difference for children and families in need. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being part of this journey. We look forward to another year of compassion, collaboration and hope.

Tian Liu
2024 Co-Chairperson
Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou

Isabelle Strauchmann
2024 Co-Chairperson
Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE WORK

Hopeful Hearts is a non-profit charity run by local Chinese and expatriate volunteers. Our aim is to raise awareness and funds in order to provide life-saving heart surgeries for children of low-income Chinese families.

How Hopeful Hearts started

In November 2002, two ladies in Nanjing found an abandoned baby on the side of the road, at the base of a tree. They named him “Loetje”. Despite their efforts to save his life, it was discovered that Loetje had been born with a congenital heart defect and sadly he did not survive. Hopeful Hearts was founded in his memory, with the aim to help save other children like Loetje.

Three regional teams

After starting in 2003 in Nanjing, Hopeful Hearts created a second team in Chengdu in 2006. In 2012 Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou started. Across the 3 regional teams, Hopeful Hearts has now supported over 700 cases. Over 200 of these cases were supported with funds raised by the Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou team.

Relevance of the work of Hopeful Hearts in 2024

After 20 years of existence, the work of Hopeful Hearts is still very relevant. Although nowadays most Chinese children have basic health insurance, unfortunately this still doesn’t apply to all. And even for those who are insured usually only a part of the cost is covered. A heart surgery can cost 50,000 to 200,000 RMB, depending on the specific heart defect. In case of a slow recovery or complications after surgery, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) costs are added. The basic health insurance covers 30 – 70% of the costs, depending on where the patient is from.
If the family lives outside of Guangdong Province usually only 30% of the surgery costs is covered. This means that families with a low income are faced with high costs when having a child in need of heart surgery.

There is not much time for the families to raise funds. Many of the cases we receive are critical by the time they reach us, and surgery is often arranged within a matter of days. We hear moving stories of families in need, with a low monthly income, multiple health issues or disabilities in the family. They are desperate to save their children but are often in debt that will take a lifetime to repay. Hopeful Hearts is happy to be able to ease the stress and financial burden of these families a little.

Partnerships with specialized hospitals

We have partnerships with several hospitals in Guangzhou and receive cases from for example the Guangdong Women and Children’s Hospital Panyu branch and the Guangdong Provincial People’s Hospital, all specialist in cardiac surgery. When it is found by the hospital that the family of a pediatric patient cannot afford the cost of surgery, the hospital staff will suggest they apply for financial assistance. In this case, Hopeful Hearts may be able to help.

Member of the Amity Foundation

Hopeful Hearts is legally incorporated under the umbrella of Amity Foundation (www.amity.org.cn). They manage our bank account, ensure legal compliance and interface with our partner hospitals.

Loetje, 2002

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE WORK

1. Partner hospital refers the case application to the „Hopeful Hearts project“ of Amity Foundation.
2. Amity Foundation reviews the application and sends a preliminary funding intention to the Hopeful Hearts team.
3. If the team of Hopeful Hearts and Amity Foundation have no objections, the hospital is notified.
4. The hospital arranges surgical treatment for the child.
5. After the child is discharged from the hospital, the hospital reconfirms the funding amount with Amity based on the settlement situation.
6. Amity Foundation receives the project completion materials and verifies them. The funding for the case is then finalized with the hospital.

Steps followed by the Hopeful Hearts team and the Amity Foundation to evaluate applications for financial support.

Personal assessment of cases

Each application is carefully reviewed by Hopeful Hearts project team to determine whether and to what extent we should fund the surgery. In this way, we decide exactly how our funds are spent.

The whole process of evaluating applications for financial support is shown in the figure above.

Sources of income

Donations are our main source of revenue. We receive generous donations from international and local schools, community social groups, local businesses as well as individuals.

Transparent allocation of funds

If an organization supports us, we are able to specify exactly which cases it will have supported. This can be advertised within its network/community and gives a ‘name and face’ to donations.

Hopeful Hearts is committed to keeping costs to a minimum. Of all the funds raised by Hopeful Hearts, 3,85% is used to cover administration costs by the Amity Foundation. The other 96,15% is used solely for the medical and hospital costs of the children supported.

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE WORK

Introducing the Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou team

The current Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou team has 8 team members, all volunteers, responsible for:

- Organizing and advertising fund raising events and activities;
- Building and maintaining relationships with supporting partners.
- Keep transparent records of donations

Together these volunteers are the driving force behind Hopeful Hearts to keep the young hearts beating.

Isabelle Strauchmann

Co-chairperson, Event Coordinator

Tian Liu

Co-chairperson, Press and publicity

Yazmin Lobaco

Treasurer

Elsa Huang

Event Coordinator

Anna Mclaughlin

BSG coordinator

Antonia Jaeckel

Utahloy coordinator

Birka Lalkens

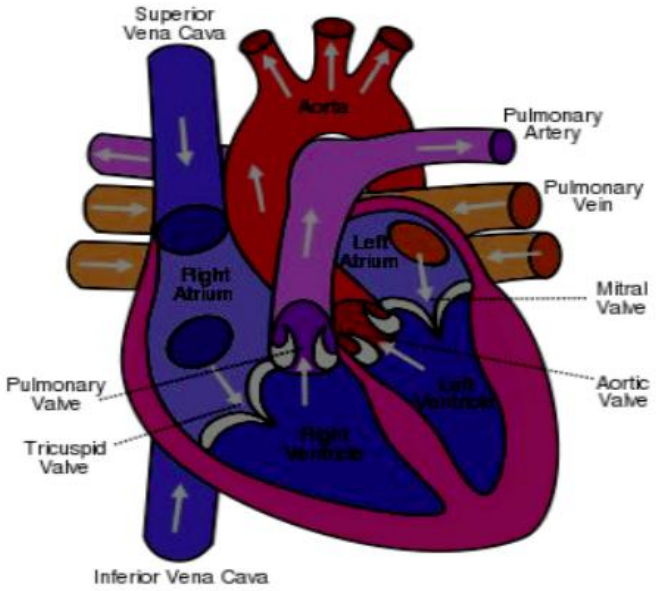
Event coordinator

Hui Zhu

Event coordinator

EXPLAINING DIFFERENT KIND OF HEART DISEASES

When listing the diagnoses for our hospital cases (see page 7), we often use abbreviations of medical terminology. For your ease of reading this report, you can find a brief explanation of the meaning (to the best of our knowledge) of most abbreviations below.



CHD (Congenital Heart Disease)

Congenital, meaning present at birth, is an “umbrella” term that can describe a number of different problems affecting the heart. It’s the most common type of birth defect and is responsible for more deaths in the first year of life than any other birth defect. CHD is divided into two types: cyanotic and non-cyanotic. If the defect lowers the amount of oxygen in the blood that is pumped around the body, it is called cyanotic. If the defect doesn't affect the amount of oxygen, it is called non-cyanotic.

Non-Cyanotic:

- **VSD (Ventricular Septal Defect):** VSD’s are holes in the wall between the two ventricles. Blood from the left ventricle, which is the most powerful chamber of the heart, is pumped under high pressure across the VSD and into the lung. This results in the blood vessels of the lungs becoming thick walled and hard early in life. This condition is known as Pulmonary Hypertension (PH). If left untreated, the defect will eventually become inoperable.
- **ASD (Atrial Septal Defect):** An ASD is a defect of the atria where the wall (septum) between the right and left atrium does not close. Before birth, this opening exists to allow blood to bypass the lungs. Normally the opening closes when the baby is born. If the opening remains, blood will continue to flow from the left to the right atria. This creates extra blood for the right side to pump and in time adds strain to the heart. Over time, an ASD that is left unrepaired can cause problems including an increased risk of stroke.
- **PS (Pulmonary Stenosis):** Pulmonary means ‘lungs’ and stenosis means ‘narrowing’, therefore pulmonary stenosis describes a condition where the pulmonary valve is very narrow. When this happens the muscle of the right ventricle must work harder to pump the blood through the narrow valve. Depending on how narrow the valve is, a child may have no symptoms, may tire quickly, or even faint.

EXPLAINING DIFFERENT KIND OF HEART DISEASES

Cyanotic:

- **ToF (Tetralogy of Fallot) or F4**: ToF is a birth defect consisting of 4 abnormalities that results in insufficiently oxygenated blood being pumped through the body, which leads to a bluish-purple coloration to the skin and shortness of breath due to low oxygen levels in the blood. Symptoms may include a heart murmur, difficulty eating, lack of weight gain and retarded physical development.
- **Transposition of the Great Arteries**: Transposition creates a situation where the oxygen-poor "blue" blood returning from the body to the right atrium and right ventricle is pumped out to the aorta and to the body, while the oxygen-rich "red" blood returning from the lungs to the left atrium and ventricle is sent back to the lungs via the pulmonary artery. Unless there is some place in the circulation where the oxygenated and un-oxygenated blood can mix, all the organs of the body will be deprived of necessary oxygen. Left untreated, soon the heart fails to keep up with the high blood flow and heart failure will occur.
- **Ebstein's Anomaly:** Ebstein's refers to a heart valve that does not properly close. This syndrome also is commonly seen with ASD.
- **PDA (Patent Ductus Arteriosus):** A fetus's blood does not need to go to the lungs to get oxygenated and the ductus arteriosus is a hole that allows the blood to skip the circulation to the lungs. When the baby is born, this hole is supposed to close. If it is still open the blood may skip this necessary step of circulation. The open hole is called the Patent Ductus Arteriosus.
- **Heart Transplant:** A heart transplant replaces the patient's heart with a donor heart. Doctors remove the patient's heart by transecting the aorta, the main pulmonary artery and the superior and inferior vena cavae, and dividing the left atrium, leaving the back wall of the left atrium with the pulmonary vein openings in place. The surgeon connects the donor heart by sewing together the recipient and donor vena cavae, aorta, pulmonary artery and left atrium. In patients with congenital heart disease, the surgeon may simultaneously transplant the lungs and the heart. The donor heart is matched to the recipient by blood type and body size. As the heart transplant recipient, one must take medications to prevent his or her immune system from rejecting the new heart. These drugs are called immunosuppressive medication. The medical team will balance the amount of immunosuppressive medication they need to prevent rejection of the new heart with the risk of side effects, which include infection or cancer.

HOPEFUL HEARTS IN 2024

The children supported in 2024

In 2024, Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou supported the treatment of 20 cases (9 boys and 11 girls). The details of all cases can be found on the right side.

We supported 9 children from the Hopeful Hearts Chengdu team and 11 children in Guangzhou.
It was an honor to support the other Hopeful Hearts branch in Chengdu. Our mutual support shows how connected we are and how dedicated we are to fighting together for a good cause.

Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou has supported over 232 children since our start in 2012. Together with the Nanjing team which started in 2003, and the Chengdu team which started in 2006, Hopeful Hearts has supported over 900 cases in China.

HOPEFUL HEARTS IN 2024

#	Application No.	Name	Gender	Age	Diagnosis	Treating hospital	Month
1	202401	Jingshuo 景烁	M	3m	VSD, Patent foramen orale, PAH	Guangdong Provincial Women & Children Hospital Panyu	Mar 24
2	202402	Xiazhen 夏桢	M	9y	VSD, ASD	Guangdong Provincial Women & Children Hospital Panyu	Mar 24
3	-	Yuchen 玉晨	M	5y	PDA	Chengdu BOE Hospital	Sep 24
4	-	Monizuo 莫你作	W	7y	ASD	Chengdu BOE Hospital	Sep 24
5	202403	Zitong 姿彤	W	7y	ASD	Provincial Women & Children Hospital Panyu	Aug 24
6	202404	Jinyuan 锦源	M	1m	Tetralogy of fallot	Guangdong Provincial People's Hospital	Okt 24
7	202405	Zhikang 智康	M	8y	ASD	Guangdong Provincial People's Hospital	Okt 24
8	-	Tiegen 铁根	M	11y	ASD	Chengdu BOE Hospital	Sep 24
9	-	Jianlin 见林	M	10y	Ebstein anomaly, Tricuspid incompetence	Chengdu BOE Hospital	Sep 24
10	-	Guoyi 果衣	W	12y	VSD,PDA,MR-VTI	Chengdu BOE Hospital	Sep 24
11	-	Mingming 明明	W	13y	Ebstein anomaly, Tricuspid incompetence, Patent foramen ovale	Chengdu BOE Hospital	Sep 24
12	-	Libumo 例布莫	W	12y	ASD, Mitral valve insufficiency incompetence, Tricuspid incompetence	Chengdu BOE Hospital	Sep 24
13	202406	Zedru 子茹	W	5y	Pulmonary valve atresia, Tricuspid stenosis, Patent foramen ovale, PDA	Guangdong Provincial People's Hospital	Okt 24
14	-	Xiaomei 小美	W	5y	VSD, TR	Chengdu BOE Hospital	Nov 24
15	-	Jiaying 佳英	W	7y	VSD	Chengdu BOE Hospital	Nov 24
16	202407	Qilin 且麟	M	4y	ASA, ASD	Guangdong Provincial People's Hospital	Okt 24
17	202408	Jinxiao 锦潇	M	5m	ASD, PAH	Guangdong Provincial People's Hospital	Dec 24
18	202409	Lihuan 利欢	W	16y	ASD, PAH	Guangdong Provincial People's Hospital	Dec 24
19	202410	Jiani 佳妮	W	3y	left to right shunt	Guangdong Provincial People's Hospital	Dec 24
20	202411	Xintong 昕彤	W	1m	Tetralogy of fallot	Guangdong Provincial People's Hospital	Dec 24

HOPEFUL HEARTS IN 2024

Details of our 2024 cases

Each affected family has its own experiences in dealing with the disease. Behind every child is a story. We would like to share two stories here:

1. Lihuan, who comes from Wuhua county, Guangdong, is a high school student. Her heart condition was discovered when she was a baby, but the family didn't have the money for her to have the necessary surgery.

Lihuan has 4 other siblings in the family, the school fee of all 5 siblings is around 30,000 RMB annually. Lihuan's grandparents who don't have a pension are over 90 years old. They have multiple health issues, and their medical bill is over 1 thousand a month. Lihuan's parents are farmers and their income is very low. They work part time jobs to make extra income in their low season.

Lihuan received surgery at Guangdong Provincial Hospital in October 2024, she was discharged 5 days after the surgery. The hospital cost was 78,743.92 RMB in total. The national health insurance covered around 35,446.13 RMB, Hopeful Hearts supported 18,000 RMB, and the family still had to bear 25,297.79 RMB on their own, they didn't receive any other donations. After the surgery she needed to be on medication continuously and followed with regular check-ups which involved more costs.

At a recent post operation interview, the father of Lihuan said Lihuan is recovered well, but she is still very reticent and quiet at school due to the historical health issue.

2. Jingshuo, 3 months old, comes from Xupu county, Hunan province. Jingshuo's parents are farmers, and their farming income is around 16,000 RMB annually.

Jingshuo's grandpa has mental disabilities. Unfortunately, he had an accident in 2021 that caused severe brain injury. The medical bill was over 300,000 RMB and the family had to borrow quite a lot.

When Jingshuo was born in 2024 with the heart disease, the surgery was estimated to be 120,157.30 RMB, with the health insurance covering 55,710.20 RMB and Hopeful Hearts supporting 20,000 RMB, the family still had to pay 44,447.10 RMB.

In a post operation interview, we learned that Jingshuo developed an infection and a high fever and was immediately admitted to ICU. This resulted another 70,000 RMB of cost. Now Jingshuo is recovering well and his father is very grateful of Hopeful Hearts' support.

We wish Lihuan and Jingshuo all the best for the future. These two children and their parents had to overcome great challenges. We are trying to support them during this difficult time. Together we help to keep the young hearts beating.

HOPEFUL HEARTS IN 2024

Financial overview and analysis

The financial implications of the activities of Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou in 2024 are shown in the cash flow statement on the right.

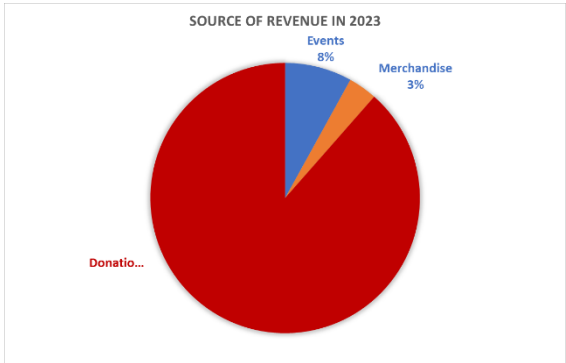
Financially, 2024 turned out to be a solid year for Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou.

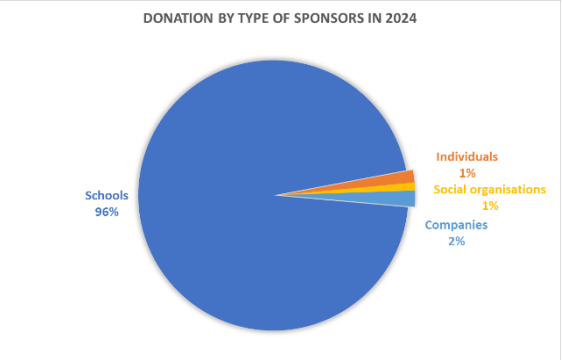
A large part of the donations came from schools, including British School Guangzhou (BSG), Utahloy International School of Guangzhou (UISG) and their parent organizations.

Furthermore, Hopeful Hearts organized small-scale events to generate funds for charity and also received donations from individual donors.

Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou finished the year on a good financial note, carrying forward 248,075.01 RMB to 2025.

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Net Assets Brought Forward from previous year	**349,159.21**	**203,269.32**	**392,416.40**	**363,568.46**	**290,324.39**
REVENUE					
Case regulation			23,808.93		35,000.00
Events and Fundraising	26,989.61	65,630.38	72,123.00	87,497.00	169,891.60
Donations	207,745.25	235,308.37	126,870.26	303,121.44	366,934.13
Total Revenue	**234,734.86**	**300,938.75**	**222,802.19**	**390,618.44**	**571,825.73**
EXPENSES					
Events and Fundraising Expenses		2,330.00	22,307.40	24,181.68	19,867.39
Amity Administration Fees	9,028.26	15,311.34	3,141.87	19,781.04	13,538.08
Total Expenses	**9,028.26**	**17,641.34**	**25,449.27**	**43,962.72**	**33,405.47**
Surgery Costs	326,790.80	137,407.52	386,500.00	317,807.78	465,176.19
Total Expenditure	**335,819.06**	**155,048.86**	**411,949.27**	**361,770.50**	**498,581.66**
Net Assets Carried Forward	**248,075.01**	**349,159.21**	**203,269.32**	**392,416.40**	**363,568.46**





HOPEFUL HEARTS IN 2024

Our partners and sponsors in 2024

Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou is very grateful to the following organizations and individuals for making donations or for offering other kinds of support to help our cause in 2024:

Significant Sponsors

- British School Guangzhou (BSG)
- Parent Support Group of BSG (PSG)
- Utahloy International School
- Utahloy Parent Teacher Association (UPTA)
- Guangzhou Women´s International Club (GWIC)
- Happy Monk
- Janett Kästner

Friends and supporters

American International School Guangzhou (AISG), Ashley Lin, Banana Leaf, Banana Tours, Bayer 04 Leverkusen Football School GZ, Beauty Space GZ, Borgovino, Breathing Herb, Cages, Canadian International School GZ (CIS), China Hotel GZ, Crown Plaza, Dunn Bros, Embassy, Eleonora & Barbara from GWIC, F45 Training Studio, Francesco Yabe, Frida's, Gail's, Goat, Gonzalo, Guangzhou Groceries, Harmony, Hooley's, Ibiza, ILFORD Café, Indigo Hotel, Jane Lo, Julian Lee, Kimchi Restaurant, Le Hachoir, Lilia Barbier Santos, Little Papa, Mandarin Oriental, Marriott Foshan, Maserati, Mezomd, Morgan's, Morphix Crossfit, Morton's Grille, Naked Bowl, Oasis Yves Creative, OGGI, Pandora, Park Hyatt Guangzhou, Paulaner, Piazza Italia, Pitsses Winery, Pizza Forza, Rangoli, Shahenshah Restaurant, Sharks Football Club, Shirley Tan, Soces Coffee, Taiwan Tea, Tania Walla, The Loop Lounge, T.N.C., Tuteetech, Vivi, Wanwangda Jewelry, Zevero, 13 Factories, 雪肖雪芳 and all the other friends, supporters and members of the Hopeful Hearts Helping Hands team.

HOPEFUL HEARTS IN 2024

Social fundraising events

The social events of Hopeful Hearts in Guangzhou are a key factor in raising awareness of our charity and raising vital funds. In 2024 these were the most important events for fundraising:

- Dare 2 Wear Party at Happy Monk
- Coffee tasting event at ILFORD Café with GWIC
- School events at BSG, Utahloy, AISG and CIS
- Charity presentation at GWIC Meet & Greet Event
- Charity presentation for Parent Support Group (PSG) of BSG

HOW TO CONTACT, FOLLOW AND SUPPORT US

Contact information

To find out more about the activities of Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou and the children we support, please follow our WeChat subscription account by scanning the QR code below, have a look at our website www.hopefulheartsgz.org or send an email to hopefulhearts.gz@yahoo.com.

Ways to make a donation

You can support us by making a donation.

Donations can be deposited directly into the Amity Foundation bank account. A fapiao can be issued upon request by mail: Hopefulhearts.gz@yahoo.com.

愛德基金會
THE AMITY FOUNDATION

HOPEFUL HEARTS GUANGZHOU

Help Keep the Young Hearts Beating!