



A Legacy of Research. A Future Full of Hope.

Thirty years ago, the future for children born with congenital heart defects (CHDs) looked very different. Today, because of decades of research and medical advancements, more children are surviving and growing into adulthood than ever before.



1990 - 2021

56.2%

decline in CHD-related deaths.

Behind this number are more birthdays celebrated, more milestones reached, and more futures made possible.

Advancing the most promising congenital heart defect research has been **our mission** for three decades.



\$21 Million

invested in promising
CHD science



Independent review

by leading physicians, surgeons, and researchers



Research funding

that reaches institutions and families nationwide



A disciplined process

that identifies the strongest opportunities



Responsible stewardship

of every donor dollar entrusted to us

Research changes what is possible.

Every discovery brings new hope for children born with congenital heart defects — opening doors to better treatments, longer lives, and futures once thought impossible.

The next breakthrough is waiting, and research is how we get there.

Survival is only the beginning. **2.4 Million Americans** are now living with **congenital heart defects**.

97%

of babies with non-critical CHDs survive their first year



69%

of children with critical CHDs survive to at least age 18



95%

of children with non-critical CHDs survive to adulthood



81%

of babies born with CHDs are expected to survive to at least age 35



That growing population represents one of research's greatest successes — and one of its greatest challenges. Children who once may not have survived infancy are now becoming teenagers and adults. With longer lives come new questions that previous generations never had the opportunity to ask.



THEN

A More Uncertain Future

- Many children did not survive infancy
- Open-heart surgery as one of few options
- Limited understanding of long-term outcomes
- Fewer children reaching adulthood



NOW + NEXT

Research for a Brighter Tomorrow

- Preventing heart failure
- Reducing repeated surgeries and interventions
- Developing less-invasive treatments
- Improving neurodevelopmental outcomes
- Understanding lifelong complications
- Helping adults with CHDs live longer, healthier lives

The Next Chapter Starts Now.

For 30 years, The Children's Heart Foundation has invested in the research that moves CHD care forward. The progress is extraordinary — but the work isn't finished.

Research helped create a generation of survivors. Now research must help them thrive.

Visit childrensheartfoundation.org to learn more.