



WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

NEARLY **1**
OUT OF
100
BABIES 
ARE BORN WITH
HEART DEFECTS
EACH YEAR

WHY WE WALK

“I do this because all CHD patients, regardless of where they live, should have access to appropriate, quality care. I also want to help fund research for the growing needs of our community and for advances such as the Melody valve!”

- Kim Edgren, CHD Adult Survivor

“Shortly after Lily passed away I found out about the first annual Greater Atlanta Walk and #TEAMLILY was formed! I decided that I would not let my angel's death consume me. I would work to raise funds and awareness so hopefully one day babies like Lily would have a chance for survival.”

- Kim Dice, Mom to Heart Angel



Today, more infants with congenital heart disease (CHD) survive into adulthood because of advancements in research and care. Despite the progress made in understanding and treating CHD, raising critical funds to further research and awareness is key.

On the other side of this page you will see how your support of the Congenital Heart Walk will help continue the efforts of two passionate organizations ensuring the voice of people with CHD is heard.

THE CHILDREN'S HEART FOUNDATION (CHF)

The Children's Heart Foundation is the leading national organization solely dedicated to funding the most promising research to advance the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of congenital heart defects.

- **Research Funding** – CHF funds millions of dollars in the areas of clinical cardiology, basic science, advancement of surgical techniques, neurological impact & genetics.
- **Advocacy** – CHF plays a critical role in advocating for increased CHD research and other significant issues in both the private & public sector. Their strategy is focused on collaboration with other nationally recognized congenital heart organizations (like ACHA) to advance the discussion about CHD's and their impact.
- **Publications** – CHF has produced & continues to distribute a parent resource book entitled *It's My Heart* which provides families with valuable information on their child's congenital heart defect. These books are available to families at no cost.



ADULT CONGENITAL HEART ASSOCIATION (ACHA)

The ACHA is the only organization dedicated to improving and extending the lives of the millions of adults with CHD through the following initiatives:

- **Heart to Heart Ambassadors** – From an initial nine Ambassadors in 2009 to now more than 73, ACHA trains volunteers to connect one-on-one, giving critical support to more than 1,000 CHD patients and/or family members.
- **ACHD Accreditation Program** – Together with ACHD providers, ACHA is able to identify critical needs for consistency and standardization of care through the development of accredited ACHA centers nationwide.
- **Regional Education Events** – ACHA organizes four patient education events each year in different markets and participates in various conferences reaching hundreds of people in communities across the country.
- **ACHD Fellowship Program** – ACHA's Actelion Fellowship Awards provide two years of training for cardiologists specializing in adults with CHD.
- **Advocacy** – In collaboration with other CHD organizations (like CHF), more than 100 advocates gather in Washington, D.C. during Heart Month to talk with their legislators about CHD.
- **On-going Patient Education** – Through their website, discussion forums, webinars and social media channels, ACHA provides 24-hour access to relevant, up-to-date information and resources.

Congenital Heart Walks, held across the country, raise critical funds to support the research, advocacy and education efforts of both CHF and ACHA. Your generous support is greatly needed in order to ensure the continued growth of these efforts for all affected by CHD.