



Angel Heart International 2016 Annual Report



About Angel Heart International

Angel Heart International, Inc. (AHI) is a public nonprofit corporation serving children with congenital heart diseases (CHD) in China and other developing countries. Since its founding in February 2007, AHI has helped 113 children with CHD, with many receiving successful surgeries.

Most CHD diseases are treatable and many of the surgeries treating CHD have almost a 99% chance of success, given they are performed in time. After surgery, most children can lead completely normal lives. Unfortunately, many of the families Angel Heart works with cannot afford the surgery and can only watch as this completely treatable disease takes their children away.

Angel Heart International focuses on one region at a time to make our business model work before expanding the programs

Our Mission

Angel Heart International is committed to serving children with congenital heart diseases in China and other developing countries. We promise to do everything possible for these children, working not only to financially assist them in attaining life-saving surgeries, but also compassionately building an enduring network of support for each child, leading them to their new futures.

We seek more grassroots efforts to give love and care to children suffering from CHD and their families, and to go beyond simply providing medical services to them.

Cover: Past and current patients reunite with AHI volunteers summer 2016 in Gansu, China

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About the Gansu Project

The Gansu province is considered to be one of the poorest province in China. Its frequent droughts and famines have slowed its economic progress, leaving most of its inhabitants poverty-stricken and living in unhealthy conditions. Angel Heart International seeks to help the impoverished children suffering from CHD in Gansu. Most of their families are unable to provide the medical care their children need, and thus they turn to AHI for support. Our volunteers meet with the families and children, and stay with them through the surgery process and recovery, and with the support of our partner, hospitals, 113 patients have been able to receive successful operations.

Letter From Our Leadership

Note from AHI President

Dear Angel Heart International Supporters:



**AHI President
Jennifer Yang**

2016 was a watershed year for Angel Heart. During a year in which we welcomed several young doers to our leadership team, we also sent 39 volunteers to China through our Gansu Caring Group Program and awarded 7 scholarships to AHI patients—both the highest numbers yet for either program. As an organization, we are growing, teaching, and serving at a greater scale than ever before. With this year of change at its close, we can now proudly say that we have helped save the lives of over 100 patients. To this day, we have sponsored surgeries for 117 children, 21 of them in 2016.

As far as we have come amid such rapid growth, we have continued to demonstrate our commitment to supporting underprivileged children suffering from congenital heart disease throughout the patient care and recovery process.

Our four primary vehicles for this mission are dedicated medical assistance, academic scholarships, improved medical care, and a strong support network. At Angel Heart, we believe in Whole Person Care, and we are well positioned—more so than ever before—to deliver this care to each of our patients.

With the release of two newsletters in 2016 and increased online presence and engagement, we have begun to realize our full potential as a more connected and integrated organization. We have strengthened our capabilities across teams and programs, leveraging the diverse strengths of our leaders and talented volunteers. Through continuous development and alignment of our teams, I am confident in our organization's potential to build on these successes.

Our collaborators and supporters have also been integral to making our vision a reality. Pacific Academy organized a concert fundraiser to the resounding enthusiasm of our supporters, and AHI affiliates gained insights into emerging cardiac technologies during the American Association for Thoracic Surgery's annual conference. Key corporate sponsors, Edwards Lifesciences and Capital Group, awarded generous contributions to support AHI's medical assistance program in delivering our vision. During the youth volunteer trip to Gansu, China, as well, employees of Edwards Lifesciences China lent their support and unique perspectives in a joint caring trip.

Even beyond our commitment to addressing the unmet need for medical care in these regions of rural China, we believe in the need to advance current standards of

prevention and intervention through improved methods of diagnosis. Hand in hand with our partners, we hope to enable this by providing our collaborating physicians with more educational opportunities and exposure to state-of-the-art techniques.

Our path forward is clear: we have begun the process of transforming AHI into a more dynamic organization but—as with any engine of change—the room for growth is infinite. We are committed to offering our patients a highly supportive and personalized level of care. To accomplish our objective, we will continue to drive engagement by optimizing our processes. At the forefront as well will be furthering the development of our care programs in Gansu, providing critical resources and support for our patients and their families.

Our successes in 2016 have been the result of tireless work by an extraordinary team of volunteers and the supporters who make it possible. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to each of you for choosing to make an impact on the lives of our patients. I am excited and tremendously grateful to have the privilege of moving this organization forward alongside you.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Yang
President, Angel Heart International

Note from AHI Vice Presidents



AHI Vice Presidents Yvonne Lu (left) & Tiffany Wu (right)

It has been an absolute pleasure working with everyone this past year. We continue to be amazed and inspired by our volunteers' drive and kind-hearted dedication and are humbled by AHI's growth and accomplishments in 2016. We are honored to take AHI past our 10-year milestone and excited to continue pushing beyond our limits as an organization. We look forward to furthering our mission in the new year.

To each and every AHI supporter – thank you so much for all that you do.

With warmest regards,
Yvonne Lu & Tiffany Wu
Co-Vice-Presidents, Angel Heart International

2016 Patient Summary for Medical Assistance Program

Patient Names	Sex	Age of Surgery	Diagnosis
Su, Le	F	1	ASD
Zhao, Meiting	F	6	VSD
Ji, Yanmei	F	13	VSD
Ma, Chunfang	F	3	AVSD
Wang, Yajie	F	2	ASD
Bao, Shirui	M	5	PFO, VSD
Ma, Shixuan	M	2	ASD, VSD
Ma, Zhuolin	F	7	ASD, PDA
Ma, Ruihua	F	10	PDA
Ma, Ruijuan	F	12	PDA
Zhang, Jiale	M	7	VSD
Kang, Heng	M	5	ASD
Wang, Meng	F	5	ASD
Ma, Shengjie	M	3	PFO, PDA
Wei, Sixuan	M	1	VSD, Pulmonary Hypertension
Yang, Zixin	F	4	PDA
Dou, Pei	M	16	TOF
Yang, Jiasin	F	5	VSD
Qiao, Kaibing	M	3	VSD, PDA, Coarctation of Aorta
Tian, Hao	M	5	ASD
Wang, Aochen	M	5 months	VSD, PFO

Over the past ten years, Angel Heart International has sponsored surgery cost for 113 children suffering from CHD, mainly from the Gansu province in China. Ranged from age 1 to 17, they all desperately needed the medical attention their parents could not afford to give them. Through the tireless efforts of AHI's volunteers and the generous donations given to AHI, we were able to fund 17 successful surgeries in 2016 and give our patients a second opportunity for a brighter future.



A prospective patient grasps the hand of an AHI volunteer during Gansu home visits last summer

Helping and Healing

Yanmei Ji's Story

Yanmei Ji is a quiet 13-year old girl who was diagnosed with ventricular septal. Diagnosed with hepatitis since 2009, Yanmei Ji's father passed away from cirrhosis in 2015, so there are only four people in the family: her mother, younger twin brother, and younger twin sister. Her younger brother is also diagnosed with ventricular septal, and her mother only graduated from elementary school. They have 5 arcs of field and no donkeys or cows. Mainly planting corn and potatoes, the family sold their crop in 2015 for 3,000 RMB; they left a few potatoes for the family to eat. With the profit from the crop and with the low income minimal assurance, the family's total income is 8,000 RMB. They spend most of their money on fertilizer, seeds, forage, and the medical cost of the children who have congenital disease. The mother is the only one who works, but she has never worked outside because she needed to take care of her ill husband and three children. The family borrowed 41,000 RMB from relatives, and they were unable to raise money for the surgery.

When Yanmei Ji was 2 months old, she was treated for a cold at a hospital. There, she was diagnosed with a congenital heart disease. Understanding the basic information, the parents knew that it was necessary to receive surgery; however, the patient was never treated. In 2015, the province hospital checked the children with congenital diseases in Kangle Country, and Yanmei Ji was diagnosed with ventricular septal defect. Because the family had economic difficulties and could not finance the surgery, Yanmei Ji was recommended to Angel Heart International by Dr. Liu who is the Director of Heart Surgery.



Yanmei smiling at the camera just days after her surgery



A family member records and checks Yanmei's time schedule for eating

Helping and Healing

Yirui Bao's Story

Yirui Bao is a five year old boy born on Nov 11, 2011. He was diagnosed at 5 years old with Atrial septal defect and ventricular septal defect. Their family lives in Liushu county in Fuxing village. Yirui Bao has four people in the family: the grandparents, the father, and the child. The grandparents have ailing health and require medication all year long. Because his mother left home when Yirui Bao was six months old and never asked about him since, Yirui Bao is mostly raised by his grandmother. Yirui Bao is the family's main source of income and works in nearby areas for short-time jobs. In 2015, the father made 10,000 RMB from working short-time jobs in nearby areas. The family spends most of their money on buying fertilizer, Yirui Bao's tuition, and the medical cost for the grandparents and child.

No one in the family has had a congenital heart disease, so the parents did not know the consequences of the untreated disease. They only recognized that there would be severe consequences if the child did not receive surgery soon. The patient went to Lanzhou Second Hospital for examination. The color Doppler ultrasound before the surgery cost 800 MB, and the family tried to make the surgery possible using the 30,000 RMB they borrowed from relatives for the surgery. Their debt was added on the 40,000 RMB for the father's wedding and family emergency. Because they lacked the money, Yirui Bao did not receive treatment.

With help from Angel Heart International, Yirui Bao was able to receive a successful surgery. He appears to have good health and likes to run and jump. He is able to return back to school and study.



YiRui Bao in his room recovering after his surgery



YiRui poses with his grandmother who accompanied him from their remote rural home to the Gansu Provincial Hospital

Stories from Our Volunteers

In 2016, volunteers visited the patients in Gansu

Day 1 – Meeting the Patients

“As I walked into the hospital room, I was greeted by two small and adorable faces, both were six years old and younger. One of them, Kang Heng, a little boy with big eyes, was extremely cute and shy; I couldn’t get a word out of him. We gave him gifts, each of which he examined and played with for a short time before moving onto the next. He was so happy from such small things as each volunteer handed him a gift. With so much attention from the volunteers he seemed overwhelmed, yet content. I realized, in that moment, just how privileged I am and felt so blessed to be able to help these children. Kang Heng was getting ready for his surgery that was being performed in a few days; one I learned was minimally invasive. The news of the method of his surgery was something I couldn’t be happier about because of the slim possibility of complications. His shy and curious personality was incredibly endearing, and I knew I would never forget him.

Next I met Wang Meng, she was one of the cutest, funniest, and sweetest little girls I have ever met. Her personality lit up the room, and the first time I looked at her I was practically in love. She was so small and wearing a pink princess dress. Her hair was in little braids and covered with colorful barrettes. She was giggling, talking, and posing for photos, she was so outgoing, unlike the other patient. I approached her, wanting to talk to her and figure out more about her surgery, I couldn’t believe that a girl who seemed so healthy was preparing for heart surgery. I learned that her procedure was also supposed to be minimally invasive, another relief. As I finally got to hand her my gift, I automatically felt a connection to her.” **-Halle Shumate**

Day 2-Home Visits

“Walking into their two room home, the musky air filled my nose as I examined the small enclosure. The sun gazed upon the bed as the dust particles in the air became visible. Making a slight turn, not far away from the bed, there was a small table fit for a group of toddlers next to a stove with one pan filled with grease and burned remnants of their last meal. Disbelieving the reality of their living conditions, I noticed a white cord running up the wall connected to a single light bulb, the only sign of technology. Not noticing a source of water or a surplus of food, I was overwhelmed with guilt from their gesture of giving us what they were in no position to relinquish.” **-Kellie Cao**



One of the homes of a patient



Briefing before the surgery

Day 3-Surgery Day

“The day started when everyone met in the lobby of the hotel to walk to the hospital together. Once I was in the hospital the full weight of reality really resonated and became my reality and not a thought that can be easily pushed away. The main hospital entrance had open windows and light that seemed to remind everyone in the hospital that life would go on. As we made our way up to the second floor, I could see worried family members trying to relax with nicotine from cigarettes. Groups of people were gathered around makeshift cots and grandparents tried to comfort scared restless children. The air was stale with the

smell of blood and cigarettes that seemed to seep into the very bones of everybody while the smell was layered with the spray of disinfectant and soap. We were brought to the classroom to be briefed about the expectations and the schedule of the day. The previous jovial mood gave away to the underlying seriousness and somberness. After we met the doctors and nurses, we separated into groups to go comfort the families of the patients whose children went into the surgery room, while visiting other patients who stayed at the hospital. The second group went to visit a patient before going to see the anxious parents in the waiting room.” **-Lisa Shi**

Reflection

“The sense of community that I felt within Angel Heart that day was unlike anything I had experienced before. Some of my best friends were made on this trip, and some of the kindest people I've ever met were also on this trip. Everyone cared for each other and was there for one and other, making sure that we were all comforted during this hard time. On this trip I realized that there is such thing as family outside of family, and the worth of friends. I also realized how lucky I am to have the privilege I do, and I know that I will always use it to help those who need it. I am so grateful for the opportunity that I was given through this organization, and it was incredibly eye opening. My perspective has been totally altered by this trip, especially by Wang Meng, and I hope to someday travel to Gansu and meet with her family once again.” **-Halle Shumate**

“By no means have the three trips I've been on been vacations, but I've found them to be, in a sense, refreshing. Our trips aren't relaxing by any means; if they were, I feel like we'd be approaching them wrong. We are without a doubt, we are here to not only give what we have to give on behalf of Angel Heart, but also to give every single ounce of ourselves as people to our patients, to completely devote every step we take to doing what we know to be right. What I call refreshing is what I continually receive from Angel Heart. Over the course of my years of work with this organization, the greatest thing I have gained is a sense of perspective, a perspective that is by every definition refreshing. Without reminders to remind us that we are extremely lucky to live where we do and have what we have, it is very easy to fall into a pattern of self-absorption. Working with our patients and volunteers has helped me to see myself as someone who can help someone else and live for someone else.” **-Bryan Lu**



*U.S. volunteers before entering the
Gansu Provincial Hospital on Day 3*

New Progress

Pacific Academy Fundraising Concert

By: Celine Phuong

Angel Heart International's 10 year anniversary celebration was held on February 4th, 2017 at Pacific Academy. The room was filled with over 200 excited guests who came from around the country and from China for this special night. Guests included some of our many volunteers, donors, past board members, and organization supporters. The concert began with a beautiful candle-lit singing performance of "Fill the World with Love." Following the opening piece, Pacific Academy Principal, Keith Corpus, and President of Angel Heart International, Jennifer Yang, welcomed the guests. Concert hosts Kelly Chu (Director of Pacific Academy) and Umi Garrett (one of the performing pianists for the evening) introduced the pieces for the night. The pieces that followed were performed by the Pacific Academy Chamber Orchestra and pianists Umi Garrett, Phoebe Pan, and Allison To. Each performance was dedicated to a special group of people who had volunteered their time for AHI such as our doctors in China, our gracious donors, our founder Dr. Lee, and our volunteers in China and in the US. A beautiful slide show was played during each piece, recognizing the group of people whom the piece was dedicated to.

One of our special guests of the night was Dr. Tao You, the Director of the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Gansu Province People's Hospital in China. He highlighted the importance of AHI's and the hospital's joint effort to bring care to underserved children. The doctors and nurses from Gansu who could not make it to the celebration that night shared their heartwarming messages via video. Christine Fontana, a representative from Edwards LifeSciences, also shared her excitement and congratulations for the years of successful collaboration between our organizations. Mrs. Niu was recognized for her dedication as a volunteer for Angel Heart for 10 years, and former Angel Heart president Alina Yang spoke from her experience as our organization's first student volunteer.

One of our past patients, Lina Zhu, had also traveled from China to speak on behalf of AHI's patients and families. As a representative for the children AHI has helped, she expressed her gratitude and hope for many more 10-year milestones to come in AHI's future. Having experienced such care and support through AHI, Zhu Lina became a volunteer for the organization as well. She described how the love that she received from AHI inspired her, and she hopes to share this love with others in the same way. In a touching moment, Zhu Lina was reunited with US volunteers Michelle Ding, Jennifer Yang, and Tianyi Chen, who met her as volunteers but became her good friends. They had supported her and her family as she prepared for her surgery back in August 2009.

A total of \$40,000 was raised during the event, giving many more children the opportunity for a brighter and more vibrant future.



Left to Right: Kelly Chu (CEO of Pacific Academy), Umi Garret (pianist), Allison To (pianist), Phoebe Pan (pianist), Dr. Lee (founder of Angel Heart), Lina Zhu (past patient and Angel Heart representative), Dr. Tao You (Director of Cardiovascular Surgery at Gansu Provincial Hospital)



Keith Corpus (Principal of Pacific Academy) and Jennifer Yang (President of Angel Heart) welcome everyone to the annual reunion

Financial Statement

AHI's Financial Statement

<u>Income</u>		<u>12-31-2016</u>
	Nonrestricted Public Support	
	Corporate Contributions	90,090.07
	Individual Contributions	37,454.00
	Investments	
	Interest-savings, short-term CD	341.67
	Total Income:	\$127,885.74
<u>Expense</u>		
	Program Expenses	
	Surgery Fees	58,441.50
	Bank fees	155.20
	Better medical care	
	Care Group	
	Operating Expenses (USA)	
	Books, Subscriptions, Reference	
	Postage, Mailing Service	198.58
	Printing and Copying	
	Conference, Convention, Meeting	652.69
	Business Registration Fees	
	Legal fees	
	Web design and maintenance	194.67
	Total Expense:	\$ 59,642.64
<u>Net Income:</u>		\$ 68,243.10

Thank You for Your Support

Thanks to generous organizations like Edwards Lifesciences, the Capital Group Foundation, American Association for Thoracic Surgery and our cherished individual contributors, this year we have been able to provide quality care and loving support to eleven children in the Gansu Province of China. The support we have been given has been able to give these children, once burdened with congenital heart disease, and their families a bright future and a reason to hope. With the money from these donations and the care of our volunteers, we not only have given these children medical attention, but have also helped them start anew. Angel Heart International started with love, and with love, our volunteers will continue to collaborate to give these families hope.



Volunteers bring gifts and interact with patients a few days after their surgeries, establishing a lifelong connection



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