



Strengthen Our Community

Fall 2007

Our passion for service is at the core of who we are at Edwards Lifesciences. From developing innovative solutions for people fighting cardiovascular disease globally, to supporting local, national and international charitable organizations that expand awareness about cardiovascular disease or provide support and services to those in need, we are focused on improving the quality of life around the world.

We established The Edwards Lifesciences Fund to support advancements in knowledge and improvements in quality of life, focusing primarily upon cardiovascular disease and the communities where our employees live and work. In this inaugural issue of the Strengthen Our Community Newsletter, we provide a snapshot of some of the ways Edwards employees and the organizations supported by The Edwards Lifesciences Fund are positively impacting people's lives. We are proud of our employees' individual and collective efforts and are pleased to share some of the stories of how, together with the organizations we support, Edwards is making a difference every day.

Sincerely,

Grant Johnson

*Vice President, Global Communications
Edwards Lifesciences*

P.S. We want to hear your stories of how Edwards is helping you and your organization make a difference. Please email your stories and pictures to edwards_fund@edwards.com or via mail to The Edwards Lifesciences Fund, One Edwards Way, Irvine, CA 92614. For more information about our fund, please visit www.edwards.com/edwardsfund.

Upcoming Events

October

- Orange County Food Drive
- The American Red Cross Blood Drive

November

- Announcement of The Edwards Lifesciences Fund 2007 Grantees
- Orange County United Way Campaign

December

- Operation Santa Claus
- The American Red Cross Blood Drive

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Edwards



Helping and Healing

International Children's Heart Foundation



One percent of the world's population is born with heart disease, and only about a third are properly diagnosed. Instead of thriving in the joys of a carefree childhood, children with heart disease exhaust easily, experience loneliness because of their inability to play with other children and they and their families must constantly worry over the uncertainty of their health. In most cases, a simple procedure performed by skilled surgeons could change this course, but for thousands of children in underdeveloped or remote regions, their options are limited.

The International Children's Heart Foundation (ICHF) strives to put an end to this unfortunate and unnecessary situation by providing direct care to as many children as possible and training surgeons from developing nations in this special field, so that they ultimately can provide care for their own communities. The ICHF also sends medications, surgical supplies and diagnostic equipment to medical facilities around the world.

With the support of an \$85,000 grant from The Edwards Lifesciences Fund, a 13-member team of pediatric surgeons, nurses and technicians

volunteered their time and talent to travel from the U.S. to the Children's Hospital of Santiago in the Dominican Republic to operate on children with congenital heart disease.

Eddy, a 16-year old boy from a town just 45 minutes away from Santiago, met with the ICHF team on July 27, 2007. He was short of breath and pale, and doctors quickly diagnosed him with endocarditis, a possible ventricular septal defect, and found a growth on his heart valve. Surgery was his only hope.



Thanks to the ICHF team, his surgery was successful and Eddy is on his way to being well for the first time in his life. He recently told his doctors, "Before the operation I was sad because I could not do many of the things that my friends could do. I'm so thankful to the ICHF team because, without their help, none of this would have been possible. My parents could not pay for this [operation] by themselves."

During the team's four visits to Santiago over the past 12 months, they performed 74 life-saving operations on children like Eddy.

Care



The HeartGift Foundation

In May 2007, Laura, a seven-year-old from Latin America, arrived in the U.S. to undergo surgery at the Children's Hospital of Austin, Texas for treatment of a heart defect. Laura received the much-needed medical care thanks to the HeartGift Foundation's Mending Hearts program, which was supported by a \$50,000 grant from The Edwards Lifesciences Fund. The funding was applied to direct medical care, as well as lodging for Laura and her mother during their stay in the U.S.

When Laura arrived in Austin, she was very ill and looked it: poor coloring and clubbed fingers and toes due to inadequate circulation, with hardly enough energy to play even while sitting on the floor. Four days after her surgery, Laura was released from the hospital and continued to progress while staying with her host family, venturing out for a trip to Dallas between her follow-up doctors' appointments. Just two weeks after the surgery, Laura and her mother returned home, looking forward to a happier and healthier future.

Laura is one of five children ranging in age from three to 13 years old who have been provided with free life-saving surgery because of the grant from The Edwards Lifesciences Fund to the HeartGift Foundation.



AmeriCares International

Edwards not only donates funding to worthy organizations, but also provides medical product donations to groups such as AmeriCares International. Their mission is to provide medical donations to qualified healthcare practitioners who travel overseas to perform charitable medical services. This medical outreach program brings desperately needed health services to well over 100,000 people a year in some of the most under-developed areas in 82 countries around the world.

Valentina, a 55-year-old woman from Kyrgyzstan, had been suffering from chronic rheumatic heart disease for more than 20 years. When doctors first diagnosed her condition, she underwent open-heart surgery, however, her health did not improve and she became disabled by her illness. Over the past



two years, her chest pains and shortness of breath became so overwhelming that she had to quit her job despite having to care not only for herself, but also for her mother. She was in need of a new heart valve, but did not have the means for this costly surgery.

Fortunately for Valentina, her doctors referred her to surgeons supported by AmeriCares and on January 18, 2007, she had her mitral heart valve replaced with an Edwards pericardial tissue heart valve, donated through AmeriCares.

Valentina feels much better now and can enjoy long walks in the evenings with her family. She is very grateful to both AmeriCares and Edwards for giving her an opportunity to enjoy a full life again.

Since 2003, Edwards has donated medical products valued at approximately \$2 million to AmeriCares.



Awareness and Education

Establishing a Cardiovascular Technology Center at UC Irvine



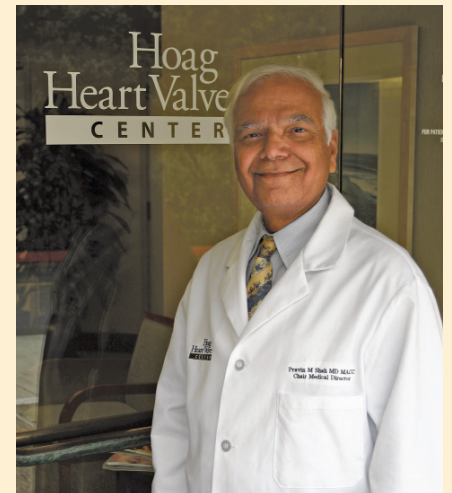
In September 2007, Edwards announced a \$5 million multi-year grant to our neighbor, the University of California, Irvine, to build The Edwards Lifesciences Center for Advanced Cardiovascular Technology. This new center will be dedicated specifically to researching and developing new cardiovascular devices through undergraduate and graduate student programs. In addition, it will support the university's faculty members by providing a state-of-the-art training environment in which to host prominent national and international experts in cardiovascular technology, including visiting scholars, physicians, scientists and industry leaders. The goal of the center is to create an interdisciplinary facility that encourages students, faculty, researchers, and visiting scholars to collaborate and exchange new ideas to drive the development of the next generation of cardiovascular advancements. Construction of this new center has begun and is expected to be completed in August 2009.

Heart Valve Screening and Education for OC Seniors

Approximately 20 percent of the general population aged 65 years and older have mitral valve abnormalities and approximately 30 percent have aortic valve abnormalities, which often go unnoticed until it leads to heart failure or other serious complications. Compounding the issue, this age group is the fastest-growing segment of the American population, making the chore of finding this silent killer even more daunting.

The best time to treat valvular heart disease is before symptoms become severe. To help seniors in Orange County determine if they have valve disease, Edwards granted \$50,000 to Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian in Newport Beach, Calif.

The funds were used to develop the first valvular heart disease center on the West Coast as well as the accompanying education program. The Hoag Heart Valve Center provides free screening for the presence



*Pravin Shah, MD MACC,
Chair and Medical Director*

of valve disease to seniors by using the latest three-dimensional echo image technology. The procedure also monitors individuals currently living with valvular disease. Hoag Hospital hopes to save thousands of lives with the few minutes that it takes to perform this procedure.



Employee Involvement

Strengthening our Community is one of our key aspirations, which formed the basis for launching our Strengthen Our Community program for employees five years ago. Each month, we partner with a non-profit organization to provide our employees with an opportunity to give back to the communities in which we live and work. We strongly encourage employee involvement in this program and have an aspiration of 100 percent company-wide participation globally through service activities and donations.

American Heart Association's Heart Walk



One of our most successful Strengthen Our Community events is the American Heart Association's Orange County Heart Walk, which takes place every September. This year, Edwards sponsored nine teams from different groups within the company. More than 55 Edwards walkers pledged to increase community awareness and raised approximately \$10,000 to help fight cardiovascular disease and stroke, while also participating in a 5k walk to promote employee health and wellness. Additionally, Edwards contributed \$30,000 to the Association's Orange County and Puerto Rico Heart Walks.

Lions Home for the Elders



Singapore employees visiting Lions Home for the Elders

Our Singapore office kicked off their community outreach program by supporting the Lions Home for the Elders. A group of Edwards employees raised approximately \$2,000 for the Lions Home from bake sales and donated more than 200 basic-necessity bags (including toiletries, food and towels valued at more than \$1,000) to the impoverished elderly at this center. Our employees also visited the home to spend time with the residents and entertained them with dancing and musical performances.

Share Your Stories

We want to hear your stories of how Edwards is helping you and your organization make a difference.

Please email your stories and pictures to:
edwards_fund@edwards.com

or via mail to:

The Edwards Lifesciences Fund
One Edwards Way
Irvine, CA 92614

For more information about The Edwards Lifesciences Fund, please visit www.edwards.com/edwardsfund.

Edwards Lifesciences Corporation
One Edwards Way
Irvine, California 92614 USA
(800) 4-A-Heart
(949) 250-2500
www.edwards.com

For more information, please contact:

About Edwards Lifesciences
Edwards Lifesciences (NYSE: EW), a leader in advanced cardiovascular disease treatments, is the number-one heart valve company in the world and the global leader in acute hemodynamic monitoring. Headquartered in Irvine, Calif., Edwards Lifesciences focuses on specific cardiovascular opportunities including heart valve disease, peripheral vascular disease and critical care technologies. The company's global brands, which are sold in nearly 100 countries, include Carpentier-Edwards, Cosgrove-Edwards, FloTrac, Fogarty, Lifesent, PERIMOUNT Magna, and Swan-Ganz.

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Edwards Lifesciences

One Edwards Way
Irvine, California 92614 USA

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