Congenital Heart Disease
Common, Costly, Serious

Congenital Heart Disease is Common:

- Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) consists of problems with the heart’s structure that are present at birth with potential lifelong implications.
- CHD is the most common birth defect impacting approximately 1 in 100 live births in the U.S.
- Nearly 40,000 infants in the U.S. are born with CHD each year.
- Estimates suggest there are 2.4 million Americans living with CHD. However, because systems to track CHD beyond early childhood are limited, more precise estimates are not available.
- Approximately every 15 minutes a family learns their child has CHD.
- CHD is now the most common form of heart disease during pregnancy in the U.S.

Congenital Heart Disease is Costly:

- Costs for hospitalizations related to congenital heart disease were more than $6 billion in 2013.
- One in three children with CHD is insured by Medicaid.
- In comparison to the general population, adults with CHD have 3-4 times higher rate of emergency visits, hospitalizations and Intensive Care Unit stays.

Congenital Heart Disease is Serious:

- There is no cure for CHD.
- CHD is the leading cause of birth defect related deaths.
- Approximately 25% of children born with CHD will need life-saving intervention in the first weeks and months of life. Many individuals with CHD require additional procedures, operations and medications as children, adolescents and adults.
- Survival rate to age 18 is still only 85% for complex CHD.
- Those who do survive face a lifetime of complex specialized medical care, face a lifelong risk of additional health problems and risk of premature death, yet fewer than 10% of adults with CHD in the U.S. who need care from specialty adult CHD centers are getting this recommended care.

The Pediatric Congenital Heart Association’s mission is to Conquer CHD. But we cannot do it alone. Together, we will make a difference.