



## Saving Little Hearts Services

### Travel Assistance

Many children from East Tennessee must travel for surgical procedures. In addition to medical bills, travel expenses create yet another burden for families.

Saving Little Hearts recognizes this problem in the local congenital heart defect community.

To help alleviate this problem, we provide financial assistance to families for travel related expenses. We also provide "surgery care packages" to families from across the state. The care packages include items meant to inform children and adults about the surgical experience and available support resources as well as to ease their financial strain. Items include age appropriate toys,



distance phone cards, disposable cameras, informational pamphlets and snacks.

coloring books, playing cards, word and puzzle books, long

### Heart Camp

Saving Little Hearts established an annual scholarship fund in 2003 for LeBonheur's Summer Cardiac Kids Camp in Eva, Tennessee.

The organization also provided transportation to and from camp for campers from East Tennessee.

Cardiac Kids Camp is for children between the ages of 8 and 18. Activities include swimming, boating, ropes courses, hiking, CPR training, nature education, and even a bovine heart dissection lab.

The heart camp is staffed by medical professionals who donate their time.



### Information and Awareness

Currently, Saving Little Hearts operates a support group in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville and the Tri-Cities.



Support group meetings allow parents and their children to meet

other families affected by congenital heart defects.

Also, through the website [www.savinglittlehearts.com](http://www.savinglittlehearts.com) interested web surfers can find surgery reviews on specific facilities and a parent matching service to help families find others with the same defect. The website also has a list of all Ronald McDonald Houses in the United States as well as a multitude of links regarding discounted or even free airfare.

Also, Saving Little Hearts provides educational publications related to congenital heart defects to doctors offices and individuals at no charge.