

PROJECT PACER INTERNATIONAL



One generous heart..can heal many.

For 12-year old Felipe, the arrival of Project Pacer International (PPI) team members in his native Bolivia meant the difference between life and death. The boy traveled three long days with his mother from their remote Bolivian highlands village to a hospital where he received a much-needed pacemaker. Today, Felipe is a healthy, vibrant young man back to tending sheep with his mother.

Thousands of miles away, in Nehru Hospital in Chandigarh, a young Indian girl who never walked more than a few steps due to a congenital defect in her aortic valve undergoes a balloon angioplasty thanks to PPI volunteers. The next day, she is active and smiling, the recipient of more than just a medical procedure—but also a chance for a long life beyond her seven years.

“There is a tremendous amount of satisfaction in bringing sophisticated medical care to those who never had it before and never expected to get it. We save lives that otherwise would have been lost.”

—Thomas Piemonte, MD
President and Co-founder
Project Pacer International



Who We Are.

Project Pacer is a Boston-based non-profit organization committed to bringing advanced cardiac care to people in need around the globe. Since 1987, our dedicated team of volunteer physicians, nurses and other members of the health care community have contributed to or participated in over fifty medical missions.

By performing pacemaker implants and catheter-based therapies such as angioplasty, valvuloplasty and ablation for cardiac arrhythmias, we've saved or extended the lives of over a thousand individuals who could otherwise never afford or have access to such advanced cardiac care. And by donating urgently needed supplies and sharing vital, medical knowledge with our health care colleagues abroad, we leave behind the means for saving thousands more.

Who We Help.

PPI strives to deliver advanced cardiac care to people around the world who need it most.

In response to invitations from partner physicians in the developing world, our volunteers have completed medical missions to India, China and a variety of Latin American countries including Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. In 2008, we made our first trip to Morocco.

Patients are recruited through advertisements, notices and word of mouth prior to the team's arrival in the host country. Individuals who ultimately receive treatment are selected based on a careful review of patient case histories and financial need. All medical services and procedures are then provided completely free of charge.

Helping partner physicians in developing countries is also a critical part of PPI's mission. Every trip includes an educational component to empower local healthcare providers, leaving them with the tools and knowledge to save lives and provide follow up care after we've gone.

How We Do It.

PPI relies on monetary and in-kind donations from generous individuals, corporations and charitable organizations to support its work. More than 90 percent of all money raised goes directly to health care; physicians are responsible for their own travel expenses. Some of our long-standing supporters include:

- Lahey Clinic
- St. Jude Medical Center
- Rotary International
- GE Medical
- Medtronic
- Boston Scientific
- AmeriCares

Learn More.

At Project Pacer, delivering advanced cardiac care through technology and education is at the heart of what we do. To learn more, visit projectpacer.org.

Focus: Healing Hearts in India

Nearly twenty years ago, cardiologist Thomas Piemonte, MD, asked his mentor V.K. Saini, M.D. what medical conditions were like in Saini's native India.

“Why don't you come there with me and see for yourself?” was Saini's reply.

Out of this simple conversation, the idea for Project Pacer International (PPI) was born. Piemonte and Saini envisioned an organization committed to donating vital equipment and much-needed procedures such as pacemaker implants and balloon angioplasties to indigent patients who could otherwise not afford such life-saving surgeries.

In India, the need for Project Pacer's work is high due to the country's high incidence of cardiac disease combined with an inadequate health care program in which nearly 80 percent of the population is unable to afford even basic medical care. The cost of pacemakers and defibrillators is very high (between 50,000 and 100,000 rupees), making these devices beyond the reach of most patients.

PPI's first mission to India was conducted in the late 1980's when volunteers went to Nehru Hospital in Chandigarh. Since this first trip, PPI volunteers have returned to India almost annually to follow up with patients and help new patients in Chandigarh and other areas of the country.

Focus on Latin America

In 1988, a Project Pacer completed its first charitable mission to Latin America: a trip to Cochachamba, Bolivia to implant donated pacemakers in twenty needy patients. Since then, in an ongoing effort led by Dr. David Martin of Lahey Clinic, PPI's contributions to people in Bolivia and other Latin American countries have expanded significantly, with more advanced equipment and more advanced treatments being donated in an effort to save more lives.

The need for Project Pacer's services in Latin America is high due to Chagas' Disease, a condition transmitted by a parasite found only in that part of the world. In Latin America, Chagas' Disease affects about 240 million people, with 10 percent developing serious cardiac complications. In a country such as Bolivia— where Chagas' Disease affects at least 50 percent of the population and where people are some of the poorest in the world—Project Pacer's continued assistance is crucial. During the organization's latest trip to Bolivia in September 2005, PPI volunteers worked closely with their Bolivian colleagues at Cochachamba's Hospital Viedma, implanting five pacemakers and performing 10 catheter ablations and six mitral valvuloplasties for deserving patients.



www.projectpacer.org

How You Can Help.

It's generous hearts like yours that help us deliver advanced cardiac care to developing nations, and save the lives of people who could otherwise not afford even the most basic medical care. We accept in-kind donations in the form of medical equipment as well as monetary contributions.

How Your Dollars Are Spent.

Project Pacer International takes seriously our commitment to ensuring that your donation is well spent. More than 90 percent of all money raised goes directly to health care; physicians are responsible for their own travel expenses. Even a small contribution can help make a difference in the lives of indigent people around the globe. Any donation amount is welcome.

Your Donation:	What it Can Provide:
\$50	Bandages and sterile dressing for 40 patients
\$100	Infection-fighting antibiotics to treat 10 pacemaker patients
\$250	A sterilization kit for syringes and needles used in surgical procedures
\$1000	A balloon for treatment of valvular heart disease

Project Pacer International is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax deductible in the United States. Thank you for your support.

Financial Donations

If you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution, please mail your check made out to Project Pacer International to:

Project Pacer International
Attn.: Development
P. O. Box 56
Waban, MA 02468-0001

Our US Internal Revenue Service Tax ID number is: 042-97-2925

Equipment Donations

If you have medical equipment or cardiac supplies that you think may be of interest to us please contact Thomas Piemonte, MD to arrange for pick-up or delivery. Dr. Piemonte can be reached at 781-645-2029 or via e-mail at Thomas.C.Piemonte@lahey.org

Thank you for your support.

PROJECT PACER INTERNATIONAL

Healing Hearts Worldwide

www.projectpacer.org