

Mended Hearts...

I was quite taken by pediatric cardiology as a resident and spent many extra electives and hours with three special mentors. I loved to study the hearts with Dr. VanMeirop and Dr. Scheibler and stand in as Dr. Alexander operated on those tiny little ones. He was often observed to stay at their bedsides for days on end literally falling asleep in the bedside chair from exhaustion. Pediatric cardiologists, cardiac intensivists and pediatric cardiothoracic surgeons are special kinds of heroes.

To learn more about Congenital Heart Disease I invite you to visit Mended Little Hearts which we featured earlier this month on our Facebook page. This is a great resource to learn more, to refer a family for support or to become an advocate for children with congenital heart defects. It is a nice resource for adult heart disease too, especially for all of the cutting edge, non-invasive heart valve replacements that are being done.

[Learn More: Mended Little Hearts](#)

Healing Hearts...

Last year I met a woman, she is beautiful inside and out, her name is Nancy Gearhart. Nancy's story is one of a mended heart, a broken heart and a healing heart. Nancy's beautiful baby girl Ansley suffered from Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome.

She was 4 months old and doing well following her first of three open heart surgeries; however, Ansley developed Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) from which she could not recover and suddenly passed away. The Gearharts had previously experienced the trauma of dealing with a congenital heart defect with their older son, Austin; fortunately, his condition (Tetralogy of Fallot) was not as serious as Ansley's, and he made a full recovery. These two

experiences resulted in countless days spent in a hospital over two hundred miles from their home and made the Gearharts understand and empathize with the financial burden faced by families of critically ill children. Thirteen years later, in her memory, Nancy created Ansley's Rainbows of Hope. Ansley's Rainbows of Hope supports seriously ill children and their families with travel-related expenses who are receiving care at a distant hospital. The families are either from Georgia or are receiving care at a Georgia hospital. Ansley's Rainbows now layers more love at The Still Place by connecting families in need of rest, renewal, hope and love to The Still Place.



[Be Inspired: Ansley's Rainbows of Hope](#)

