



### Connect with Us!



### Upcoming Events

#### Now - January 15: [Yankee Candle Fundraiser](#)

The developing North Carolina Chapter's Yankee Candle fundraiser ends on Jan. 15! Purchase items through this fundraiser and CHF will receive 40% profit from each item purchased! [Shop here](#): in the "Start Shopping" box, insert our group number - 990086444.

#### February 1 -2: [Congenital Heart Legislative Conference](#)

Washington, D.C.  
Join the Pediatric Congenital Heart Association, the Adult Congenital Heart Association, and CHF as we unite to educate our members of Congress about congenital heart disease. For more information [click here](#).

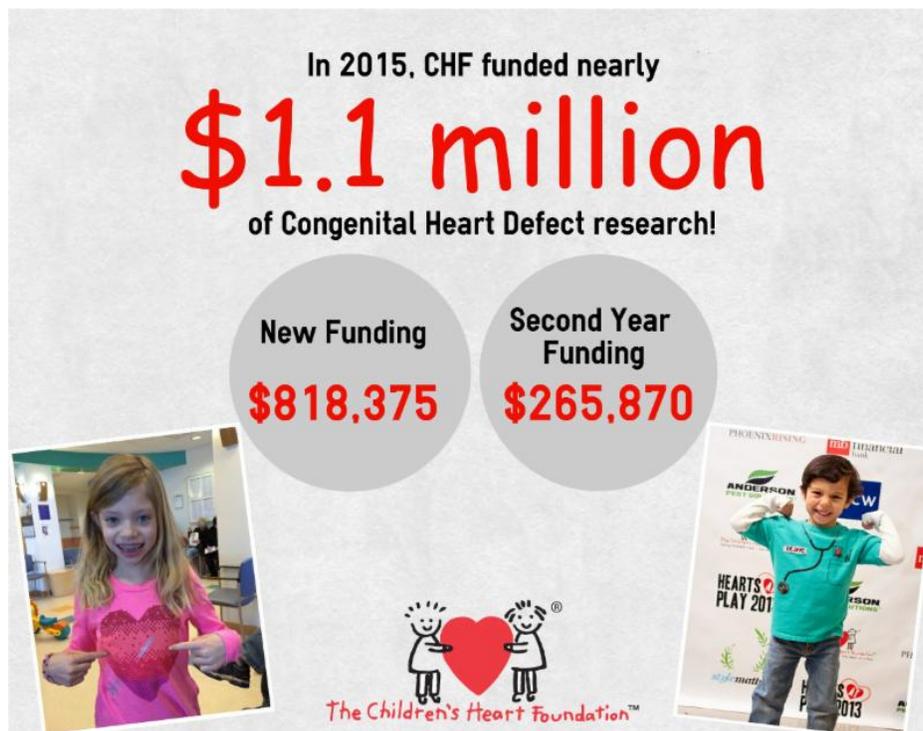
#### February 6: [Vinolympics](#)

Portland, OR  
Join the Oregon Chapter for their

### 2015 Research Funding Announcement

Throughout 2015, countless people lent a hand in the funding of Congenital Heart Defect Research by volunteering, spreading awareness, and raising money.

Because of these efforts, CHF is proud to announce that CHF funded nearly **\$1.1 million** of Congenital Heart Defect research in 2015!



Thank you for being part of making 2015 such a successful year for The Children's Heart Foundation. Without people like you, we would not be able to fulfill our mission and continue "saving children's lives, one heart at a time".

*Stay tuned for more details about what research projects were funded in 2015. To*

annual Vinolympics event! "Vie for the gold" at games that test your palate, general wine knowledge, and physical coordination. This is a fun, casual, and totally un-snooty 'wine-tasting meets carnival' event. Cocktail attire and music will be added to our wine-themed games to create an event you don't want to miss! Purchase tickets [here](#).

**Don't miss our February Upcoming Events email to see all of the CHF events happening during Heart Month!**



[The Children's Heart Foundation](#) (CHF) is the nation's leading organization solely committed to funding Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) research.

CHF's mission is to fund the most promising research to advance the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of CHDs. Our goal is to bring health, hope, and happiness to children and families impacted by CHDs.

**Donate Now!**

see past research projects CHF has funded, [click here](#).

## New Medical Advisory Board (MAB) Chair



The Children's Heart Foundation's Medical Advisory Board (MAB), made up of leading pediatric cardiologists, surgeons, and scientists, has new leadership. Dr. Jennifer Romano, Associate

Professor of Cardiac Surgery & Pediatrics at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, is the MAB chairwoman-elect and has taken over the position from Dr. Carl Backer, who served as CHF's MAB chairman for 10 years.

Dr. Romano received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School. She then went on to complete her residency and fellowship training in thoracic and congenital heart surgery at the University of Michigan. She is now an Associate Professor of Cardiac Surgery, the Surgical Director of the Pediatric Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit, and Co-Director of Pediatric Cardiac Extracorporeal Life Support. Dr. Romano is certified by the American Board of Surgery in General Surgery and Critical Care, and by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery in Thoracic and Congenital Heart Surgery (4 Boards!). She also has a Master of Science degree from the University of Michigan! She is an editorial board member of *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery* (Congenital Heart Deputy Editor) and *The World Journal for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery*. She is a member of many professional societies including the prestigious Congenital Heart Surgeons' Society, the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, and the Association of Academic Surgeons.

During Dr. Backer's tenure, CHF research funds have grown from \$80,000 in 2003 to over \$1 million a decade later in 2014! We would like to thank Dr. Backer for his wonderful leadership and for his continued support and dedication to The Children's Heart Foundation.



Dr. Romano is excited and honored to take on this position and looks forward to helping CHF continue to fund the most promising CHD research to help save children's lives. She is also grateful to Dr. Backer for his leadership and for everything he has taught her.

"Thank you, Carl, for your guidance and dedication to a truly amazing foundation over the past 10 years," said Dr. Romano.

To see a list of CHF's Medical Advisory Board members, [click here](#).

**Change My Heart**

Want to spread CHD awareness and raise funds for research in February, Heart Awareness Month? Then Change My Heart is perfect for you! Change My Heart (CMH) is a fun and easy way to raise funds for CHD research.

Join us during CHD awareness week - February 8th - 14th - by holding a CMH fundraiser of your own! This is designed to be a week long (or month long) fundraiser dedicated to collecting donations in your school, classroom, workplace, or throughout your community! If you can't participate this week, pick a different time in February or any time throughout the year. The fundraiser can be as simple or creative as you'd like to make it. Place a collection container in your classroom or local restaurant and let it fill up, or incorporate fun activities to go along with it!

If you are interested in learning more about Change My Heart or are interested in holding a CMH fundraiser, please contact Tina Larson at [tlarson@childrenshearfoundation.org](mailto:tlarson@childrenshearfoundation.org).

For examples of what others have done for their Change My Heart fundraisers, [click here](#).



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