

Preemptive Love Coalition

Fiscal year 2009
Annual Report
April 2009—March 2010

**PREEMPTIVE
LOVE** **COALITION**

There are some things laser-guided missiles cannot solve.

There are some things our soldiers cannot solve. And there are some things diplomacy cannot solve. Some things can only be solved by hands-on charity, commerce and creativity.

Like thousands of Iraqi children suffering the crippling effects of rampant heart disease: *how can munitions or foreign attaches alone secure the essential medical care they need outside Iraq?*

PLC seeks to eradicate the backlog of Arab and Kurdish children waiting in line for lifesaving heart surgery and to create cooperation among communities in conflict.

Every PLC activity means to say, “*Love your neighbors; love your enemies; because love never fails.*” In order for us all to live together on this earth, we must capture the imagination not just of our own people, but also for that of our oppressors.

And thus, *PLC exists for the future of Iraq*, for the subversion of terrorism by love, and for the well-being of the world at large.

Letter from the Director

When I look back at photos of the lives you’ve saved over the last year, I am filled with awe, wonder and joy.

I’m in awe because I probably never really believed in the early days that we could have this much impact in a country as frustrating and full of potential as Iraq.

I wonder because there is so much I still don’t understand; so many cultural and leadership mistakes I’ve made; so many opportunities yet to be discovered. I cannot sleep for the curiosity of what lies ahead and what we can yet accomplish with you.

I have not found a rollercoaster or rock concert that thrills my soul like telling you another Iraqi child is getting their chance for lifesaving heart surgery. I have not known anxiety like pacing the floor waiting for news about somebody’s baby; or pain like the death of a child for whom I had to make a risky call and came up short. And thus, I have not known joy like seeing a child back at home in Iraq after heart surgery, attending school, playing soccer, or holding their newborn baby sister — all with new stories to tell about the very people who were supposed to be their enemies; people like you who have come alongside and literally saved their little life.

In the year ahead we will perform complicated heart surgeries inside Iraq for the first time. As the “base of the pyramid” becomes increasingly serviceable inside Iraq, we will redouble our commitment to the underdogs whose only options remain outside Iraq.

This book is a testament to the importance of normal people, doing normal things, with an abnormal commitment to love outside the lines. And the coming year promises to be more fulfilling!

If you are an occasional customer or donor, please devote some time to considering the impact you could have throughout Iraq as a monthly sponsor. With your monthly commitment you will know that you are saving lives all year long. With you as a monthly sponsor we can make better plans so that children do not wait in line for last-minute funding.

Whatever your involvement to date — whether first-time lifesaver or one who has shared my anxiety and joy each month over all the kids on our list—we are so honored to know you; though we never feel like we know you as well as we would like! Please don’t hesitate to say “hi” or offer a critique.

Peace from Iraq,


Jeremy Courtney
Executive Director



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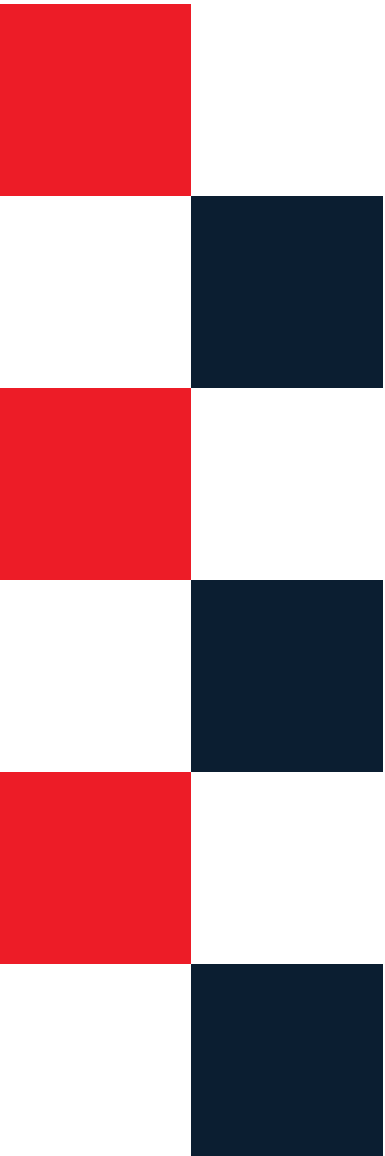
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Our Kids

*Between April 2009 and March 2010, Preemptive Love Coalition sent 23 Iraqi children to surgery in Istanbul, Turkey. On the following pages are 14 of those children who are now back home in Iraq with **happy and healthy hearts** . . .*

A Photographer on meeting Honya

“Grandma, grandma!” Fifteen-month Honya waddles over to her father and tumbles onto his lap. He calls her *piri jin* or “grandma” because her teeth have not grown in. She’s all gums, laughing and cooing. Because of her heart defect, Honya’s development has slowed, preventing her teeth from growing in. But now, months after her surgery, her bottom teeth are finally growing in. She sucks on a cucumber stick, a method of teething.

When Honya came to Preemptive Love in November 2009, she weighed only 12 pounds. She had an infection in her right lung and pulmonary hypertension. Now, because of donations made to PLC on behalf of Honya, this little girl is walking, giggling and playing like other girls her age.

Honya was running around the room, from person to person, giggling and laughing the whole way. From a photographer’s standpoint this is both a dream and a nightmare! She wasn’t afraid of the camera in the least and there was no shortage of perfect pictures if only she would slow down a bit. I couldn’t help but laugh at her energy though, especially when I remembered what this little girl has been through.

Her smiles are a testament to the healthy heart that beats inside of her every day.

Lydia Bullock



Honya Mahdi, 15 months

Mazyar Tahir

Age: 4

Just one year before coming to Preemptive Love, Mazyar had a surgery in Tehran for his very complicated condition. That surgery was only stage one of a total correction; he needed another surgery to completely heal.

In July 2009, Mazyar was sent to Turkey to repair the hole between two ventricles in his heart.

Today, Mazyar is at home running, chasing and throwing balls with his older sister. He can run around without tiring, thanks to his heart surgery.

Mohammad Star

Age: 10

Mohammad had his lifesaving heart surgery in November 2009. He came to the PLC office with a hole between the upper chambers of his heart.

Seven months later Mohammad's at home healthy in his tiny village in northern Iraq. He loves playing soccer with his younger brothers and sister and raising 14 chickens from eggs, all on his own.

Sozyar Hamdan

Age: 2

Sozyar came to PLC as an urgent case, needing surgery immediately. Because of this, she was placed on a fast track to get surgery more quickly than most PLC kids. In just two weeks after her initial screening, baby Sozyar was taken into surgery.

Sozyar came out of surgery healthy, free from the blue in her skin and fit with a healthy heart. Though she was admitted back into the hospital a month later with pneumonia, she's now back at home now crawling and blowing kisses to visitors.

Meer Mustaffa

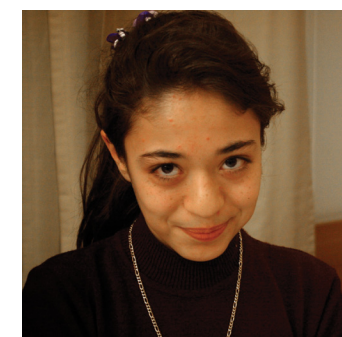
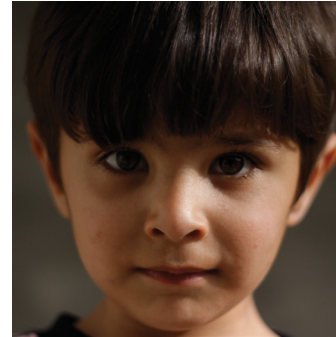
Age: 16

Meer was 15 years old when he came to Preemptive Love Coalition needing heart surgery. He had a rare heart defect — one of only 51 cases of its kind reported. Meer was taken to Turkey as an urgent case, but was awake and joking with the doctors only hours later.

Meer's back at home playing soccer, able to run around without endangering his health.



“When you give to a child’s surgery through the *Preemptive Love Coalition*, you not only give to a medical operation: you are giving to a comprehensive, human-scale peacemaking effort focused at the ethnic, religious, and international divides that are so prevalent in Iraq today. *You are giving to the future stability and security of the world.*”



Followthrough Program

The Followthrough program offers holistic home care to each post-operation child to ensure that he or she will grow to their fullest potential by focusing on health, education, nutrition and social development.

The Followthrough program also promotes peaceful dialogue and cooperation between American, Turkish, Kurdish and Arabic families.

We go beyond providing surgery for the children: we teach and train parents, siblings and grandparents to care for the child pre- and post-op stage. And our training is about so much more than the heart condition itself.

Baby Daryan was sent to surgery when he was very thin. Three weeks before his surgery, we went to the house to visit the family. We noticed Daryan wasn't drinking any of his milk but was spitting it all out then crying. His mother quickly took the bottle away so he wouldn't cry. The mother failed to realize her baby was starving because he wasn't getting any of the milk. We identified the problem, corrected it by purchasing a new bottle made for newborns (the other bottle was choking the baby because the flow was too much for the baby to drink); we taught the mom how much Daryan needed to drink at each interval during the day and how to get him

to drink the full amount before going to sleep. Daryan gained 2.5 lbs in the next two weeks before surgery.

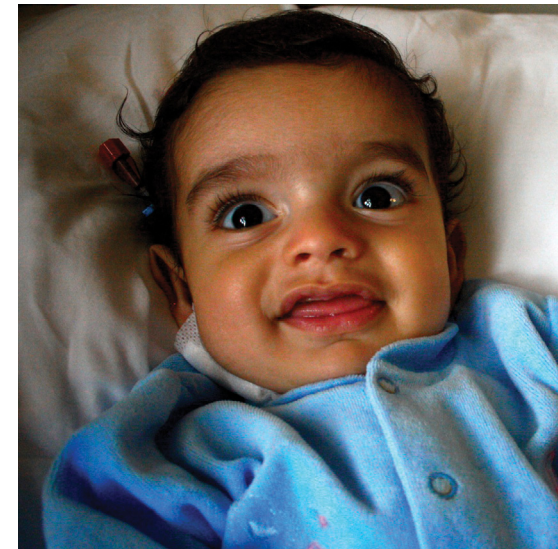
Leah has Down syndrome. Because she is developmentally behind, her parents cater to her and keep her from doing things that might tire her, delaying development even more. We go to her house weekly to teach them how to improve her development. A week ago she couldn't hold a toy in her hands or lift up her head off the ground. Today, after adhering to our advice, she is holding toys and lifting her head!

The Followthrough program aims to help post-op children take their medication correctly. Muhammed took his medication wrong for two weeks before being corrected. Because of this, we will check on this the first two weeks back making sure they are being given correctly. We also work with families for the six months after surgery to transition children back into school; we follow weight gain, growth and development to make sure they are following the doctor's long term post-op care and getting dental check-ups to prevent infection.

A Volunteer on Visiting Families

Home visits are an opportunity to meet with PLC kids who are in line for surgery or who have had surgery. Most importantly, these visits help us build meaningful relationships and trust with the families and their children. We generally ask the parents how the child is doing, and engage with the child. Selfishly, these visits are rewarding for those of us working at PLC because it is our up close and personal interaction with the kids we love and care about so dearly.

Sophia Pappas





Local Solutions

*Through the Buy Shoes. Save Lives. program and local grassroots efforts, Preemptive Love works alongside Iraqis to foster an environment that promotes creative engagement and the passionate pursuit of **local solutions to local problems.***

Aram, Shoe Maker

When someone talks about picking up the family business, their family has maybe been in “the business” for a few generations. When speaking of handmade Kurdish shoes known as *klash*, the “business” is said to date back to a time even before the life of Jesus. Using the few materials available, the Harami Kurdish people crafted a beautiful and completely unique handmade shoe that is worn in Iraq to this day. This ancient shoe is the life work of Preemptive Love Coalition’s friend and local *klash* extraordinaire, Aram. His handmade shoe, made of a cloth sole and knitted cotton thread top, was a pivotal part of PLC beginnings. *klash* were the inspiration for PLC’s flagship program, Buy Shoes. Save Lives. Now, years later, Aram and his *klash* are still helping to provide heart surgeries for Iraqi children.

Making *klash* is part of Aram’s family history. He began as an apprentice to his father when he was a child in the 1970s, and worked with his father for years on the art of making *klash*. Not until 1987 did he claim to have mastered the art. According to Aram and others, many people know how to make *klash* and sell the shoe, but there are only a few who have put in the hours to master the vocation and that truly know how to make a proper *klash*. This mindset of never settling for less than the best has helped build Aram’s and his family’s reputation as some of the best *klash* makers around, and this

reputation is what caught the attention of PLC’s founder Jeremy Courtney.

After two years of working with local *klash* makers, Courtney met Aram and began their life-saving work together. Aram really does love the work of PLC because to him the work is personal.

Congenital heart defect is a rampant problem in Iraq, which is made obvious by Aram’s many family members who suffer from it. Kadeeja is one of three of Aram’s cousins born with CHD. Kadeeja’s father, also a local *klash* maker, heard of PLC and sought the Coalition’s help to save his daughter’s life. By partnering with PLC, Aram has been able to turn his trade into a means of saving Iraqi children like Kadeeja.

As one can imagine, trying to innovate a 3,000-year-old shoe can have its difficulties. Aram’s willingness to be innovative with his *klash* sets him apart as a shoemaker. Whether through trying new styles like the Ballet Klash or coordinating a standardization process to better serve customers in the United States, Aram has taken huge strides with PLC in changing the face of *klash* to contribute to something greater: healthy hearts for Iraqi children.



An Intern on Knowing Aram

Interns have a huge part in working with Klash! At least two of us visit our friend and local Klash extraordinaire Aram around three times a week. Every time we visit with Aram, we show up with giddy faces and new ideas, and he is willing to work with us. Aram and his thousands of years-old tradition is willing to listen to us and our few days-old ideas. It’s amazing, and from our meetings this summer, we were able to create a new feminine klash for Preemptive Love Coalition called Ballet Klash.

Also, in the process of working with Aram, we’ve been able to build a personal relationship. We show up, have tea, eat crazy new food (sheep brains), and enjoy community together.

Preston Wright



Dr. Aso Faeq Salih

This hospital doesn’t smell like American hospitals: sterile, like fresh bandages from a box. It smells like any other building in Iraq, thick with dust.

Dr. Aso Faeq Salih, the only pediatric cardiologist in northern Iraq, works on the hospital’s third floor, on the far left corner of the hallway, past chairs filled with anxious kids and parents. His room is crowded; it serves as both a waiting room and doctor’s office for his tiny patients. The mural of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs stretching across the room ease the cramped feeling only a little. Dr. Aso doesn’t seem to notice: even in a room with up to 15 people at a time, half of them crying children, he smiles.

A girl with Down syndrome twirls in a black, white and teal dress. She wanders over to Dr. Aso’s desk and picks up his stethoscope; she tries to hear the desk’s heartbeat. Nothing. Her mom picks her up and carries her over to Dr. Aso’s table. He begins his procedure.

Dr. Aso’s patients are sent to him from a general practitioner, if they suspect a heart problem. In his office, Dr. Aso will examine the patient, listen to their heart and do an echocardiogram to determine what condition the child has.

He needs an hour with each patient, he says, but he only gets 10 minutes. Dr. Aso will see up to 20 patients on the mornings he works at the public hospital.

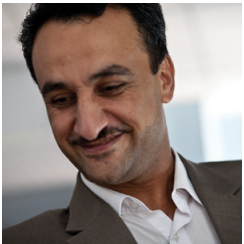
After Dr. Aso examines his patients, if the problem

is minor, he may schedule follow-up appointments or prescribe medicine. But if the heart condition is serious, as most congenital heart defects in Iraq are, Dr. Aso will refer his patients to the PLC office. PLC then talks with Dr. Aso and Dr. Sertaç Çiçek in Istanbul, to determine how urgently they need to have surgery.

Dr. Aso trained in pediatric cardiology in Milan, Italy. From a young age, he was encouraged to pursue a job in medicine, as it is highly respected. But though his job is highly respected by both the public and the government, Dr. Aso does not always receive the financial support he needs to perform his job. The government provided the building, but none of the machinery. Dr. Aso points to his ultrasound machine. A gift from Italy, he says. He points to more equipment, from America and UNICEF. Even his salary has been stifled. No matter how many kids he sees each morning, Dr. Aso is paid the same amount. For this reason, he squeezes as many patients in.

Dr. Aso says he loves his job, despite the influx of patients and lacking key equipment. “But [I] have a lot of conflicts,” he says. “You cannot imagine my conflicts.”

Dr. Aso is a member of the Association of European Pediatric Cardiology. Dr. Aso is often unable to attend AEPC conferences because he is Iraqi. Even for a applying for a short-term visa, he’s been denied due to his homeland. Because of all this, Dr. Aso looked expectantly toward the Remedy Missions coming to Iraq in fall 2010 to train doctors within the country.



“If you save [a] life...you’re doing a good [thing] for yourself. I don’t know what to say except thank you.” — Dr. Aso Faeq Salih



Global Responses

*Preemptive Love Coalition depends upon **creative donors worldwide** to fund heart surgeries, create cooperation among communities at odds, and tell stories of the thousands of Iraqi children in line for lifesaving heart surgery.*

Malachi's 2nd Birthday



Danielle and Eric knew their son Malachi didn't need anything for his second birthday. He had enough toys. He had enough clothes. So instead of guests bringing gifts for the birthday boy, Malachi's friends donated to Preemptive Love Coalition.

"[Through] the Preemptive Love Coalition there is something tangible that we can do to help," Danielle says. A few adult party guests bought Kids Klash for their own children. Others bought PLC T-shirts and wore them to the party; some donated money. One mom bought Malachi his next size up and a pair for her son.

"Malachi loves his Kids Klash," says Danielle. "He asks us to take off his other shoes and put his Klash on. So it was a perfect fit."

By celebrating his birthday this way, Malachi is learning how to appreciate what he has and the importance of giving to others, even at a young age. Malachi's parents hope that he will come to expect more giving to others than receiving presents on his birthday.

"Skip the junk [you] don't need and instead buy your child a really awesome pair of shoes, get a T-shirt, or make a donation that will save lives and promote peace," says Danielle. " ... The more important thing is that while [Malachi] is lacking nothing, there are families in Iraq whose children lack the thing we have been most blessed with: health."





For clients of EMF Images, often their first interaction with Preemptive Love Coalition is writing a check to save a child.

EMF Images is a photography business started by the husband and wife team, Preston and Erica. EMF Images donates 100 percent of its sitting fees to PLC. In fact, the couple doesn't even touch the money; clients write checks directly to PLC.

Erica and Preston came up with the idea when deciding how to financially support PLC in 2010. They saw donating money to the organization as a way to both help kids and expand their business. "Tying EMF Images to PLC was a great way to help shape the way we think about business, money, and the welfare of children around the world," Preston says.

Clients are drawn to this business because they know their money is going beyond EMF Images. "More often we are hearing that clients selected us because of our affiliation with PLC," Preston says. This also gives clients a direct connection to an organization they might not have heard of on their own. Though only a year old, EMF Images has introduced PLC to clients who now have a direct connection with the organization.

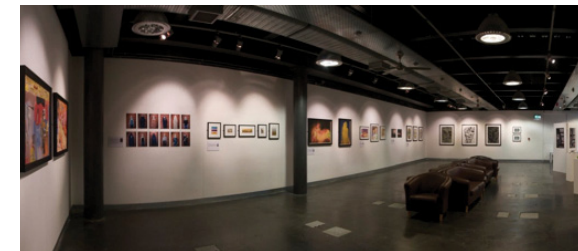
"Creative giving is fun for us to experiment with," he says. "We've tried some things that have worked really well and others that failed miserably, but we're committed to keep trying."

EMF Images
www.emfimages.com



"Iraq—the Forgotten Story"

www.athinplace.org



"The exhibition is entitled 'Iraq—The Forgotten Story' for one simple reason; in the midst of our political posturing about the rights and wrongs of this war, we seem to miss the people."

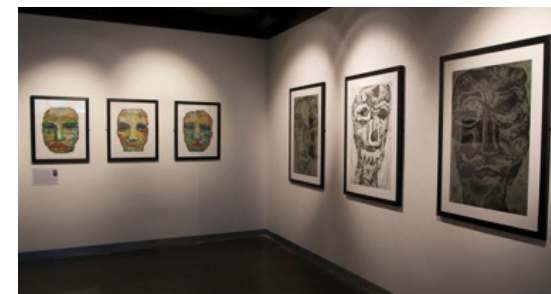
— Ben Hodson and Ian Rowlands

Every story needs a character, a hero, a heroine, a supporting actor, a villain. In the story of Iraq – we often forget about the characters. In a saga about war and oil, terror and tyranny, we forget that conflict without characters is no story at all.

In 2009, Ian Rowlands and Ben Hodson created an art exhibition in order to tell Iraq's forgotten story, the story about the people who transform the country from a landmark to a homeland.

Rowlands and Hodson partnered with Preemptive Love Coalition because of its devotion to peacemaking, or "cooperation among communities." All the artwork in the show participate in this peacemaking by raising people's awareness of the children suffering from congenital heart defects in Iraq.

Some of the artists involved in "Iraq the Forgotten Story" are Ismail Khayat, Dalya Murad, Jamal Penjweny, Julie Adnan, Kamaran Najm, Sakar Farok, Salih Najar, Shwan Asi, Soran Hamad and Soran Naqshbandi.



Financials

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

Preemptive Love Coalition for the 2009 fiscal year ended March 31, 2010, with comparative figures at March 31, 2009

ASSETS	2009	2008
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$76,015	\$46,555
Contributors and Pledges Receivable	-	\$1,000
Inventory	\$9,792	\$11,237
Other Current Assets	\$3,279	-
Fixed Assets	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	\$89,086	\$58,792
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$686	\$912
Accrued Expenses	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$686	\$912
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$88,400	\$57,880
Temporarily Restricted	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$88,400	\$57,880
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$89,086	\$58,792

Consolidated Statement of Activities

Preemptive Love Coalition for the 2009 fiscal year ended March 31, 2010, with comparative figures at March 31, 2009

PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	2009	2008
PUBLIC SUPPORT				
Individuals	\$21,204	\$138,788	\$159,992	\$104,243
Small Businesses and Corporations	\$600	\$18,984	\$19,584	\$4,000
Foundations and Other Organizations	\$258	\$113,426	\$113,684	\$73,915
REVENUE				
Program Material Revenue	\$15,267	-	\$15,267	\$20,043
Gross Profit from Inventory Sales	\$3,094	-	\$3,094	\$198
Interest and Other Income	\$2,149	-	\$2,149	\$3,049
NET ASSETS RELEASED DUE TO SATISFACTION OF RESTRICIONS	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT REVENUE	\$42,572	271,198	313,770	\$205,447
EXPENSES				
Program Services	\$8,065	\$246,883	\$254,948	\$143,432
Program Material Expense	\$12,092	-	\$12,092	-
Management and General	\$3,871	-	\$3,871	\$6,265
Development	\$9,191	\$1,000	\$10,191	\$3,640
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$33,219	\$247,883	\$281,102	\$153,337
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$9,353	\$23,315	\$32,668	\$52,110
NET ASSETS—BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$57,880	-	\$57,880	\$5,770
Prior Period Adjustments	(\$2,148)		(\$2,148)	
NET ASSETS—END OF YEAR	\$65,085	\$23,315	\$88,400	\$57,880

Expense Summary

Preemptive Love Coalition for the 2009 fiscal year ended March 31, 2010

SUBTOTAL—\$281,102

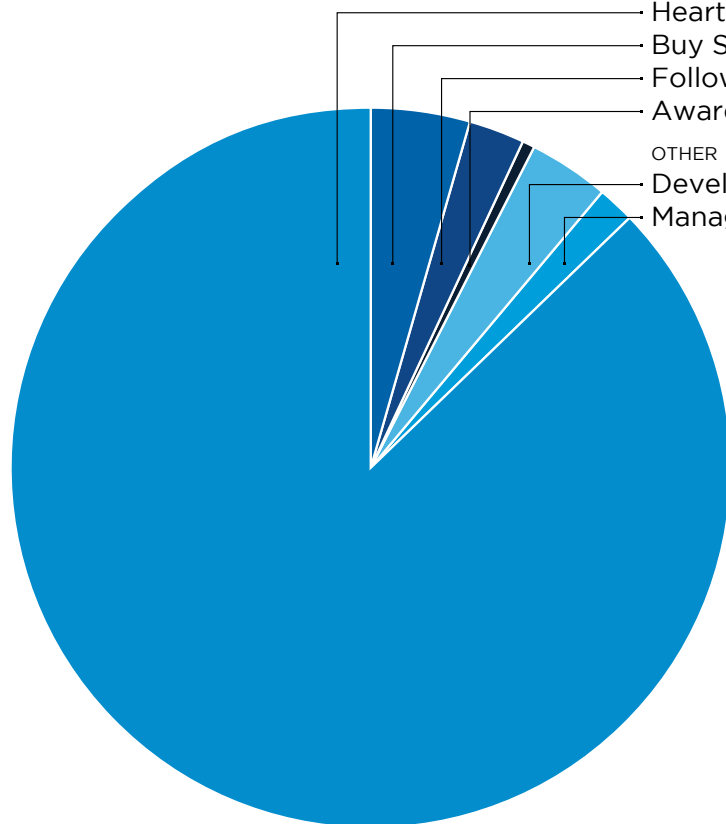
PROGRAM

Heart Surgeries\$246,868
Buy Shoes. Save Lives.....\$12,092
Followthrough.....\$7,199
Awareness\$866

OTHER

Development\$10,190
Management & General\$3,867

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**PREEMPTIVE
LOVE**  **COALITION**