



IN MEMORIAM

Cathy Jackson, Team Heart Board 2008-2021



Catherine Roberts Jackson, affectionately known as “Cathy,” lived in Los Angeles but considered herself a “Montana Girl.” She dedicated her life to community service and fundraising, serving on the Board of Directors of Team Heart from 2008 to 2021. As a key donor and Team Heart's first **Legacy Donor**, she supported cardiac care programs for Rwandan children with rheumatic heart disease. Cathy established the first AIDS hospice in Minneapolis and advocated for AIDS initiatives, domestic violence awareness, and public education.

Her motto was, “my heart lives with those living in underprivileged and underserved communities,” reflecting her commitment to both vulnerable and affluent individuals. After being diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2010, she fought bravely for fifteen years while supporting others facing the disease. She also created The Catherine Jackson Lectureship at MD Anderson to honor her physician, promoting compassionate care for ovarian cancer patients. Cathy was devoted to her family, leaving a legacy through her children and grandchildren. To honor her, Egidia Rugwizangoga held a Mass in Rwanda on August 16. Cathy's remarkable friendship with Team Heart continues to impact lives.

LEGACY GIFTS

Support Team Heart with a Legacy Gift to ensure our mission continues for generations to come. By including a gift to Team Heart in your will or revocable trust, you can help make a lasting impact on the lives of future generations. A bequest is easy to arrange. Please let us know if we can answer any questions or provide additional information.

MEET OUR STAFF IN RWANDA!

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to get to know the people who keep our office in Kigali running smoothly. Detailed bios and photos will be added to our website soon.



DARIUS UZABAKIRIHO
Country Director



THERESE BAGWANEZE
Research Manager



LILIAN MAFENDE
Data Mgmt & Evaluation Officer



FAUSTIN MUGEMANYI
Nurses Mentor & Educator



DIANE MUSABYEMARIYA
Finance & Operations Officer



EMMANUEL HATANGIMANA
Office Security & Maintenance

INTERNS



AL AMINI BUCYUKUNDI, Marketing & Communication Intern
PATIENT KANAKUZE, Research Assistant Intern
THAMAR NIWEMUKIZA, Data Mgmt Intern

TEAM HEART Tidbits

Our volunteer residents and medical students complete the next step of their educational and training journeys:

- Hannah Rando matched in CVTS at CU
- Victoria Clair matched Internal Medicine UCSF
- David Rekhtman matched in CVTS at Penn
- Reed Van Hook AKA "Sam" matched in Internal medicine

Two publications in peer reviewed journals:

A 17-Year Experience of Valvular Heart Surgery in Rwanda

The Annals of Thoracic Surgery
DOI: [10.1016/j.athoracsur.2025.06.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.athoracsur.2025.06.008)

Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Surgical Strategies Versus Medical Management for Rheumatic Heart Disease in Rwanda

Journal of the American Heart Association
DOI: [10.1161/jaha.124.038365](https://doi.org/10.1161/jaha.124.038365)

The countdown is on! CORCYMbeat is back!

CORCYMbeat2025 is our opportunity to unite as a global community, driven by passion and purpose, to push beyond limits. Whether you run, bike, swim, every kilometer you cover is a step toward hope and healing. Once again, we invite you to join Team Heart and take part in this life-changing event. Your participation fuels our mission to strengthen cardiac care and give hope to patients and families worldwide.



Update on Team Heart Fundraising Platform

Team Heart has transitioned our fundraising platform to Funraise! While the pages are still being developed, the campaigns are now active. Thank you to Kari Stutz for her expertise and persistence throughout this significant transition. You shouldn't notice a difference when processing a donation, but we certainly will!