

How Can You Help?

- ♥ Follow Benji's Heart Foundation at www.facebook.com/benjisheart
- ♥ Help us educate and raise awareness for CHD
- ♥ Make a tax deductible donation to St. Peter's By the Sea Episcopal Church, with Benji's Heart in the memo
- ♥ Help us raise funds by coordinating events and donating a portion of the proceeds
- ♥ Lobby for funds to support research for prevention and cures
- ♥ Offer services, goods and/or time to our foundation so we can raise awareness and further the mission of Benji's Heart
- ♥ Be CHD AWARE all year, especially during CHD Awareness week, February 7-14

Who We Are

Benji's Heart Foundation, a ministry of St. Peter's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church, is a resource to help support pediatric patients in the United States diagnosed with congenital heart defects and their families.

Who Is Benji?

Benji was born with multiple critical congenital heart defects. Pulmonary atresia with intact ventricular septum that accounts for .7-1.3% of

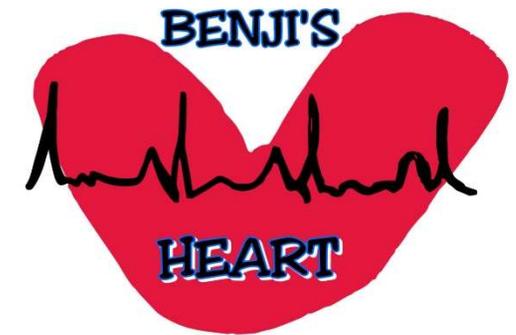
all CHD's, severe coronary ventricular communications (that puts him at extreme high risk for sudden cardiac death) and hypoplastic right heart syndrome. Benji lives with a single ventricle heart and his other congenital heart defects make his diagnosis incredibly rare.

Benji has already undergone two of the three open heart surgeries he will minimally need in his life. THIS is not a cure, there is no cure for CHD. This is simply palliative treatment to give Benji a chance to live.



Why Benji's Heart

The fighter and warrior that Benji is has inspired his parents to start the Benji Heart Foundation in his honor. They have been blessed with resources, friends and a parish that allow them to focus on Benji's well-being and health. Through this inspiration, Benji's parents wanted to pay their blessings forward to the heart community. They are no strangers to the bills and financial circumstances that burden a family caring for a heart warrior and so it is our goal to help relieve some of that burden by financially assisting heart families in need through Benji's Heart Foundation.



**Benji's
Heart
Foundation**

Helping Heart Families
One Beat at a Time

Contact Us

Email: benjisheart@gmail.com

Web: www.benjisheartfoundation.org

www.facebook.com/benjisheart

Mailing Address:

BENJI'S HEART FOUNDATION

St. Peter's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church

PO Box 337

Swansboro, NC 28584



Benji's first open heart surgery at one week old, a procedure called the BT Shunt. Surgery took approximately six hours. Benji was in the hospital just shy of his one-month birthday.

Facts about CHD

- ♥ Congenital heart defects are the most common type of birth defect. They affect about 1% of all births[♂] or about 40,000 babies in the US.
- ♥ A congenital heart defect is a problem with the structure of the heart. It is present at birth. Congenital heart defects are the most common type of birth defect. The defects can involve the walls of the heart, the valves of the heart, and the arteries and veins near the heart.
- ♥ CHDs are the most common cause of deaths due to birth defects in infants and Up to 200 infant deaths occur each year due to unrecognized CHDs
- ♥ CHDs range from mild to critical. 25% of babies with CHD are critical and will need surgery within their first year of life. About

25% of children with CHD will require heart surgery in order to survive

- ♥ People with CHD face life long health issues that include growing, eating, developmental delays, not to mention issues directly related to the heart.
- ♥ 95% of babies born with non-critical CHD are expected to live to age 18, 75% of babies born with critical CHD are expected to live to age one and 69% are expected to survive to age 18.
- ♥ In 2010, a study determined there were 2 million people living with CHD in the US, half were children and half were adults
- ♥ Early detection is the key to surviving beyond infancy
- ♥ At least 15% of CHDs are associated with genetic conditions
- ♥ 20-30% of individuals with CHD have other physical problems or developmental or cognitive disorders
- ♥ The severity or occurrence of a development or delay disability increases with how severe the CHD is. More than 80% of those with mild CHD have no developmental disabilities, however more than 50% with critical CHD have developmental disabilities.

♥ Hospital care costs for 2011 in the US with those diagnosed with CHD, exceeded \$1 billion

♥ In 2005, the average cost for an infant with CHD was \$23,000, estimated costs for today are considerably higher. And also higher for those with critical CHD.

♥ Aside from just the medical costs, CHD families can face significant lifestyle changes, emotional stress, job loss, family problems, unexpected financial problems not experienced by most and considerably more other issues



Benji's second open heart surgery at six months old. It took over eight hours to complete. He came home in five days on Tylenol. Adults would be hospitalized for months and on serious narcotics.