

# CHD-UK

## Congenital Heart Defects - United Kingdom

Educating, supporting and raising awareness of Congenital Heart Defect's.

Promoting the need for testing prior to birth with the use of Echocardiograms.

Promoting the need for testing on newborns with the use of pulse oximetry.

Help with funding for Research.

*For everyone affected by  
CHD*

### Useful Websites

[www.amelia-matters.org.uk](http://www.amelia-matters.org.uk)

[www.chd-uk.co.uk](http://www.chd-uk.co.uk)

[www.c-r-y.org.uk/](http://www.c-r-y.org.uk/)

[www.exeterheartfamilies.co.uk](http://www.exeterheartfamilies.co.uk)

[www.heartline.org.uk](http://www.heartline.org.uk)

[www.hlhs-awareness-uk.com](http://www.hlhs-awareness-uk.com)

[www.lagans.org.uk](http://www.lagans.org.uk)

[www.ndheartbabies.co.uk](http://www.ndheartbabies.co.uk)

[www.popngrow.co.uk](http://www.popngrow.co.uk)

[www.tinytickers.org](http://www.tinytickers.org)

[www.thesf.org.uk](http://www.thesf.org.uk)

**More links on the  
CHD-UK website**



## What is CHD?

Congenital heart defects are structural problems with the heart present at birth. They happen because of incomplete or abnormal development of the foetus' heart during the very early weeks of pregnancy, often before the mother is aware that she is pregnant. Defects range in severity from simple problems, such as "holes" between chambers of the heart, to very severe malformations, such as complete absence of one or more chambers or valves.

Congenital Heart Defects are usually, but not always, diagnosed early in life.

Heart disease is not congenital but may occur during childhood such as heart damage due to infection. This type of heart disease is called acquired; examples include Kawasaki disease and rheumatic fever.

Children also can be born with or develop heart rate problems such as slow, fast, or irregular heartbeats, known as "arrhythmias".



What brings SallyAnne, Jack and Melissa together?  
They were ALL born with a Congenital Heart Defect.

## About CHD-UK

Congenital Heart Defects - United Kingdom (CHD-UK) was established in May 2007 by an adult who has congenital heart defect. CHD-UK is a voluntary support group for anyone affected by or living with a congenital heart defect. We support Amelia Matters, North Devon Heart Babies and CRY-UK

Support is not restricted by borders and people around the world can meet each other through CHD-UK's social network page on Facebook.

### What can CHD-UK do for you?

CHD-UK educates whilst raising awareness of Congenital Heart Defects and provides information, and support.

Every parent wishes that their children will be born healthy but if this is not the case it brings a lot of stress and worries. You can find yourself lost in a whole new world which adds more fear and questions about what the future will bring for your child.

Being able to share your worries and find appropriate information is essential to find a way to cope with a diagnosis.

CHD-UK's social network page on Facebook is called CHD-UK (Congenital Heart Defects – UK) where you can meet other parents or adults and share experiences.

You can contact CHD-UK any time by email.

*Hang in there*

*I know that things are tough  
right now and you may feel alone  
but please remember others care  
and you're not on your own.*

*Just try not to forget to take  
things day by day and anytime  
you need us we'll be with you all  
the way.*

[www.chd-uk.co.uk](http://www.chd-uk.co.uk)

[www.twitter.com/CHD\\_UK](http://www.twitter.com/CHD_UK)

[www.facebook.com/groups/congenitalheartdefectsuk/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/congenitalheartdefectsuk/)

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