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Israel to Fix Heart of Toddler from El Salvador

By: NEWS STAFF
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Thanks to Save a Child's Heart, an Israeli charity that has helped 2,400 children from almost 40 countries since 1995, a 19-month old girl from El Salvador named Sara Magdalena Reyes will undergo lifesaving open-heart surgery at Wolfson Medical Centre in Holon on Thursday.

Reyes, whose family lives on just \$5 a day, is being treated in Israel because the surgery she requires is not available in El Salvador. She lives in Ahuachapan, a rural part of El Salvador that does not have clean water or electricity. Health care services are also not available, with the nearest hospital three hours away. The youngest child in her family, she lives with her housewife mother and farm labourer father in a one-room shack made of tin and clay.

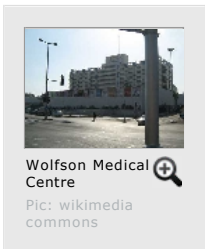
Reyes is the first child from her native country that Save a Child's Heart (SACH) is helping.

The humanitarian program works internationally from its base in Israel to aid children from all over the world who need heart surgery and follow up medical treatment. Besides saving lives at Wolfson Medical Centre, the organization has been instrumental in training 50 doctors and nurses from 11 countries to travel abroad performing 130 heart procedures.

The 19-month old will travel to Israel with her mother where they will be met at Ben-Gurion airport by a SACH member and a doctor. From there, they will be ferried to the rest home that SACH maintains in Azur.

The girl will be given a medical exam to determine the appropriate treatment and will undergo her operation in a few weeks.

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