



Echo in Africa is a collaborative humanitarian project between The British Society of Echocardiography and SUNheart. This takes place at local Secondary schools and Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town South Africa

The project, now in its fifth year provides screening of school children for the early stages of rheumatic valve disease. This is an inflammatory disease which is caused by recurrent episodes of rheumatic fever. Rheumatic fever develops from recurrent streptococcal throat infections. In the western world, widespread use of antibiotics has virtually eradicated rheumatic fever, however, in developing countries it remains to be the main cause of valve disease. It primarily effects children aged between 5-17 years old. Left untreated this eventually causes heart failure and premature death.

This project enables children from low socio economic rural communities in Cape Town early access to diagnosis, treatment and aftercare. It will also help to validate a scanning protocol to be used in the communities using portable devices.

For the last 4 years, Physiologists from across the country have volunteered their time to travel to Cape Town in South Africa. Here, schools from some of the poorest areas are visited by a team of Sonographers and Doctors.

Myself and 3 other colleagues are hoping to travel to Africa this coming October. Monies raised over the next coming months will help fund our travel expenses. We will also be taking children's clothes and shoes to hand out at a local church. Last year, a lady walked over 7 miles to receive a pair of shoes for her son.

Thank-you for taking the time to read about my planned involvement with Echo in Africa.

If you would like to support this charity, you can sponsor me via the Virgin Money Giving Website:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1008700>

Further information can be obtained from:

www.bsecho.org/echo-in-africa/

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