



# Welcome to Play for a Heart

Your team name is  
**TEAM JACK**

Your team is named after a  
little boy named **Jack**.  
Here is his story:

Looking at him now, you would never guess Jack had any problems when he was born. But those first few weeks of his life were quite a struggle. Jack was born with Transposition of the Great Arteries, this is where the aorta and the pulmonary artery arise from the wrong sides of the heart, so the body does not circulate properly oxygenated blood from the lungs. Luckily, he was also born with Atrial Septal Defect where there is a hole between the upper heart chambers. This defect allowed some oxygenated blood to mix with the blood that was pumping out to his body. He was markedly blue when he was born and quickly transferred to The Children's Hospital where a team was waiting to perform several procedures that allowed him to get more oxygenated blood to his body and get him stable enough for surgery. He would need heart surgery within the week.

Dr. Lacour-Gayet performed an arterial switch operation on Jack at six days old to repair the TGA and also repaired the ASD. The efforts of all of the doctors and nurses and support staff at TCH and especially the staff at the Cardiac ICU were no less than heroic. They are all talented professionals who not only took great care of Jack but also gave great support to our family. We are very thankful and feel fortunate to have this hospital and a CICU here in Denver.

Today, Jack is a very funny and active 5 year old. He has a slight murmur that we monitor with yearly visits but he goes about his activities with no restrictions. And there are many activities that he loves. Jack loves to hike, swim and play soccer and T-ball. He is also a brown belt in karate.

When I asked Jack about being a "CHD Hero" for the Play for a Heart event, he simply said "They (The Children's Hospital) helped me when I was born so I am happy to help them too. Do I get to play tennis?"

