

Why Heartkids?

In March 2020, I gave birth to my daughter Catherine. Due to COVID, we were in our own little peaceful bubble until it was determined that Catherine had a narrow aorta and she was rushed to PCH for surgery. As a parent, it's your job to protect your child so in that moment, I felt so incredibly helpless. We weren't able to have family come and see her or give us support so it was very isolating. In her first week on Earth, she saw more medical personnel than I have in my entire life.

Since then Catherine has thrived but we are going through this agonising time again. In May, Catherine will have surgery again and once again, that helpless feeling comes back.

Heartkids provides support to children with congenital heart disease and their families. We were not able to meet them when Catherine had her first surgery but since we have met them, their support is invaluable. They are an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry and they provide a network of other Heart Families so we can all rely on each other for support.

I can't help her with her surgery but I can help by raising money for Heartkids.

Melissa Lewis