

Dear Parents and Family Members:

Who knows what you are going through and feeling right now better than other parents and families whose lives have been affected by congenital heart defects? I would venture to say, "No one." That's why I'm pleased to introduce you to *TOUCH* (The Organization for Understanding Children's Hearts).

*TOUCH* is a family support group whose Board of Directors is an all-volunteer group of parents who have children with special hearts. "The mission of *TOUCH* is to empower families, children and adults with congenital heart defects. We believe that through emotional support, education, information sharing, and public awareness we can make a difference."

We understand the depth of your anxiety and fear because we are parents of children with heart defects. We want you to know that we care and are available for you. We'd be happy to speak with you on the phone or sit with you before, during, or after surgery. Both can be arranged by informing your child's doctor/nurse in the hospital or by calling 309-655-3453 or 800-443-9898.

Please let us know if we can help.

Sincerely,

*TOUCH*