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Congenital heart disease in adults

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Last year our federal government declared Feb.14 Congenital Heart Defects Awareness Day, but how many people understand that congenital (from birth) heart defects exist? Not many. Nor do most know that due to medical breakthroughs, 90 percent of children born with a congenital heart defect will live to adulthood.

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There are more than 1 million adults living with congenital heart defects in the United States. Because these adults need special care and support, the Adult Congenital Heart Association was formed. The association is a nonprofit organization which seeks to improve the quality of life of adults with congenital heart defects.

Most adults with congenital heart disease were told they were cured. Frequently, by the time problems arise, the optimal time for intervention has passed.

If you are an adult CHD survivor, get an evaluation at a qualified congenital heart disease clinic. If you know someone who is an adult with CHD, share this information. If you are a doctor and have adult CHD patients, refer them for an

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evaluation at a clinic. There is a listing of self-described ACHD clinics on ACHA's Web site, www.achaheart.org.


ANNA TAYLOR


Turlock


LACEE LEVERETT

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