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Local News | Cape Town

Fundraising for heart surgery heads west

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A new initiative aims to shorten waiting lists for heart surgery in the Western Cape.

The Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa raises funds for underprivileged children requiring such surgery.

So far, the project has focused on Gauteng but it will soon be raising funds in the Western and Eastern Cape.

This means children who qualify will be able to undergo surgery free of charge at the Christiaan Barnard Memorial Hospital.

CEO Lynda Bleazard said surgeons had already operated on three children.

"This fund is in existence to actually help the poorest of the poor. It is these children who have no other hope of having any surgery done because they don't have the financial means."

Akhona Ngogo is the mother of a seven-month-old baby who is recovering in hospital after undergoing heart surgery.

"I was worrying because I was not working and I don't know who's going to fix him, how much it is."

(Edited by Danya Philander)

