



Christine Bocus, Trinidad

Christine is one of thousands of cardiovascular disease patients who would have died if not for the timely intervention of the Heartbeat International Foundation (HBI). At the age of 14, she was diagnosed with a life-threatening cardiac condition requiring a dual-chamber pacemaker. Eventually her condition deteriorated, forcing her to leave school. Her family was shocked to discover the costs of the implant which would save her life. “Public hospitals and government healthcare could not offer the surgery, and my family was unable to afford the cost of doing it privately.” After investigating their options, Christine and her family reached out to Heartbeat International. HBI covered the expense of Christine’s pacemaker, implantation procedure and all necessary follow-ups for the rest of her life. Even when the battery life of Christine’s first pacemaker was depleted, HBI stepped in once more and provided assistance, donating a new device from BIOTRONIK and a second surgery.

Two weeks after her initial surgery, Christine was well enough to rejoin her friends and classmates. After completing high school, she decided to further her education by obtaining a degree in accounting and management. She eventually graduated with honors, and now works as an accountant at the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

“Heartbeat has given me a chance to fulfil my dreams and continue life’s journey. Not only did this organization provide me with a chance of a better life; it has given me opportunities to participate in their events and become a part of the Heartbeat family.”