Despite some apprehension when the donation was first offered last year, there is now the opportunity for specialized treatment at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital for patients with heart conditions. The hospital today officially received a cardiac catheterization lab as part of a Central American project by the Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute. The equipment has been donated at a time when there is an increase in persons with congenital heart diseases who require precise treatment and simply can’t afford to go abroad. News Five’s Delahnie Bain reports.

Delahnie Bain, Reporting

Medical technology that Belizeans have sought in the US for years will now be available at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. The hospital today, launched its new Cardiac Catheterization Lab, which was donated by Dr. Francis Robicsek from the Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute in North Carolina.

Dr. Francis Robicsek, Cardiac Surgeon, North Carolina

Francis Robicsek

“In Belize it was a logical development; everything was ready. That was one clog in the machinery that was missing. I call this lab a giant mouse trap because it attracts Belizean knowledge, Belizean talent and Belizean people and you need that.”

Dr. Bernard Bulwer, Director of Medical Services, K.H.M.H.

“What they did here was to usher diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac care into the twenty-first century. What this lab enables us to do is something that we should have been able to do thirty-five years ago. Belize was like thirty plus years behind the rest of the international medical community.”

The lab will allow for diagnosis and treatment of complex heart conditions to be done locally. Doctor Bernard Bulwer, the Director of Medical Services at the K.H.M.H., says that’s major news, especially with the increasing number of children afflicted with congenital heart disease.