

# Saving Young Hearts

*Preventing sudden cardiac death in children and teens.*

The use of an AED can lead to an **improved outcome** in children and adolescents experiencing a sudden, life-threatening cardiac event.



## Need a pediatric specialist?

To learn about the services at Wolfson Children's at Southeast Georgia Health System, visit [sghs.org/wolfsonchildrens](http://sghs.org/wolfsonchildrens).



Jose Ettedgui, M.D.



Michael Shillingford, M.D.

It happens unexpectedly — a previously healthy student-athlete dies from sudden cardiac death. The tragedy is often the result of an undiagnosed heart problem.

“Sudden cardiac death occurs rarely among young athletes,” says pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon Michael Shillingford, M.D., chief of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery at Wolfson Children's Hospital. “However, when sudden cardiac death happens in a young person, it is devastating to the teen's family, friends, school and community.”

“Sudden cardiac death in young athletes may be preventable,” says pediatric cardiologist Jose Ettedgui, M.D., who sees patients at Wolfson Children's at Southeast Georgia Health System in Brunswick, along with his pediatric cardiology colleagues. “Screening can help identify at-risk individuals.”

“It's also vital to have automated external defibrillators (AEDs) available with the presence of experienced medical personnel in public settings,” he adds.

Heart specialists with Wolfson Children's Hospital have expertise in all

pediatric congenital heart procedures, ranging from simple to highly complex. Whether they are performing open-heart, minimally invasive or video-assisted surgery, the board-certified pediatric cardiologists, electrophysiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons use the most advanced technology and techniques to repair congenital and rhythm-related heart defects.

Wolfson Children's at Southeast Georgia Health System offers cardiology checkups, comprehensive testing and pediatric cardiology specialists to make outpatient care for Coastal Georgia kids with congenital heart disease and rhythm disorders more convenient.

Wolfson Children's interventional cardiologists, electrophysiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons know which treatment is best for each child's or teen's situation and when it should be performed. The team uses advanced imaging techniques, including echocardiography, cardiac MRI and 3-D imaging, to help determine the right approach, resulting in some of the best pediatric heart surgery outcomes in the nation.

