To see Xavier in action, you’d never guess he was born with a rare congenital heart defect that leaves one side of the heart severely underdeveloped. If untreated, a child rarely survives beyond the first hours or days of life.

That was Xavier’s path when an air ambulance whisked the newborn to UC Davis Children’s Hospital, where Pediatric Heart Center surgeons performed the first in a complex series of three procedures to reconstruct his tiny heart and increase blood flow to his body.

With two surgeries now behind him, the bubbly toddler takes it all in stride — and greets each day with a smile that’s uniquely heartening.

Xavier and other children like him inspire the UC Davis team to push the boundaries of health care every day. To learn more about Xavier’s story, and the specialty services offered at this region’s one nationally ranked comprehensive hospital for children, visit children.ucdavis.edu

One team. One choice. One UC Davis.