Grace was born with a hole between the two lower chambers of her heart.

Doctors in her native Uganda told her parents that she would not live to be 16 years old.

Arrangements were made for her to have heart surgery in the US when she was 5 years old.

She would not have survived the surgery without donor blood. Grace said "I shall always be thankful because now I realize that every time we save a child through surgery, it was critical that some people needed to donate blood and certainly they did that for me. Let's keep informing the world of this increasing need to donate blood, and the role it has played in saving lives."

"Imagine how many liters of blood these surgeries have consumed. Without the blood donors, no medicine or funding could bridge this gap."

Now 38, Grace graduated as an agricultural economist, and has been involved in training people in Uganda to grow crops and help make them reach self-sufficient.

Grace became the first patient to receive care Gift of Life International, a program that now addresses the medical needs of children who suffer from congenital heart defects and other similar conditions, for changing the lives of children and families like hers around the world. Since Grace had her surgery, over 11,000 more children have been given a new life through similar care. She currently works for Gift Life international as Ambassador.