

A Heart for Iraq's Children

During the height of the Sunni/Shiite clash, Jeremy and Jessica Courtney moved their family to war-torn **Iraq**—to sell shoes. Now they're using the 3,000-year-old Kurdish footwear business as a way to provide lifesaving medical care to Iraqi children.

Klash shoes inspired Jeremy Courtney of the Preemptive Love Coalition (PLC) to launch "Buy Shoes, Save Lives." As a result, some cobblers sell the woven shoes on international markets to help fund the children's care.

The effect of chemical warfare, poor prenatal care, malnutrition or intrafamily marriage has caused tens of thousands of Iraqi children to have a common birth defect: literal holes in their hearts.

"These kids broke our hearts," says Courtney, executive director of PLC and a musician, songwriter and businessman. "We determined to start an organization that would address their need for surgery and provide them with hope and a future."