

Contact: Carrie Ellis
Children's HeartLink
carrie@childrensheartlink.org
952.928.4860 ext. 16



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's HeartLink to Send Minneapolis-Based Medical Team to Brazil *Team of medical volunteers to treat children suffering from congenital heart disease and help the Hospital De Base advance its pediatric cardiac services*

Minneapolis, Minn. (June 16, 2010) — On June 19, 2010, Children's HeartLink will send a team of volunteers on a seven-day cardiac medical mission to Hospital De Base in São José do Rio Preto, Brazil. The team of medical volunteers, led by David Overman, M.D., will consist of physicians and nurses from Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic. The team will spend the week working side by side with and training the Hospital de Base pediatric cardiac staff, as well as providing patient screening and treatment.

The partnership between Children's HeartLink and Hospital de Base was established in 2009 when Children's HeartLink sponsored a visit to the hospital by a Mayo Clinic pediatric cardiac team headed by Children's HeartLink Medical Director Joe Dearani, M.D. This mission continues the effort to advance Hospital De Base's cardiac abilities. The volunteer medical team will perform operations on children suffering from heart disease and work with local medical staff to assess needs and plan for future joint activities that will continue to strengthen the Hospital de Base pediatric cardiac program.

"The staff at Hospital de Base is extremely committed to caring for children with heart disease. We are excited and honored to continue to grow our partnership and to help them enhance their pediatric cardiac diagnostic, treatment and prevention services," said Elizabeth Perlich Sweeney, president of Children's HeartLink.

During this mission the team will:

1. Exchange technical skills and knowledge related to the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac patients through teaching and case review
2. Participate in the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric cardiac patients whose cases relate to the teaching needs and goals of the Hospital de Base cardiac program, specifically related to neonatal and infant surgery
3. Offer constructive observations and recommendations on current pediatric cardiac services offered at Hospital de Base
4. Continue to become more familiar with the cardiac services at Hospital de Base (facilities, personnel, resources/support, demand for services and priority needs), as well as the program's future needs, priorities and vision for the future
5. Work together to plan for future collaboration to advance pediatric cardiac services at Hospital de Base

About Children's HeartLink

Founded in 1969, Children's HeartLink is a medical non-governmental organization working in partnership with health care centers in underserved regions of the world to promote sustainable cardiac care for children with congenital or acquired heart disease. Children's HeartLink partners

with health care providers in medically underserved areas, empowering local hospitals to care for children in their region with consistent, quality and sustainable pediatric cardiac services.

See www.childrensheartlink.org for more information.

###