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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Children's HeartLink Sends Medical Team from Children's Hospitals  
and Clinics of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic to Brazil for Cardiac  
Training Visit**

*Medical volunteers will assist in treating children with congenital heart defects while continuing to help develop the pediatric cardiac program at Hospital de Base in São José do Rio Preto, Brazil.*

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (June 13, 2011)** -- On June 13, 2011, Children's HeartLink will send a team of volunteers from Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic on a five-day cardiac training visit to Hospital de Base in São José do Rio Preto, Brazil. During this visit, the team will work with Hospital de Base staff to perform lifesaving heart operations to correct congenital heart defects in children while continuing to build capacity and capabilities of Hospital De Base's pediatric cardiac program.

This will be Children's HeartLink's fourth full-team cardiac training visit to Hospital de Base. A key objective of this visit is to exchange technical skills and knowledge related to the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac patients and to continue to build upon Hospital de Base's goals of becoming a regional center of excellence for children's heart health, which will provide more children with access to quality care.

"Children's HeartLink strives to work closely with each of our partner hospitals, providing the specialized medical and development expertise they need to help advance their children's cardiac programs," said Estelle Brouwer, vice president and director of international programs of Children's HeartLink. "We have great respect for the Hospital de Base team. They are incredibly dedicated and passionate about caring for children, and we have been very impressed by the advancements they have achieved during the course of our partnership."

During this mission the team will also:

1. Participate in the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric cardiac patients whose cases relate to the teaching need and goals of the Hospital de Base cardiac program, specifically related to infants.
2. Strengthen and continue to enhance lines of communication and cooperation between cardiac team members.
3. Discuss current challenges facing pediatric services at Hospital de Base and work together to identify strategies that can help improve and strengthen the consistency of services.
4. Work together to plan for future collaborative activities that will continue to advance pediatric cardiac services at Hospital de Base.

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**About Children's HeartLink**

Founded in 1969, Children's HeartLink is a nonprofit organization partnering with health care centers in underserved regions of the world to promote sustainable cardiac care for children with congenital or acquired heart disease. Congenital heart disease is the world's most common major birth defect, affecting one in every 120 children. Nearly ninety percent of those newborns are in areas of the world where appropriate medical care is inadequate or unavailable. Children's HeartLink currently supports partner hospitals and programs in eight countries: Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Malaysia, South Africa, Ukraine and Vietnam. To learn more click on: [www.childrensheartlink.org](http://www.childrensheartlink.org).

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