

A thank you from Brazil

Below are excerpts from comments of Dr. Ulisses Croti and Dr. Domingo Braile, regarding Children's HeartLink's second full-team visit to the Hospital de Base in São José do Rio Preto, June 20-26, 2010. The medical volunteer team was from Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic.



Dr. Croti (right) with Dr. Overman (left) in the operating room at Hospital de Base.

We would like to officially thank the presence of all of the Children's HeartLink and the team led by Dr. Overman. During this week we were again deeply touched by the spirit of seriousness, responsibility and involvement surrounding the project by Children's HeartLink that we at Hospital de Base are trying to follow in order to improve care for children with congenital heart disease...

Besides all the technical and teaching commitments needed to prepare for the next visit, it became clear the continuing need for us to improve communication, personal behavior and the interrelationship between all of our team...

Surely we will be eternally grateful to all the teachings we are receiving. Be assured that we are working hard to improve and look into the eyes of our colleagues to understand them and be understood!

Many thanks.

Drs. Ulisses Alexandre Croti and Domingo Marcolino Braile
Hospital de Base, São José do Rio Preto, Brazil

Children's HeartLink Global Partner Sites



CHILDREN'S HEARTLINK STAFF

Elizabeth Perlich Sweeney
President
elizabeth@childrensheartlink.org

Estelle Brouwer
Vice President and
Director of International Programs
estelle@childrensheartlink.org

John Cushing Jr., MHA
International Programs Advisor

Bistra Zheleva
Assistant Director of
International Programs
bistra@childrensheartlink.org

Andreas Tsakistos
International Programs Coordinator
andreas@childrensheartlink.org

Carissa Johnson
Office Manager and
International Programs Assistant
carissa@childrensheartlink.org

Brian Herstig
Development Director
brian@childrensheartlink.org

Katie Najjar
Events Manager
katie@childrensheartlink.org

Karin Haas
Development Assistant
karin@childrensheartlink.org

Carrie Ellis
Marketing & Communications Director
carrie@childrensheartlink.org

Jessica Smith-Schuh
Events and Marketing Coordinator
jessica@childrensheartlink.org



facebook.com/childrensheartlink

@CHHeartLink

5075 Arcadia Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55436-2306
952.928.4860
fax 952.928.4859
childrensheartlink.org

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heartbeat

The Children's HeartLink Newsletter

Building sustainable programs to prevent, treat and cure heart disease among needy children.

Winter 2011

"Sisters" in Caring for Children's Hearts: Seattle Children's Hospital and the Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center

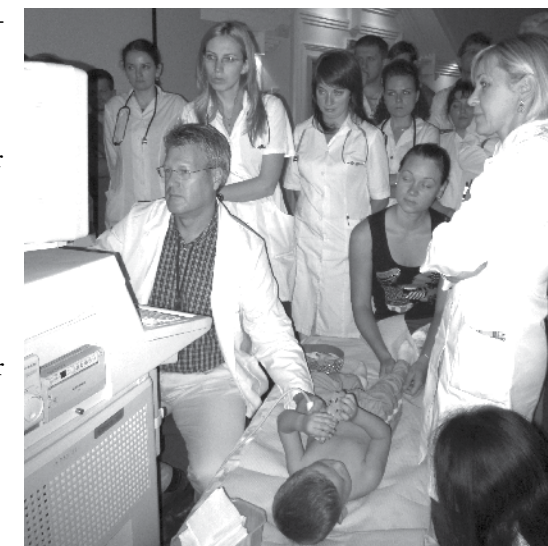
One of Children's HeartLink's most exciting accomplishments this fall was the first full-team cardiac training visit to the Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center (UCCC) in Kyiv, Ukraine, during the week of September 20-24. The September visit also saw the launch of a "sister hospital" relationship between the UCCC and Seattle Children's Hospital. These accomplishments exemplify the progress that can result when the support of a Children's HeartLink volunteer medical institution for a partner hospital in an underserved region reaches across disciplines to include not only the cardiac team, but also the nurse training department and the hospital's leadership. Children's HeartLink believes that aligning the work of all these departments will lead to even greater improvements in children's access to quality cardiac care.

Since 2007, Children's HeartLink, Seattle Children's and the UCCC have been working together to advance the UCCC's pediatric cardiac services, support its efforts to become a regional center of excellence and strengthen the hospital's educational program. Seattle Children's volunteers have been incredibly supportive, leveraging Seattle Children's telemedicine program to connect with the UCCC every week for videoconference case discussions, in addition to making periodic visits to the UCCC and hosting the UCCC staff for training. However, in the past, the primary focus of Children's

HeartLink's training and education effort with the UCCC has been with the diagnostic and surgical teams. Since post-operative care is also critical for a child's recovery, Children's HeartLink and the Seattle Children's team wanted to model the interactions of a full team, including intensive care and nursing, and the September visit was an opportunity to do that.

During the training visit, team members from both hospitals also laid the groundwork for future nursing training sessions that will benefit nurses both from the UCCC and from the surrounding region. These sessions will be conducted in person as well as via distance learning and videoconferencing. During the September training visit, the UCCC organized a nursing seminar, which was attended by approximately 50 nurses from around Ukraine.

Seattle Children's demonstrated its continuing commitment and completed an institutional affiliation agreement ("Sister Hospital" relationship) with the UCCC to formalize their work together. In addition to the clinical training provided by Seattle Children's volunteers, the two hospitals will also work together to develop a program to enhance the administrative and management capabilities at the UCCC.



Joel Lester, cardiac sonographer from Seattle Children's Hospital, examines a patient during a teaching session with the cardiology team at the UCCC.

Dr. Sandy Melzer, senior vice president for strategic planning and business development at Seattle Children's, and Dr. Ilya Yemets, the director of the UCCC, will lead these efforts, which will focus on hospital, management, leadership, strategic planning and operations.

The September visit to the UCCC strengthened the relationship between the UCCC and Seattle Children's and presents a strong example of the type of capacity-building activities that Children's HeartLink brings to its partner sites.

Support for Children's HeartLink's work in Ukraine and for this visit was provided by the Medtronic Foundation.

To support our work with any of our partner hospitals, e-mail brian@childrensheartlink.org.

Update on Children's HeartLink international activities



Dai, a three-year-old girl from Gansu Province, China, who recently received a heart operation at the First Hospital of Lanzhou University.

October 2010

India – Children's HeartLink staff and board member, Andrew Nelson, traveled to several cities in India. In Chennai, Children's HeartLink facilitated a meeting with many of our Indian partners and received valuable feedback, insights and perspectives that will help Children's HeartLink shape the direction of future program work in India. While in Chennai, Children's HeartLink attended the 20th World Congress of the World Society of Cardio Thoracic Surgeons and the 6th Global Forum on Humanitarian Medicine in Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery. Bistra Zheleva, Children's HeartLink's assistant director of international programs, participated in a panel presentation, "Training Visits and Medical Missions: Creating a Sustainable Model."

Malaysia – A team of medical volunteers from Birmingham Children's Hospital, Birmingham, UK, trav-

eled to the National Heart Institute (IJN) in Kuala Lumpur for a cardiac training visit. The overall goal was to continue collaborating with IJN to advance the program as a regional center of excellence and to continue to strengthen the hospital's education and training programs.

China – A team of medical volunteers from the University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital traveled to the First Hospital of Lanzhou University (FHLU) in Lanzhou for a cardiac training visit. In the 10-plus years Children's HeartLink has worked with FHLU, the FHLU staff has improved their ability to accurately diagnose cardiac defects and has significantly increased their ability to treat younger patients. Also, a small team of pediatric cardiac doctors and nurses from West China Hospital in Chengdu spent a month training at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

Vietnam – An intensive care nurse from Singapore spent a week at Nhi Dong 1 (Children's Hospital 1) in Ho Chi Minh City, providing training to local intensive care nurses in post-operative care for children with congenital heart defects.

November 2010

China – John Cushing and Li Wang, Children's HeartLink programs volunteers, spent several days in Changchun, providing strategic planning support to the leadership at Children's HeartLink's partner site, the Jilin Heart Hospital, as they prepare to open their newly constructed hospital building.

Washington, D.C. – Children's HeartLink board and staff representatives traveled to D.C. and met with ambassadors and other embassy staff representing several countries in which Children's HeartLink is active, including South Africa, Ecuador and Vietnam. Embassy staff were warmly supportive, offering their assistance as Children's HeartLink's work in their countries continues to evolve. The Children's HeartLink team also met with congressional delegates and nonprofit organizations and discussed ways to further our capacity building approach.

January 2011

Brazil – A team of medical volunteers from three Minnesota-based pediatric cardiac centers of excellence—Mayo Clinic, University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital, and Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota spent a week training doctors and nurses, diagnosing and treating children at Hospital de Base in São José do Rio Preto. Volunteers from each of these hospitals have previously traveled with Children's HeartLink to Brazil, but this combination is unique.

February 2011

Calling all medical volunteers! Children's HeartLink will discuss our international program's approach and goals for the future in **two webinars for medical volunteers on February 10 at 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. Central standard time.**

March 2011

India – An intensive care team from Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University will travel to Innova Children's Heart Hospital in Hyderabad, India, for a two-week training visit.

Future trips are subject to schedule changes. To support our work with any of our partner hospitals, e-mail brian@childrensheartlink.org

Karin Haas joins Children's HeartLink as Development Assistant



Karin Haas

This fall, Children's HeartLink welcomed Karin Haas as the new development assistant. Before joining us full-time, Karin interned with the development team at Children's HeartLink. She has also recently traveled to South America and rooted for the Minnesota Twins. Karin graduated from Occidental College with a B.A. in history. In her spare time, Karin loves camping, hiking and baking. She is always eager to help a Children's HeartLink supporter. Contact Karin at karin@childrensheartlink.org.

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on Children's HeartLink's accomplishments for 2010, I am truly thankful for the compassion and dedication demonstrated by our partner hospitals, talented medical volunteers, donors, volunteers, board and staff. I'd like to also personally thank Joel Conner and Gerald Anderson, two outgoing members of our board of directors. Thank you both for your years of service to Children's HeartLink and commitment to help children suffering from heart disease.



In 2011, Children's HeartLink will continue to help our partner hospitals around the world build the capacity of their pediatric cardiac programs. The partnership between our organization, Seattle Children's Hospital and the Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center featured on the first page is just one example of the deepening relationships we are building around the world, and of the incredible outcomes that result from these connections. By working together and continuing to add new activities to our programmatic approach, we will be able to train more medical professionals and help more children than ever before. I have never been more hopeful for the future!

With best wishes for the new year,

Elizabeth
Elizabeth Perlich Sweeney

Thank you to Joel Conner and Gerald Anderson for your Board service!



Joel Conner

Children's HeartLink would like to thank board members Joel Conner and Gerald Anderson for their service and contributions to our board of directors. Mr. Conner, chairman and CEO of Bellisio Foods, is a former board chair and served as a director for nearly 10 years. His many contributions to Children's HeartLink include the recruitment of many of our current directors. Mr. Anderson, who is the executive vice president and chief credit officer at Commerce Bank, served on the board for over five years.

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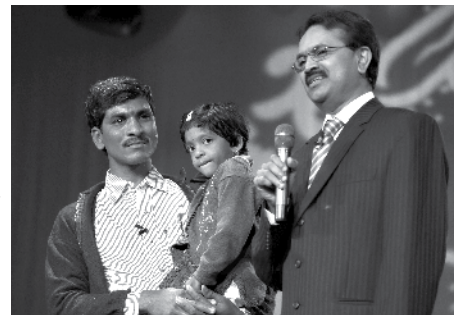
CAVAN VARCO
John and Candice Varco

Honors and Memorials include contributions from August 1 through December 31, 2010. For more information, email karin@childrensheartlink.org.

2010 HeartLink Gala a success!

In October, Children's HeartLink hosted the 2010 HeartLink Gala. Guests enjoyed an Indian-themed evening, including a reception, culinary silent auctions, dinner, live auction and an evening of great entertainment. Hosted by WCCO-TV's Mark Rosen, guests enjoyed performances by RGK Modern Indian Dance Academy, Students of Ragamala Dance and the Minnesota Boychoir, and met five-year-old Srilatha, who was treated for a heart defect last June at Inova Children's Heart Hospital, our partner site in Hyderabad, India.

The 2010 HeartLink Gala proved to be Children's HeartLink's most successful event sponsorship effort to date. With a dedicated leadership



Mr. Brammachary Danampally, his daughter Srilatha, and Dr. K.S. Murthy were the guests of honor at the gala. Photo by Molly Platisba.

committee that included honorary chairs Ken Powell and Wendy Bennett, Children's HeartLink raised \$442,000 in sponsorships. Overall, the 2010 HeartLink Gala raised \$644,000, exceeding budget goals.

Contact katie@childrensheartlink.org for event sponsorship or volunteer opportunities.

heartLINKS Save the Date!

The 19th Annual HeartLINKS Golf Invitational will be on Monday, May 23, 2011, at the Golden Valley Golf and Country Club—one of

Minnesota's most prestigious courses. The event, hosted by WCCO-TV Sports Director Mark Rosen, will include a fun and exciting day of golf, contests, lunch, cocktail reception, award ceremony and silent auction.

Contact Katie at katie@childrensheartlink.org for more information.

Donor Spotlight: BDM Agency & Paul Boddicker



Paul Boddicker.

BDM
Agency
Paul Boddicker, and his Minneapolis-based printing and fulfillment firm, BDM

Agency, are familiar names around the Children's HeartLink office. Paul never fails to bring a smile and a comforting, "whatever you need—anything for Children's HeartLink," assurance, no matter what type of aggressive deadline we give him for our projects.

Paul and BDM have been handling

various fulfillment projects for Children's HeartLink for over ten years, and Paul is also a committed personal contributor to the organization. He has passed his enthusiasm for Children's HeartLink on to his family, as well, with his son Sam volunteering at our 2010 HeartLink Gala.

"There are few jobs that allow you to honestly say that you have helped save a child today. Giving to Children's HeartLink has been one of my life's greatest blessings, and I feel truly honored to be a small part of something so important as their work," said Boddicker.

Medical Volunteer Spotlight: Marie Steiner, M.D and Lee Pyles, M.D.

In November 2010, Children's HeartLink had its first husband and wife medical volunteer duo travel to Lanzhou, China, for a cardiac training visit to the First Hospital of Lanzhou University. Dr. Marie Steiner, a pediatric intensivist, and Dr. Lee Pyles, a pediatric cardiologist, both work for the University of Minnesota

Amplatz Children's Hospital. "Lee and Marie made a great team and were a wonderful addition to the group," said Andreas Tsakistos, Children's HeartLink's international programs coordinator. "It's clear they have a passion for teaching and care deeply for their patients. They were a pleasure to work with, and I hope there is an

opportunity for them to work with Children's HeartLink again."

Since 2008 Dr. Pyles has been on three cardiac training visits to Lanzhou with Children's HeartLink and serves on the program services advisory committee.



Above, Dr. Pyles examines a patient at First Hospital of Lanzhou University.

Below, Dr. Steiner (third from right in middle) discusses a patient's chart in the intensive care unit with team members from First Hospital of Lanzhou University and University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital.



ABOUT DR. STEINER AND DR. PYLES:

How did volunteering with your spouse enhance your experience?

Dr. Steiner: I completely trust Lee's skills as a physician, and knew if we had problems with a child, he would help me optimize the patient's care – that is what we have been doing since we met in training in 1983. It was also really fun to see him so excited and animated about further outreach projects.

Dr. Pyles: This work is so important to me that it felt really good to share it with Marie. This was the best of both worlds: to have time with Marie and the opportunity to do this work.

Why is your volunteer work with Children's HeartLink important to you?

Dr. Steiner: Most of us never experience the sorrow of caring for our own chronically ill child or the immense grief with that child's death. Regardless of politics or customs, I would like to spare even one mother or father from that pain by helping to restore the health of their child.

Dr. Pyles: I feel that we are making the world a better place by promoting understanding between China and the United States, as well as helping to improve the medical care in a relatively unsophisticated area of China.

In Honor Of

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Philadelphia Marathon finisher raises funds for Children's HeartLink

Peter Epstein wanted to do something meaningful to honor his mentor, role model and uncle, Richard Halperin, following Richard's sudden death from a heart attack at age 52 last June. Peter took on the grueling challenge to complete the Philadelphia Marathon as a tribute to his uncle.

Peter and his family decided to carry on Richard's spirit of giving and helping others by setting up a personal fundraising page on Firstgiving.org to benefit Children's HeartLink. "Knowing that Rich loved helping others find direction in their lives, the mission of Children's HeartLink couldn't be more appropriate. Giving kids a chance for a future and life is really a beautiful mission," Peter said.

Two weeks before the marathon, Peter set up his Firstgiving page and set his fundraising goal at \$2,500, the cost to fund a heart operation for a child. Peter was unsure if he could reach the goal, but his friends and family helped him surpass it in just four days! "It's really a testament to my family and friends' feelings for Rich," said Peter.

By the morning of November 21, the day of the race, Epstein had raised over \$4,300 for Children's HeartLink, more than enough for interventional catheter procedures for two children who could not otherwise afford them. Peter and his friend, Ben Gold, finished the marathon for Rich and Children's HeartLink with gusto: "It was an awesome challenge and a great experience. I wore my Children's HeartLink wristband, and we had family and friends on hand to cheer us on. I ran slowly at first to save energy and in the last six miles (when it was clear I was going to make it), I really let loose."



Peter Epstein's uncle, Richard Halperin. Peter ran the Philadelphia Marathon in Richard's memory.

Children's HeartLink is inspired by stories like Peter and Rich's. Thank you to Peter and all of his friends for their generosity.

We'll Help You Get the Word Out!

Let us know if you are planning to host a fundraiser to benefit Children's HeartLink, and we'll help raise awareness for you! Contact karin@childrens-heartlink.org for more information about organizing an event.

The Gift of Giving

If you have included Children's HeartLink, or are considering including Children's HeartLink, in your estate planning, please contact development director Brian Herstig at brian@childrensheartlink.org.



Peter Epstein (right) and friend, Ben Gold (left), after finishing the Philadelphia Marathon.

2011 Valentine's Day Heart to Heart campaign with Lunds & Byerly's

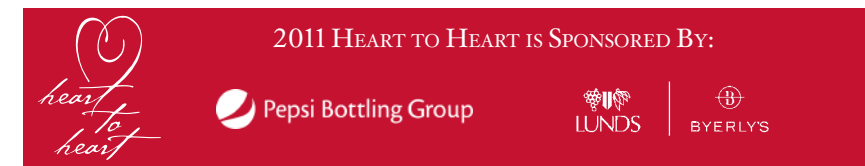


Children's HeartLink is honored to partner with Lunds and Byerly's, Pepsi Bottling Group, local celebrities and volunteers to raise awareness of congenital heart disease with our fifth annual Heart to Heart campaign. Thanks to the generosity of Lunds and Byerly's, a portion of the proceeds will go straight to Children's HeartLink programs and help children with heart disease in underserved regions of the world get better access to health care.

From February 3-16, all 20 Lunds and Byerly's stores in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area will be selling a special treat, "Tiramisu for Two," in their bakery sections for \$5.99. A delicious Italian dessert, Tiramisu for Two will go straight to the heart of your special someone. Also, don't miss the free Valentine recipe card, with a recipe from local baker Solveig Tofte.

On February 12, you can sample the tiramisu from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., with a chance to meet local celebrities at select Lunds and Byerly's stores from noon - 1 p.m. For more information, see www.childrensheartlink.org/valentines.

Thank you to our generous sponsors this year! There is still time to participate—contact Brian Herstig at brian@childrensheartlink.org for details.



From LEAD with Love: a Benefit for Children's HeartLink

LEAD

The Leadership Emergence and Development Project (LEAD) is a nonprofit organization that engages young professionals in the charitable and philanthropic communities of the Twin Cities. On Saturday, February 12, LEAD will host **From LEAD with Love: a Benefit for Children's HeartLink**. This exciting evening will feature live and silent auctions, dancing, drinks and more. To learn more about LEAD and purchase tickets, visit www.theleadproject.org.

Event Details:

Saturday, February 12, 2011
8 p.m. - Midnight
Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Minneapolis
\$75 per person, open bar

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

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Lionel Ohayon
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Annamarie, Paul, Jack, Elle and Eve Saarinen

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(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)