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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's HeartLink and University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital Embark on Training Visit to Lanzhou, China

Staff at First Hospital of Lanzhou University will receive training to advance pediatric cardiac services

Minneapolis, Minn. (October 14, 2010) – On October 18, Children's HeartLink will send a team of volunteers from University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital on a five-day cardiac training visit to the First Hospital of Lanzhou University in Lanzhou, China. The team will work with staff at the First Hospital of Lanzhou University to advance the hospital's pediatric cardiac services and treat children suffering from heart disease.

Children's HeartLink has partnered with the First Hospital of Lanzhou University since 2000. This will be the ninth cardiac training visit, and the first full-team visit by Amplatz Children's Hospital, to Lanzhou. The First Hospital of Lanzhou University is an important cardiac center for the region, reaching 4,530 pediatric cardiac patients last year.

The Children's HeartLink and Amplatz Children's Hospital teams will offer observations and recommendations on current pediatric cardiac services and plan for future collaborative efforts with the First Hospital of Lanzhou University. Additional objectives for the training visit include:

1. Exchanging technical skills and knowledge related to the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac patients through teaching, case review and treatment.
2. Participating in the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric cardiac patients who have financial need, and whose cases relate to the teaching needs/goals of the First Hospital of Lanzhou University's pediatric cardiac program.

“Children's HeartLink is committed to improving the lives of children with heart disease around the world,” said Estelle Brouwer, vice president and director of international programs at Children's HeartLink. “With this partnership, the First Hospital of Lanzhou University and Amplatz Children's teams are able to collaborate and refine skills so that, in the future, more children in Lanzhou and the surrounding region can receive the treatment they need, and First Hospital of Lanzhou University can continue to strengthen its role as a training partner for other pediatric cardiac programs in the region.”

About Children's HeartLink

Founded in 1969, Children's HeartLink is a non-profit 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. See www.childrensheartlink.org for more information.

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