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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Children's HeartLink and University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital Medical Team Head to China for Cardiac Training Visit**

*Medical volunteers will assist in treating children with congenital and acquired heart disease while continuing to support development of the pediatric cardiac program of The First Hospital of Lanzhou University in Lanzhou, China.*

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (January 9, 2012)** -- [Children's HeartLink](http://www.childrensheartlink.org), 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, will send a team of medical volunteers from the [University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital](http://www.amplatz.org) on a cardiac training visit to Lanzhou, China, from January 9-13, 2012.

Medical volunteers will work side by side with the First Hospital of Lanzhou University (FHLU) staff to promote FHLU's position as a leading pediatric cardiac referral center for the province and greater region, as well as facilitate their participation in the International Quality Improvement Collaborative for Congenital Heart Surgery in Developing Countries created by [Children's Hospital Boston](http://www.childrenshospital.org). The team will also continue efforts in the area of specialized training in critical cardiology care. The First Hospital of Lanzhou University has 800 beds, treats nearly 300 pediatric cardiac patients a year and is one of the largest medical facilities serving northwestern China.

"We have a long-standing and productive relationship with the First Hospital of Lanzhou University. While a great deal of progress has been made over the years, the need for continued training, mentoring, and program development support still exists," said Estelle Brouwer, vice president and director of international programs at Children's HeartLink. "Children's HeartLink is dedicated to supporting our partner hospitals' efforts to expand the accessibility and improve the quality of pediatric cardiac care in their communities and regions. We are impressed by FHLU's achievements, and we look forward to even more positive developments in the next stage of our partnership."

During this training visit the team will also:

1. Exchange technical skills and knowledge related to the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac patients through teaching, case review and treatment.
2. Participate in the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric cardiac patients who are financially needy, and whose cases relate to the teaching needs and goals of The First Hospital of Lanzhou University's pediatric cardiac program.
3. Provide education to pediatricians and physicians from the surrounding region in screening and early detection of CHD.
4. Have the University of Minnesota Amplatz team offer observations and recommendations on FHLU's current plans for a cardiac ICU and PICU in the new facility.
5. Offer observations and recommendations on current pediatric cardiac services offered at The First Hospital of Lanzhou University, and plan for future collaboration and support to advance pediatric cardiac services and the hospital's regional role.

**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 90 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 the following countries: Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Malaysia, Ukraine and Vietnam. For more information on Children's HeartLink, please visit [www.childrensheartlink.org](http://www.childrensheartlink.org).

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