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Press Release

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Autism specialists from China training at Heartspring in Wichita

Wichita, Kan. – Heartspring is hosting three specialists from the Stars and Rain Institute for Autism in Beijing, China until June 24. In 2005 Heartspring and Stars and Rain entered into a sister organization agreement which offers the opportunity for additional support through a cultural and informational exchange between Heartspring staff and the teachers at Stars and Rain.

Ten years ago Tian Huiping (Hope) founded the Stars and Rain Institute for Autism. This was the first school for children with autism in all of China. The program consists of an eleven-week training session for parents and children, so they can learn how to educate their child at home. “Even a child who is disabled has the right to a normal life,” said Hope. “But in China, the reality is that only a so called normal person can have a normal life.”

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There are an estimated 2 million people in China with autism, yet only 20 doctors are qualified to diagnose the disorder; an increase from the three physicians qualified a decade ago. Stars and Rain has helped over 2,500 children with autism and there is a two and a half year waiting list for families who wish to receive services.

Currently Mr. Scott Sun, Ms. Sang Zhihong (Sandra) and Ms. Wang Xiuguang (Susan) are assisting with Heartspring's preschool day camp for children with autism and other special needs, as well as observing therapies and classes at Heartspring Pediatric Services and Heartspring School.

For more than 70 years, Heartspring has pioneered many breakthroughs for individuals with special needs. Today, Heartspring serves children with varying degrees of disabilities including autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. Our expertise at Heartspring School is recognizing the special needs of children as individuals, then guiding them to their greatest potential in all aspects of their life. Through the years, we've used that expertise to help children through Heartspring Pediatric Services and individuals of all ages through the Heartspring Hearing Center. For more information please call Katie Bishop at 316-634-8821 or email at kbishop@heartspring.org

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