



*Because Love has no End...*





## **INTRODUCTION**

Angel Heart International (AHI) is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to serving children with congenital heart disease (CHD) in China and other developing countries, currently directing focus to the Gansu Province. In order to help these children, AHI focuses on the thorough treatment given to individual patients and maintaining a more solid support system, rather than a cursory treatment of anonymous masses. AHI volunteers provide moral support in every step of this process; and through these interactions, both the beneficiaries and the volunteers gain meaningful experiences in which mutual trust and understanding are established. Each AHI volunteer promises to do everything possible for these children, working not only to financially assist them in attaining life-saving surgeries, but also compassionately building an enduring network of support for each child, leading them to their new futures.

AHI provides a program, Mending Young Hearts in Gansu, which is divided into three separate sub-programs. The Medical Assistant Program sponsors the surgeries for patients through donations and connections with hospitals. The Support Group Program establishes a communication platform between volunteers and patients to provide an assistance network in which patients and their families can receive moral support and volunteers can make a difference in someone's life. The Better Medical Care Program facilitates the distribution of awareness and research findings on the better treatment of CHD as ongoing education to local health care professionals.

AHI constantly needs the support of dedicated and compassionate volunteers. We encourage everyone who shares the same value as our mission statement to join us to help shape a brighter future for these children. Because AHI is ran completely by volunteers, every bit of effort from all of our volunteers is significantly important to the children and their families that we help. We greatly appreciate your interest and sincerely welcome you to join our team. Please read the following pages which describe more in detail of our program and of our volunteer opportunities. Thank you again.



## **MENDING YOUNG HEARTS IN GANSU (MYHG)**

The Mending Young Hearts in Gansu Program (MYHG) consists of three sub-programs to help under-privileged children with congenital heart diseases (CHD) and their families living in the Gansu Province of China. The three sub-programs are: the Medical Assistant Program, the Support Group Program, and the Better Medical Care Program.

### **Medical Assistant sub-Program (MAP)**

The objective of the MAP is to provide proper treatment for children coming from low-income families throughout the Gansu province of China through free medical services, financial assistance and volunteer caregivers.

Ever since its founding in 2008 and through MAP, AHI has already helped 16 children, all of them had undergone successful surgery, by the end of 2009. With the start of 2010, AHI will continue its effort to reach out to more CHD children and their families. The table below gives an overview of the age group of the children and the type of CHD they typically have.

Patient Name	Age	Diagnosis	Surgery Date
Zhang, Jiasheng	6	Ventricular Septal Defect	4/28/2008
Liu, Lele	4	Ventricular Septal Defect	4/28/2008
Ding, Xiaoyan	12	Tetralogy of Fallot	6/25/2008
Lan, Xiaohua	14	Ventricular Septal Defect	6/25/2008
Ran, Lihong	10	Ventricular Septal Defect	9/25/2008
Chen, Wenbo	4	Ventricular Septal Defect	9/25/2008
Liu, Weijun	10	Double Outlet Left Ventricle	11/10/2008
Ma, Ruoying	2	PDA	2/12/2009
Ma, Juan	3.5	VSD, PDA, ASD	2/13/2009
He, Jiayi	7	Tetralogy of Fallot	4/21/2009
Wang, Tao	3	Ventricular Septal Defect	7/6/2009
Liu, Wen	3	Ventricular Septal Defect	8/6/2009
Zhu, Lina	14	Ventricular Septal Defect	8/7/2009
Shi, Shengxia	11	Ventricular Septal Defect	11/11/2009
Liu, Haixia	3	Ventricular Septal Defect	11/11/2009
Wang, Yuhong	17	VSD, PS	12/16/2009

### **Support Group sub-Program (SGP)**

The main goal for the Support Group sub-Program is to set up a communication and education platform for every CHD patient, family, and volunteer by providing family visits, effective physician-patient communication, and educational seminars.

Family visits provide unique experiences for everyone that is involved. The volunteer group consists of a cardiologist, program organizers, and several volunteers; the whole group provides consolation and help to the children and family members. This first meeting is very crucial in establishing real trust and faith for the families which enables AHI to set up a stronger future relationship with these families. Volunteers then accompany the children and their families through the surgical process, giving continual support and care. Finally, the newly cured



children receive closure when the volunteers visit during the post-operative health checkup. Throughout the process, a strong long-lasting relationship in which both volunteers and patients can give strength to each other is built. Also in accordance with this program and the overall mission statement, AHI will continue to give children more than just treatment and care, but any opportunities that can provide the children with a better future.

### **Better Medical Care Sub-Program (BMDG)**

The Better Medical Care Sub-Program (BMDG) is designed to focus on providing ongoing educational opportunities for participating physicians and hospitals. This sub-program stresses the importance for the advancement in technology and scientific research for the better treatment of congenital heart diseases.

Two examples of the functions of BMDG that AHI have performed thus far are educating young physicians and sponsoring physicians to go to international conferences. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, 2009, Doctor Shouyan Lee, the founder of AHI, spoke to the young resident physicians at the Gansu Province People's Hospital. They were encouraged to improve conditions for their future patients and to provide more meaningful service in their profession. In accordance with this program's goals, Angel Heart encourages the community to participate in its activities, and several of the hospital's leading doctors are already involved in the various medical subprograms. From May 9<sup>th</sup> 2009 to May 13<sup>th</sup> 2009, AHI and American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) cosponsored Dr. Xingguang Liu, a participating cardiovascular surgeon from Gansu Province People's Hospital to attend the AATS meeting in Boston. He had the opportunity to receive valuable information on the technological advancements of the usages of essential products such as heart valves and conduits for cardiac surgery. He was able to discuss improvements on surgical techniques with other renowned thoracic surgery specialists. Dr. Liu then traveled to Edwards Life Sciences Facility in California after the AATS meeting in which he was given a tour of the facility. By participating in the BMDG sub-program, Dr. Liu was able to have the opportunity of participating in international conferences and tour biomedical facilities such as Edwards Life Sciences to improve the knowledge for the better treatment of congenital heart diseases in order to further help the underprivileged children in China.



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Volunteers are given many different types of positions to help support and maintain Angel Heart International. Below is a list of the different areas of volunteer support we need. Please indicate which areas that interests you the most and whether you would like to receive volunteer credits when contacting the AHI representatives. Once again, thank you very much for your strong interest in AHI.

### **Administrative**

Responsible for:

1. Data entry, database maintenance, and data report generation
2. Organizing donation information into patient database
3. Organizing fundraising and other events
4. Helping to draft grant proposals
5. Writing and distributing Thank You letters for donators
6. Collaborating with the administrative team to ensure work efficiency
7. Communicating effectively with volunteers from other teams to help keep the functions of AHI streamlined as a whole

### **Newsletter**

Responsible for:

1. Writing and editing articles of AHI's current news and children stories
2. Formatting the final version of each issue of the newsletter for publication
3. Translating articles either from Chinese to English or vice versa (if applicable for the volunteer)
4. Collaborating with other volunteers on the newsletter team
5. Communicating effectively with volunteers from other teams

### **Website**

Responsible for:

1. Designing for layouts that are user friendly
2. Maintaining the website
3. Updating the website with current news, photos, and articles
4. Improving the website for more efficient use
5. Working effectively with other volunteers on the website team
6. Communicating effectively with volunteers from other teams

### **Accounting**

Responsible for:

1. Entering donator's information and donations into database
2. Organizing and keeping track of donations and expenses
3. Organizing and supplying invoices, receipts, and statements
4. Collecting and sending tax receipts to donators
5. Working effectively with other volunteers on the accounting team
6. Communicating effectively with volunteers from other teams



### **Volunteering overseas**

All of AHI's volunteers are given the opportunity to participate directly in the Support Group sub-Program. Volunteers can travel as a group to Gansu, China to participate in this very meaningful experience of directly taking part in the children's crucial life changing process. The strong bonds and friendships made with the children and their families that you directly helped will last a lifetime. If you are very interested about this opportunity, do not hesitate to contact the AHI representatives about the exact dates and details of upcoming trip schedules.

### **END NOTE**

Once again, thank you very much for your interest in Angel Heart International. We greatly appreciate you for putting your valuable time into reading this informational packet. We hope you have gained a better understanding of AHI. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you soon!



## **HELPFUL LINKS**

Angel Heart International  
[www.angelheartintl.org](http://www.angelheartintl.org)

Angel Heart International Facebook Group  
[www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=225113433181](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=225113433181)

## **KEY CONTACTS FOR VOLUNTEERING INQUIRIES**

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