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**Nanjing, China Donates 30,000 Face Masks to St. Louis Region**

***- St. Louis Sister City Assists Region with PPE -***

**June 6, 2020 – St. Louis, MO** – St. Louis sister-city, Nanjing, China, is donating 30,000 masks to assist the

St. Louis region during its struggles with COVID-19. The masks will be distributed evenly between St. Louis City and County. The St. Louis - Nanjing- Sister-City Committee is working with the World Trade Center St. Louis, a division of the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership to facilitate the distribution of the masks. The donated medical face masks are disposable and will be given to facilities in the region, to be determined by the County Executive and the Mayor.

As the first U.S. municipality to establish a sister-city relationship with China, the City of St. Louis and Nanjing celebrated 40 years of continued friendship in October 2019. Neal Perryman, President of the St. Louis – Nanjing Sister City Committee, said the face mask donation is yet another sign of the continual respect and kindness shown between the two cities. “This donation is a direct result of the relationships that have been cultivated over the years by educational, commercial and cultural exchanges,” Perryman said. “That relationship won’t stop now. The St. Louis-Nanjing Sister City Committee wishes to express thanks for the donation of medical masks by the Nanjing Municipal Government.”

St. Louis County has been continually providing PPE to protect medical workers. “This generous contribution of PPE to our community will be immediately put to use to protect our medical workers who are on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic,” St. Louis County Executive Dr. Sam Page said.

“We are grateful to receive the donated face masks from our sister-city which will be added to what the city has already provided to high-risk, vulnerable populations and small businesses,” Mayor Lyda Krewson said. “I am tremendously grateful for St. Louis’ enduring relationship with Nanjing and the generous donation of surgical masks they have made in the midst of this global pandemic.”

Tim Nowak, Executive Director of World Trade Center St. Louis, said that there is a special relationship between Nanjing and St. Louis. “COVID-19 has negatively affected both St. Louis and Nanjing,” said Nowak. “To have support coming from our sister-city in China is invaluable. We look forward to continually nurturing this relationship, the first of its kind in the United States and China.”

“I am pleased that the personal protective equipment donated by Nanjing has arrived in its sister city. We stand with the people of St. Louis in the fight against the COVID-19 virus,” Zhao Jian**,** Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Chicago, said.

**About:**

[The Nanjing Committee](https://worldtradecenter-stl.com/st-louis-sister-cities-program/nanjing-china/)

In 1979, St. Louis was linked with the city of Nanjing (formally Nanking) and became the first U.S. municipality to have a sister city in the People’s Republic of China. The St. Louis – Nanjing Sister City Committee has sponsored many exchanges that have touched thousands of people in both communities from school children to corporate leaders. Mayors of both cities have led official trade delegations and given enthusiastic support to sister city activities.

The [St. Louis Economic Development Partnership](http://www.stlpartnership.com) provides economic development services for the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County. The Partnership works in collaboration with the St. Louis Development Corporation, AllianceSTL, the Missouri Department of Economic Development, the Missouri Partnership and other economic development partners to attract, retain and grow companies coming to or expanding in the St. Louis region.

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