



# Valparaiso University

Office of the President

April 15, 2020

Mr. Shao Panfeng  
Chief of Nanhu District  
Jiaxing City  
Zhejiang Province  
P.R. China

Dear Mr. Shao Panfeng

We write on behalf of the citizens of the City of Valparaiso, the Valparaiso University community, and all of the front-line health workers at Porter Regional Hospital to thank the citizens of the Nanhu District for their most generous gift of 10,000 masks and other medical supplies during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Several weeks ago, the Governor of Indiana took extraordinary steps to try to slow the spread of novel coronavirus by asking all non-essential businesses to close, asking citizens to stay home, and limiting restaurants to take-out or delivery only. The university moved employees to working at home and students to taking all of their classes online. Throughout all this time, health professionals at Porter Regional Hospital worked tirelessly to care for the sick while trying to remain safe themselves. As COVID-19 cases increased, medical supplies became more and more difficult to obtain. The masks you sent came at a critical time and were put to use the very day they arrived.

A decade ago, when the City of Valparaiso and the Nanhu district became sister cities, we couldn't have imagined how critical that relationship would be today. We have helped you, and you have helped us. As long as we all stand together, we will defeat this terrible virus. We are very glad to hear that the situation in China is improving, and I know that we all look forward to things getting back to normal.

Once again, thank you for your vital assistance during this difficult time. We value our mutual friendship and look forward to a time when you can lead a delegation to visit Valparaiso.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Heckler, Ph.D.  
President  
Valparaiso University

Matt Murphy, MBA  
Mayor  
City of Valparaiso

Sean Dardeau, FACHE  
Chief Executive Officer  
Porter Regional Hospital