



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 23, 2009

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**IATP Congratulates Abbott Northwestern on
Healthy Food Initiative
Minneapolis Hospital Launches Farmers Market, CSA Drop Site and
Expands Local Purchasing**

Minneapolis – A new healthy food initiative launched by Abbott Northwestern Hospital, the largest hospital in the Twin Cities, is part of a growing trend to bring healthy, local food to health care. Abbott Northwestern has launched a new “mini” farmers market and has become a Community Supported Agriculture drop site. It is also working with its food service management company, Morrison Healthcare Food Services, to expand the availability of fresh, locally grown food in its hospital operations.

“In the health care world, we are seeing a growing desire to increase use of healthy, locally produced foods,” said JoAnne Berkenkamp of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP). “IATP is delighted to partner with Abbott Northwestern in their efforts here in Minnesota. Abbott Northwestern’s new initiatives show how a variety of approaches can be used to make healthier, local food more accessible to hospital staff, patients, visitors and neighborhood residents alike.”

Abbott Northwestern’s new farmers market runs on Thursdays from 12 - 4 p.m., from July 9 through September 24. The hospital also partners with two local farms—Foxtail Farm and Burning River Farm—that deliver fresh produce to 26 staff employees each week.

“Abbott Northwestern is committed to improving the health of our community, and eating fresh fruits and vegetables is important for good health,” said Ellie Zuehlke, director of Community Benefit for Allina Hospitals & Clinics. “We are proud to be working with community partners to offer more healthy foods as part of Allina’s broader healthy food initiative.”

Morrison Healthcare Food Services, part of Compass Group, one of the nation’s largest food service management companies, is coordinating efforts to supply Abbott Northwestern with more locally grown food.

Across the country, Morrison is part of Compass’ initiative to develop purchasing relationships with 2,013 American family farms by the 2013. In partnership with IATP, Compass’ “Ag in the Middle” initiative is making fresh food from mid-sized farms available at hundreds of health care sites, colleges, K-12 schools and businesses.

“We’re excited about the opportunity to bring more locally sourced, fresh and healthy food to Abbott Northwestern,” said Michael Svagdis, president of Morrison Healthcare Food Services. “It’s good for the local economy, it aligns with Abbott Northwestern’s mission to be a good corporate citizen and it provides our customers with a better dining experience.”

About IATP

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy works locally and globally at the intersection of policy and practice to ensure fair and sustainable food, farm and trade systems. Find more on IATP's work in support of local foods at: www.iatp.org/localfoods

About Morrison

Morrison Management Specialists, a member of Compass Group, is the nation's only food service company exclusively dedicated to providing food, nutrition and dining services to the health care and senior living communities through its two operating divisions: Morrison Healthcare Food Services and Morrison Senior Dining. With more than 1,200 registered dietitians, 400 executive chefs and 16,600 professional food service team members, Morrison is actively committed to fostering ways to enjoy great tasting, healthy food through socially responsible practices and superior customer service. The Atlanta-based company serves more than 800 hospitals, integrated health care systems and senior living communities in the United States. Visit www.IamMorrison.com for more information.

About Compass Group North America

Based in Charlotte, NC, Compass Group North America is the leading foodservice and support services company with \$9 billion in revenues in 2008. With 388,000 associates worldwide, its parent company, UK-based Compass Group PLC, had revenues of £11 billion in the year to September 30, 2008. Visit www.cgnad.com for more information.

About Allina's Abbott Northwestern Hospital

Abbott Northwestern Hospital is part of Allina Hospitals & Clinics, a not-for-profit health care system of hospitals, clinics and other patient care services that provides exceptional care to communities throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin and employs more than 22,000 people.

IATP works locally and globally at the intersection of policy and practice to ensure fair and sustainable food, farm and trade systems.