



# Children's Surgery International

Changing faces, changing lives

## Register Today!

The 8th Annual  
**Passport to Smiles Gala**  
**Sofitel Hotel, Bloomington**  
**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

The event promises to entertain:  
**live and silent auctions, great food,**  
**inspired speakers, and fascinating**  
**conversation is just the beginning!**

Register and find more information  
 on our website:  
[www.childrensurgeryintl.org](http://www.childrensurgeryintl.org)



## CSI's First Mission to Bangladesh Goes Beyond the Numbers

In October 2011, Children's Surgery International sent a team to Bangladesh for the first time. The twelve-day mission was the first of a three-year commitment to Rangpur Community Medical College Hospital. Our goal over the next three years is to perform cleft lip and cleft palate surgeries, and teach and train local surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and staff so that they may become skilled in performing these procedures.



By all measures the mission was a success. We had 23 team members from Minnesota, Iowa, Tennessee, Texas, Maryland and California. Our Anesthesiologist was longtime friend of CSI, Zipporah Gathuya from Kenya! We needed three plane flights and a nine hour bus ride to get to Rangpur. We screened 97 patients and performed 76 procedures in four and a half days of surgery.

Training was also a highlight of our efforts. We conducted a number of well received training sessions on everything from the repair of cleft lips and palates to CPR and even taking blood pressure. Many of the surgeries were broadcast to medical and dental students so they could view them in a classroom setting. In addition, between 30 or 40 of these students were able to observe surgery directly. Finally, our lead surgeon, Kofi Boahene, facilitated a lively discussion and exchange of ideas with the hospital doctors, surgeons and professors about cleft repair, treatment and other related topics.

But beyond the numbers, the most important measure of any mission trip is the incredible impact the work has on patients and their families. During this trip we were able to perform surgery on a 22 year-old young women with a severe facial lateral cleft who had been turned away by other organizations for years. She had never been to school, had no friends and only her family for companionship. She rarely went out in public. It was so exciting to watch her facial appearance transformation and see her parents' expression when they saw her in PACU! It is moments like these on which the success of a mission should be measured.

For a full recount of the mission, visit our website and click the CSI Blog link.

## CSI Partners Note

CSI Partners Program enables individuals outside of the medical field to help underwrite a mission in exchange for the opportunity to accompany a team. CSI Partner Katie Stewart of St. Paul, Minnesota brought soccer balls signed by students in her pre-school class, and handed them to throngs of grateful Liberian children. "It was a trip of a lifetime," said Katie, "and it has changed the way I see the world forever." For information on being a CSI Partner on a future mission, contact board member Sally Lannin at [slannin@aol.com](mailto:slannin@aol.com).

## Community Spotlight



Benjamin Poore, a Boy Scout in Troop 321 from Perham, MN, collected the recovery room bag supplies for the Liberia Trip.





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## CSI Board Member Sally Lannin

One of our newest board members is Sally Lannin, a veteran of four missions. Her responsibilities as a board member include helping run CSI's Partner's Program, and chairing the Missions Committee which determines where CSI teams will go.



Sally first became involved with CSI after long-time friend Lora Koppel talked about her experiences volunteering and traveling with CSI. It was at one of CSI's Gala events where Lora leaned over to Sally and encouraged her to bid on a mission trip to Peru. The two found themselves in Chiclayo, Peru six months later.

"I was hooked after that," Lannin said.

Armed with a camera, Sally's role on the trip was to capture and document the excursion, interview patients and their families and post the daily mission blog on CSI's website. Since her initial trip, she has been part of three missions to Liberia. In addition, she went to Mexico and looks forward to future adventures with CSI.

One of Sally's favorite memories, a memory from her most recent trip, was an act of love from a father to his son: A young boy needed surgery but due to complications was unable to have the operation. The father returned during CSI's second trip to Liberia, but was unable to get his son on the operating list.

Trying a third time, the father was successful, and when the surgeons came to take the young man into surgery, everyone stood up and the young man was wheeled into surgery with a standing ovation.

"No matter where you are in the world, no matter if you're living in a hut on a dirt floor eating rice for supper, there's no difference in how much parents love their children," said Sally.

One of many aspects she loves about CSI is the fact that the volunteers come from all over the world and typically meet for the first time at the airport. They're all brought together by the common denominator of wanting to make a difference in the lives of children.

When not volunteering at CSI or other nonprofits, Sally is the president of MBA Strategies, a consulting firm that helps students apply to graduate MBA programs. She is also the mother of three and currently lives in Edina with her husband.

## Hola Mexico

In October 2011 we returned to Hermosillo, Mexico for our seventh trip to CIMA Hospital. Met by hugs and smiling faces of the loyal St Andrews staff, volunteers and patients and their families, we toured the hospital and quickly got to work reviewing the more complex cases with Dr. Arturo Moreno, a local orthodontist.



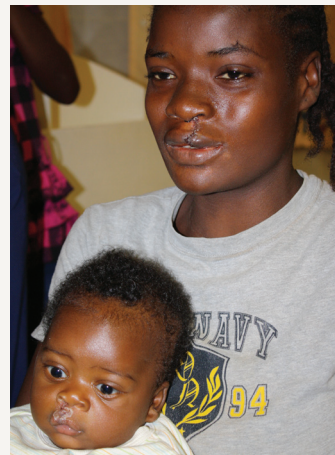
Screening went well; we evaluated 79 children and over the course of two long days of surgery were able to operate on 42 children. We are blessed to be able to collaborate with St. Andrews Clinic in Nogales, Arizona to provide patients with needed follow-up care.

The spectacular Fiesta put on by the CIMA Hospital volunteers to mark the end of the trip highlights the true friendships and teamwork this mission has, and continues to build.

## Third Trip to Liberia focuses on teaching

This past January marked the 3rd time a team from CSI visited Duside Hospital in Harbel, Liberia as part of a partnership with Firestone. It also marked the first visit a concerted effort was made to spend a significant amount of time teaching the Duside surgeons how to do basic procedures. Led by Dr. Tim Lander, Duside's Dr. Lawrence Sherman shadowed basic cleft surgeries to the point that by the end of the mission he had completed a number of surgeries on his own. He was especially proud of the cleft repair he performed on 23-year-old Jacqueline one day after Dr. Lander repaired the lip of her 6-month-old son.

The team performed close to 100 surgeries. In addition to the clefts, Dr. Steve Muehlstedt and Dr. Dave Vandersteen had schedules packed with a variety of hernia and urological repairs and other general surgical patients. Many on the team were back for a second or third time, a credit to the great hospitality of Dan Adomitis and the Firestone Company, as well as the incredible warmth of the Liberian people. We hope to return during late 2012.



## CHILDRENS SURGERY INTERNATIONAL

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#### For more information or to make a donation, call or write to:

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[info@childrenssurgeryintl.org](mailto:info@childrenssurgeryintl.org)

You can also make a donation online at  
[www.childrenssurgeryintl.org](http://www.childrenssurgeryintl.org)

### NPR's own Kerry Miller to MC this year's Passport to Smiles Gala

April 21, 2012, 5:30-10:00p.m. – Sofitel Hotel

Children's Surgery International will swing into spring this year with our annual Passport to Smiles Gala. Under the leadership of Gala Chair, Inez Bergquist, the Gala Committee has planned an entertaining evening featuring cocktails, a gourmet dinner, live and silent auctions, and a keynote presentation from CSI medical director Dr. Peter Melchert.

All proceeds will go towards funding our 2012 missions.

Individual tickets are \$150.00 and online registration is available this year on our website!

If you are interested in sponsoring a table, please contact Sue at 612.746.4082 or [info@childrenssurgeryintl.org](mailto:info@childrenssurgeryintl.org).