



# Children's Surgery International

Changing faces, changing lives

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## CSI calls her 'Wonder Woman'; her children call her 'mum'

by Katie Lynch

Pediatric anesthesiology is not a common profession in Africa. In fact, the profession was nonexistent until about eight years ago when Bruce Ferrara and Dick Marnach met Zipporah Gathuya on a mission trip.

"There were clear issues in the operating room," Bruce, one of CSI's board members, said. "Doctors did not know how to adequately put children to sleep—they just didn't know how to handle them." Bruce and Dick were not the only ones who realized this. Zipporah was also well aware of this significant issue. Which is why upon invitation she did not hesitate to accompany Bruce and Dick back to the United States for extensive training in pediatric anesthesiology.

Zipporah was warmly welcomed by Mary and Alex Batinich, and stayed with her for three months while she trained at Childrens Hospitals and Clinics of MN. A lot of Zipporah's time was spent shadowing Dick in operating rooms, and assisting in pediatric intensive care



Zipporah with the team in Bangladesh

units. When Zipporah returned to Africa, she had a group sponsor her so she was able to continue her training in South Africa.

Zipporah is a great asset to the CSI community, Mary said. Not only does she come through when needed on a mission trip, she also "saved" one trip when airport customs would not let the team bring anesthesiology machines on board the plane. She served as the lead anesthesiologist in CSI's first mission to Bangladesh last fall and will be going back again this fall.

Aside from being one of the only pediatric anesthesiologists in Africa and a CSI volunteer, Zipporah is the mother of seven children, four of whom she adopted from her brother-in-law after he



Zipporah and her husband Joel with their children, Richard Kiptoo and Chebet.

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and his wife both passed away.

Mary recalled one of her favorite memories of Zipporah when she came to the United States with her children: their first time skiing. "Her son was fearless coming down the hill. We all got such a laugh out of that. He couldn't go fast enough!"

"Zipporah is a great doctor and an amazing woman. CSI strives not only to perform life-changing surgeries for children, but also to train doctors in her country, and Zipporah encompasses CSI's mission: to teach and provide."

That is exactly what Zipporah has done in Africa as she continues to work with children and to teach other doctors the art of pediatric anesthesiology.

## Giving Back: Ellie LinYu's Smile-maker Project

Ellie LinYu was born in Nanning, China, with bilateral cleft lip and palette in 2000. An undetermined Western-trained surgical team repaired her lip while she was still in China. She was adopted in 2002 at 27 months, and has undergone three palate repairs – including a successful bone graft – all done through Children's Cleft and Craniofacial Team (CSI Board Member Dr. Tim Lander is Ellie's ENT).

As a seventh grader at Orono Middle School, Ellie excels academically and is one of Minnesota's top competitive swimmers for her age with a great butterfly stroke. No surprise, she plans to be a doctor some day, "for old people," she says.

Ellie is also very creative. She donated her handmade bracelets to CSI's Annual Passport to Smiles Gala this past spring. She says of her contribution, "I chose Children's Surgery International for my sixth grade Social Studies' community service opportunity. I call my program the 'Smile-maker Project' because, well...that's what [the bracelets] do!" Ellie also collected many beautiful items from her friends, family and community for the silent auction.

"The kids you help are lucky. Their lives will be better and they will be able to achieve their dreams...just like me."



Ellie LinYu, Smile-maker Project Coordinator and CSI Volunteer

## From Worried to Wonderful: One Partner's Story

by Katie Lynch

Mary Moore accompanied Children's Surgery International on their 2010 trip to Liberia. Mary went not only as a volunteer but as a CSI Partner, a program new to the organization at the time. She met the team the day they all arrived at the airport. "I was dreading the trip!" Mary said. "I didn't know what to expect. How am I going to relate to these kids? Will there be overwhelming barriers?" These were just some of many questions Mary had on her mind.

"I got to Liberia and it was wonderful. Absolutely wonderful." To Mary's amazement there were few barriers between her and the children; something Mary could not understand because most of the children were sick and came from impoverished conditions. Mary first heard about CSI through long-time friend Sally Lannin, one of CSI's board members; and after hearing all the amazing stories Sally told, Mary knew she wanted to be a part of a mission's trip.

Mary's favorite memory of the trip was in helping a man. "You could tell that he used to be handsome," Mary said. The man was severely burned. His face was burned. His eye was burned. Bright red and barely attached, beyond the burden of deformation, he would definitely lose the eye if nothing were done soon.

Mary knew CSI's primary focus was to help children, and this man was older. The doctors had a full surgery schedule but they told the man they would take him on the last day as time allowed. "The man waited there devotedly every single day," Mary said. The last day came and they told me they were going to take him in for surgery. Choking back tears, Mary said it was the best thing when she saw his face and more importantly his smile, after surgery.

CSI Partners donate \$10,000 to help cover mission costs—everything from gloves, sutures, gauze and other medical supplies, to water and team member accommodations. They also get the opportunity to join the mission as a volunteer. The trip was a priceless experience, Mary said. "We all had a fabulous time. We laughed together. We cried together. We worked together to help save lives."

It was so rewarding, Mary was inspired to bid on another mission trip to Mexico at CSI's Annual Passport to Smiles Gala. No longer dreading trips, Mary looks forward to her continued involvement with CSI.

## Changing faces, changing lives

## Recognizing Murphy Warehouse Company for 5 years of Continued Support

by Jan Martland

One of our most valued partnerships started back in 2007 when CSI was planning its first mission trip to Liberia, Africa, a country that was just starting to recover from a devastating 14 year civil war. Unlike other missions, CSI needed to transport everything that the 24 member team would need for the 8 day mission, from the surgical equipment and supplies, down to the team's drinking water. It was the Murphy Warehouse Company (MWC) that stepped in to help.



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After five years, Murphy Warehouse continues to donate their logistic expertise and warehouse space for CSI's international trips. To date, the Murphy Warehouse Company has provided invaluable assistance to CSI on six of our mission trips.

Our wholehearted thanks goes out to Richard Murphy, CEO of MWC, and all the employees for their ongoing and unwavering support of CSI. We would also like to recognize MWC employee Dick Baker, posthumously, for his expertise and his spirited support of CSI.



Dick Baker

Visit Murphy Warehouse's website\* for more information.

\*[www.murphywarehouse.com](http://www.murphywarehouse.com)

## CSI Board Member Conrad Nyguen

by Christine Hehre

International businessman, leader, father, optimist, salsa dancer; what do all these traits have in common? Conrad Nyguen.

Conrad's involvement with CSI began when he met board member Sally Lannin on a flight to San Francisco. "I was so impressed with their passion, energy and dedication to this wonderful organization and the children they serve," he recalls. "After learning more about CSI I couldn't help but want the opportunity to be a part of the mission to improve the lives of underprivileged children." Sally then introduced Con to fellow CSI Board Members Peter Melchert and Lora Koppel and the rest is history...almost.

Con brings more than just a passion to be part of the CSI mission to the organization. One of his personal goals is to "leave the world a better place than how we found it" and being part of CSI gives him the opportunity to affect change.

Currently, Con works at 3M as an International Business Manager for Latin America. He received his MBA from Rutgers University but his journey to this point has not been typical. Con started formal education at the age of 11 after he and his family escaped from Communism in a homemade fishing boat along with 71 people. They were rescued after 7 days at sea and were lucky to have all survived. He grew up in refugee camp and lived in close quarters with 9 other family members. Despite humble beginnings, Con says he and his family were happy; they were free from persecution and had hope for a better tomorrow.

For Con, this "hope for a better tomorrow" has translated into the desire to give people "second chances" and bleeds through from his personal into his professional and philanthropic lives. Con says, "My career is built upon my innate ability to identify and capture opportunities. I excel at championing and driving programs that grow sales for multi-billion dollar market-leading organizations...This is the type of contribution that I would like to make at CSI to improve the lives and give second chances to the children we serve."

Con comes to CSI on the business side of the table. He sees his role within the organization as tri-fold: work to develop programs to grow the organization, strengthen and execute CSI's strategic plan, and help inform strategic and operational decisions.

Con will be traveling to Liberia this November on his first mission with CSI. He is looking forward to the experience and knows it will help inform his role not only as a board member, but also influence his perspective as a businessman and a father. As for the salsa dancing, we'll have to wait to see what role that plays...



## Sibling Service: Three College of Nursing siblings team up to save lives around the world\*

by Bridgette D. Tuckfield and Maddie Gearheart Nordgren\*\*

Although the Randall siblings live on different sides of the United States, three of them manage to get together every year or so—sometimes at destinations with no electricity or running water but plenty of hustle and bustle. But that's nothing new for Children's Surgery International (CSI) volunteers.

"Everyone works nonstop," Leon P. Randall (ASN '78) says of CSI, the nonprofit organization he and two of his siblings joined, which provides medical and surgical services to underprivileged communities worldwide. On each week long trip, doctors, surgeons, nurses, and anesthesia providers perform close to 150 surgeries on children, repairing everything from cleft palates to congenital hernias that can be lethal if left untreated. In its first five years CSI has visited and revisited communities in Ghana, Liberia, Peru, Mexico, Haiti, and Bangladesh.

The Randall family is particularly qualified to attend CSI missions: of the five siblings in this North Dakota farming family, three graduated from BYU's College of Nursing and still practice today. Leon is director of surgical services at St. Elizabeth Community Hospital in Red Bluff, Calif.; LouAnn J. (ASN '78) is a registered nurse at the surgery center in Pocatello, Idaho; and Lynn T. (BS '83) is a nurse anesthetist at Gillette Children's Hospital in Minneapolis. "Maybe nursing humans was the next natural step from nursing cattle," jokes Lynn.

The Randall's' CSI tradition started with Lynn—or, as Lynn attests, with his colleague, anesthesiologist Richard Marnach. In 2006 Marnach invited Lynn to join the board of directors for the newly formed CSI, which had branched off from Operation Smile. Lynn accepted and went to work organizing volunteers and coordinating travel plans, a role he continues today.

It wasn't long before he turned to his nurse siblings for ideal volunteers. LouAnn joined him in 2007, Leon in 2010. Lynn's wife and children came as records personnel on one trip, and LouAnn's son, nurse anesthetist Dan J. Chow ('05), went on his first CSI mission in January 2012. "We live all over," says LouAnn. "It's nice to work together."

The work the Randalls and other volunteers do makes a huge difference, says Lynn. "So many children cannot get the medical help that they need," he explains. "There's no money and no one skilled in doing the repair." The medical problems have social consequences as well, he adds: many cultures believe that deformities mean a person is possessed, which leads them to ostracize the victims. "Kids who have cleft lips can't go to

school," says LouAnn. "People won't even walk on the same side of the street with them." Even sadder, infants with deformities are often drowned.

"The people are so grateful for CSI," LouAnn says. "They say, 'God bless you. God bless you.'" Some families even return to the treatment sites months later to say so: one couple walked and bussed for several days just to be at the hospital when the crew arrived.

The Randalls also spend time training local medical personnel, organizing shipments of white shirts and ties to local LDS wards, and sponsoring young women in school. Leon especially has expanded his efforts beyond CSI, rounding up surplus medical gear for donation. Thanks to supportive hospitals in the United States, Leon has filled six semi trucks with equipment for shipping, including unusual pieces like an isolation chamber, prosthetic limbs—even an ambulance. "I make a request and something appears," Leon says. "It is wonderful to see the Lord's hand in things." As a sign of their gratitude, a community in Liberia recently made Leon an honorary tribal chief, a ceremony both LouAnn and Lynn attended.

Leon, LouAnn, and Lynn agree that their international philanthropic experiences have deepened their appreciation for their own blessings. And they have no plans to stop their family tradition of humanitarian work. "We've just scratched the surface," Leon says.

*\*Reprinted with permission from Brigham Young University. Original Article in BYU Magazine Spring 2012.*

*\*\*Authors are alumna of Brigham Young University.*

## The Friendship Quilters: Friends of CSI

Former CSI Board member Mary Batinich spends her winters in Sun City, Arizona and visits the Bell Center often. While there one winter, she told the Friendship Quilters about CSI's mission in near-by Hermosillo, Mexico and asked them to make and donate quilts for our young patients. They have come through beyond imaginable and have donated numerous beautiful handmade quilts for our young patients over the past 4 years. Originally the quilts went to our patients in Mexico but this year, some of the larger quilts are going to Liberia for our teenage patients. Our profound thanks go to the artists and quilters in Sun City.

Right: The Friendship Quilters and some of their beautiful work.



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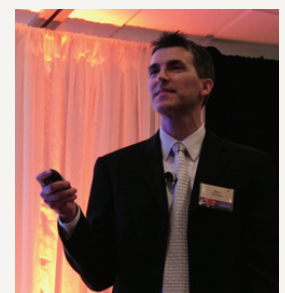
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### Another Successful Passport to Smiles Gala

It would be no understatement to state that the 8th Annual Passport to Smiles Gala was our most successful event to date. Indeed, each year we find ourselves lucky to fill more tables and receive more donations from our generous patrons than ever before. And this translates directly into being able to affect more lives.

As an organization, Children's Surgery International has so many reasons to be grateful, and the continued presence and support of our friends and community is the reason we continue to be able to do what we do.

We thank all of you who were able to be there with us either in physical presence or in spirit. If you weren't able to join us this year, make sure to mark your calendars for next year!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
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