



Children's Surgery International

changing faces, changing lives

Save the Date!

**The 9th Annual
Passport to Smiles Gala**

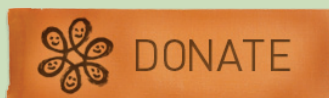
**Sofitel Hotel, Bloomington
Saturday, April 20, 2013**

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

**Visit our website for more information:
www.childrenssurgeryintl.org**



Thank You, Donors



Thank you to all our donors who support us throughout the year. Our missions would not be possible without the generosity of our patrons and the friends of CSI.

We formally recognize all individuals who have donated in the last year in our summer newsletter. To donate, please visit our website or contact the office.



At the orphanage

CSI Performs 128 Surgeries on Liberian Children

*From The Daily Observer, Monrovia
Written by Observer Staff
Tuesday, 20 November 2012*

An American medical team, Children's Surgery International (CSI) has completed another working visit to the Firestone Medical Center in Dusse outside Harbel.

The CSI team, which was on a similar mission early this year, arrived in Liberia on Friday, November 9, 2012, at the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County.

This was the medical team's fourth mission at the Firestone Medical Center, where in close collaboration with their Firestone counterparts, they performed 128 free surgical procedures on children who have suffered different kinds of facial and pediatric deformities.

Speaking on Friday, during a well-attended farewell program in honor of the visiting American medical team, the Administrator of the Firestone Medical Center, Mrs. Joye Collins Phillips, expressed heartfelt appreciation to the American medical personnel, their Firestone counterparts and support staff for their humanitarian gesture, according to a press release.

Mrs. Phillips had a special commendation and recognition for CSI team members and volunteers who, she said since the fourth mission started on Sunday, November 10, 2012, have worked with all their might to ensure that the mission turned out a success story.

"Thank you so much. Your presence here makes the difference in this country, makes the difference for us and I think the quality healthcare provided at our center here; that's a tremendous contribution to us and to the country so I thank you for that."

Mrs. Phillips further presented certificates of appreciation to all those who one way or the other help in making this most recent CSI mission to Liberia in general and Firestone in particular successful. She noted that words were inadequate to express her gratitude to them for the enormous sacrifices they made in the interest of the Liberian children.

For his part, the interim president and managing director of Firestone-Liberia, Mr. Patrick Rodrigo, thanked everyone who worked 'assiduously' to make the mission successful in the interest of the Liberian children and their mothers.

To the CSI team, their Liberia counterparts and support staff he said: "You have come from





far out to give this help to our children. You are helping our people, thank you very much,” he added.

The chief medical officer of the Firestone Medical Center, Dr. Lyndon G. Mabande said the CSI team and all those connected with the fourth mission worked so hard to help the children of Liberia in a special way.

He further used the occasion to commend the personnel of the Firestone Medical Center for their cooperation with the CSI team whenever it came to Liberia.

In addition, Firestone Liberia is partnering with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and UNICEF to store and administer vaccines that help to prevent Liberians from a range of diseases. The hospital also works with the Ministry of Health for the control of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Currently, they treat over 9,000 patients per month.

Dr. Lawrence Sherman of the Firestone Medical Center who coordinates CSI activities in Liberia, described the team's fourth mission as “a very successful mission.”

He said: “I thank all of you who came before and have come now.” The 25-member medical team which included doctors, nurses, and social workers has since departed the country.

The Clinical head of CSI mission, Katherine Houle lauded and appreciated the Management of Firestone, the Firestone Medical Center and support staff for the cooperation accorded her team. The program was graced by the presence of other senior teammates of Firestone Liberia, including the industrial relations manager, Cllr. Winleta Aynn Henries-Reeves, and the purchasing manager, Madam Lillian Mauroum, among others.

Dollies Making a Difference

For a second year in a row, Children's Surgery International was recognized by a 40-member group out of California for our work to bring smiles to children around the world. “Dollies Making a Difference” is an organization that makes dollies and colorful teddy bears for fellow organizations they have a “special admiration” for. The lovable creatures are donated in-kind and distributed by the recipient organizations to the children they serve. This year, CSI was one of three chosen out of 52 organizations, and also received a monetary donation of \$500 towards our cause.

The founders wrote, “We are so appreciative of our partnership with Children's Surgery International. As a group, we ladies love to meet once a week and sit around the table sewing, talking, sharing, and laughing. We love to create something from our hands that we can send to a little child somewhere, in the hopes that it will bring a smile to his or her face, something they can hug closely when they feel lonely, worried, frightened, or just want something to hold onto.”

We would like to recognize the members of this organization and extend a tremendous “thank you” in appreciation for this donation. Our mission would not be possible without the generous contributions of fellow organizations such as this one, and the kind support of all our patrons.

Tunisia: CSI's newest mission site

In September 2012 CSI sent a team of 8 to Tunis, Tunisia to operate on children suffering from Spina Bifida. The surgeries included correcting various spinal defects and placing shunts from the brain to the abdomen to drain cerebrospinal fluid and treat hydrocephalus. The CSI team worked with the staff at Souska Clinic, Dr. Azzedine Stombouli who is a native of Algeria who is now living and practicing in the States, and Dr. Néjib Khouja and his team who continued performing surgeries once the CSI team left.

Because these surgeries are more complicated, fewer surgeries were done than would be expected on a cleft mission; however the numbers are certainly not reflective of success. The mission was indeed a great success, partly thanks to the collaboration and partnership with Souska Clinic, and as measured by the turnout. Local Tunisian television crews broadcast the mission and the turnout included both Tunisian families and families who travelled over 1000 miles from Algeria to seek help for their children.

The hope and gratitude of patients and their families continues to be an inspiration for our missions, and there was no shortage of those sentiments here. Our thanks again to the great partnership with the clinic, doctors and staff we worked with to make this mission such a success. We would also like to thank Minnesota International Medicine and Dr. Sherif Saad for their generous support of this mission. We look forward to future collaboration with them.



A heartfelt 'Thank You' to long-time CSI board member Jan Gauger

It is with sincere appreciation that we say "Thank You" to long-time board member Jan Gauger. She served on the mission and medical committees and continues on the medical committee. Through her years



of service, Jan has traveled on various site visits, helped keep medical supply lists current, and served as clinical lead on multiple missions to Ghana, Haiti, Mexico and Bangladesh. The board would like to formally recognize her contributions as a member, a truly impressive list for which we are grateful for Jan's service.

Like many of our volunteers, however, Jan is more than a list of accomplishments. True insight into a person's stature comes through the comments and stories you hear from her peers and fellow volunteers.

"Competent, dependable and steady. [Jan] was always ready to help with any task to ensure the mission would run smoothly and be successful."

"I had the good fortune to be on two missions with Jan. While we were in Rangpur, Bangladesh a mother came in with a very young baby whose cleft lip and palate were preventing the baby from breast-feeding. Watching Jan quietly calm the mother while demonstrating and instructing her how to feed the baby with a syringe was a magical moment. What started as a hungry, crying baby and a distressed mother transformed in a few minutes to a happy, quiet baby and a very relieved mother. Additionally, since the baby was too young and too small for surgery, proper nourishment will allow that child to have repair work done this coming year. That's the good work that Jan routinely contributes to CSI."

The stories emulating Jan's work and service to CSI over the years are endless. It's hard to sum up the contributions of someone so influential to the organization, so we'll keep it simple: Jan, thank you for helping shape the organization CSI has become today, and for being an integral part of our mission to bring smiles to the children of the world. We are truly blessed to have you stay on as part of the Medical Committee, and look forward to future missions with you.

Mexico 2012: A Mission to Remember

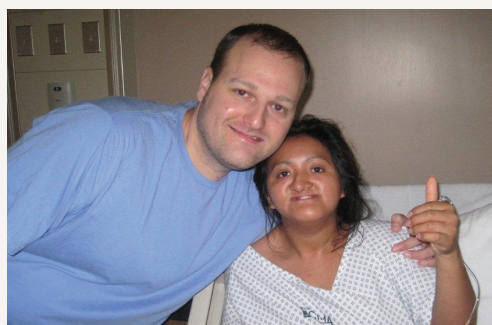
Hermosillo, Mexico has been a standard mission for CSI for many years. Through a partnership with St. Andrews and CIMA Hospital, our three organizations together have changed the lives of hundreds of children, and we plan to continue traveling to this location each October as long as the need is there.

Despite the seeming routineness of this mission, the novelty of the trip and the stories that continue to inspire our work are anything but standard. Each mission features a new team, new patients, new challenges and successes, and with it new stories of hope and courage. For the participants on these missions, the stories will stay with them for a lifetime. And for those who cannot be present, we live the mission through these stories.

We encourage you to follow our blog for mission updates and to read these stories as the teams are on mission. Every mission has stories that pull at our heartstrings. Here is one particularly compelling story from this year's mission:

A young woman, age unknown, was separated from her parents as a child while trying to cross the U.S. border from Guatemala on their way to a better life in the States. Alone she spent the next several years wondering the streets, at times living with relatives. She had a facial deformity that affected looks and her speech. She eventually made her way to Mexico at the age of 13 or so and was taken in by a family in Hermosillo as a housekeeper. She had always wanted to improve her life, but due to her condition she could not speak or attend school. She came to screening alone and told no one. After evaluating her CSI determined that they could and would help her. She came through surgery beautifully and was smiling, starting to talk, and giving the thumbs up right after waking up in recovery! Her first words were "thank you" to the CSI team and all the volunteers who made this happen for her. Later in the mission she was featured on the local TV stations, and hoping to finally start school.

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



CHILDRENS SURGERY INTERNATIONAL

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Fax: 612.746.4083
info@childrenssurgeryintl.org

You can also make a donation online at
www.childrenssurgeryintl.org

The 9th Annual Passport to Smiles Gala is just around the corner...

On April 20, 2013, Children's Surgery International will be hosting our annual fundraiser, the *Passport to Smiles Gala*. The event provides the majority of our funding for our mission work which this year includes trips to Liberia, Mexico and Bangladesh.

If you'd like more information or tickets, contact us at info@childrenssurgeryintl.org or 612-746-4082.

Update on Donor Acknowledgement

Children's Surgery International has decided to formally acknowledge and thank all of our Donors together in the spring newsletter rather than throughout the year.

Our work would not be possible without the continued and generous support of our Donors, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts to the corner of our smiles.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Sue.