

Changing lives,

### one child at a time.

### Partnership to make a lasting impact in Liberia

This past January, CSI completed the seventh surgical mission trip to Liberia. Since 2010 we have had the good fortune to partner with Firestone Natural Rubber and their parent company, Bridgestone Americas, to perform nearly 800 life-changing surgeries and provide education and training to hundreds of nurses and doctors.

"We are thrilled to be able to work with CSI to offer life-saving care to the children of Liberia and West Africa," said Ed Garcia, president and managing director of Firestone Liberia. "The CSI team represents some of the greatest medical talent in the world, and I admire their dedication to this cause. Our ongoing partnership in this mission will have a lasting impact in Liberia."



Young patient awaiting surgery.

January's trip was a special week. Together, the team of 23 CSI volunteers and dozens of Firestone Liberia staff, completed 101 surgeries and eight complex consults in the areas of ENT, general surgery and urology. As part of our commitment to sustainability, CSI OR volunteers provided hands-on surgical training, and CSI medical volunteers provided 22 hours of education that included CPR and first aid, well-care and bedside nursing training.



Mother and daughter.

Additionally, a small group of the CSI team arrived in Liberia early for a community service project. Intestinal parasites are a significant public health problem in developing countries, including Liberia. This year's effort was special in that it was a true collaboration with our Firestone Liberia partners, allowing us to reach and help many more children. Firestone's Sargent Caesar coordinated the outreach project, which allowed the team to visit seven communities to provide deworming medication and the always-popular lollipop to 4,000 children. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and volunteers, we were able to offer this service and medication (costing anywhere from \$120,000 - \$400,000 in the U.S.) free of charge to these communities.

The busy trip ended with a moving closing ceremony, attended by the U.S. ambassador to Liberia. A Liberian drum and dance group provided entertainment. Expressions of gratitude were shared by members of the CSI team and Liberian hospital and government officials. Together, the team from CSI and Firestone Liberia reflected with pride on the lasting impact the week's work will have on this community!

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Deworming at a local school.



Young patient being carried out of surgery.

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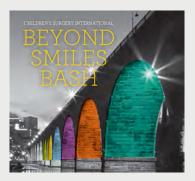
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### CALENDAR

Ethiopia April 25 - May 6 Tanzania\* September 13 - 23 Mexico October 12 - 17 Ethiopia November 7 - 18 Liberia January 10 - 20, 2019

\*CSI is thrilled to announce a new site in Tanzania. We are working with partners in Arusha to provide advanced surgical, anesthesia and nursing training as well as free surgical care to children in need.

Keep up with CSI when we're abroad! Visit the *Trip Blog* at childrenssurgeryintl.com



REGISTER NOW FOR THE CSI BEYOND SMILES BASH

Saturday, April 14, 2018 Minneapolis Event Center at Historic St. Anthony Main



### CSI Beyond Smiles Bash

#### New name, new venue, same amazing cause!

Our annual CSI fundraiser is right around the corner, on April 14. This year we are excited to host the event at the Minneapolis Event Center at Historic St. Anthony Main. In addition to our new locale, we have a new name: **Beyond Smiles Bash**.

CSI is committed to putting smiles on the faces of the children and families we serve by providing top-notch medical and surgical care free of charge. We are also proud of the work we do to go beyond smiles – providing professional education and training for our in-country medical colleagues to help them build the skills they need to care for the children in their communities long after our teams have gone.

The **Beyond Smiles Bash** is our largest fundraising event. Each year, volunteers, friends, healthcare providers and community members gather to celebrate, honor and support the work of Children's Surgery International.

Heartfelt thanks to our sponsors for their support: Firestone Natural Rubber Company Bridgestone Americas, Premier Sponsor; Lubrication Technologies, Platinum Sponsor; and Gold Sponsors Pediatric Surgical Associates and Ron Cornwell, Medical Arts Building.

Join event co-chairs Dr. Brent and Rosie Cataldo at the biggest night of the year for CSI. Enjoy delicious libations and a great meal in this fantastic urban setting along the Mississippi River in Northeast Minneapolis. Connect with others who care deeply about making a lasting impact in the world. Hear about our work this past year and what's in store for the year ahead. Visit our oneof-a-kind photo booth, and participate in exciting new games. All while helping to support CSI's mission through the silent and live auctions, direct donations and other activities.



# Thanks to our 2018 Sponsors!



## **Registration is now open!**

Purchase your *Beyond Smiles Bash* tickets online or by contacting the CSI office.

### **Stories of Hope**

### Amanual - Ethiopia - Fall, 2017

Ten-month-old Amanual was born with a bilateral cleft lip. He was one of the children prescreened by our Ethiopian medical partners and a perfect candidate for surgery.

Despite reassurances from CSI volunteers, his parents were anxious and worried. After surgery

and a little time in recovery, mom finally had Amanual in her arms. It didn't take long before he had porridge all over his face and was eating well!

It can be scary to see the swelling at the site of the repair, and Amanual's parents were still anxious on discharge day. Because they live nearby, they were able to come back the next day for a quick check. It was a treat to see Amanual and his smiling parents. He was eating well, the surgery site was healing, and his parents were relieved. This beautiful family is ready to get on with life!



### William - Liberia - Winter, 2018

Five-year-old William's grandfather heard about CSI on the radio last year, but couldn't come because of a death in family. He heard about us again this year and came to screening day.

William's parents are no longer together, and he lives with his grandfather, along with seven other children. Because of his cleft lip and palate, William has never been to school. He watches the others do their homework and shows his intelligence by participating.

Adults call him ugly, and other children mock him and refuse to play with him. Now that his cleft lip and palate are repaired,



### Thank you to all of our generous donors and volunteers.

#### We could not accomplish our important work without your support over the past year.\*

#### \$25,000+

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\* Donors & Volunteers from January 2017 – December 2017

### Changing lives,

### one child at a time.

#### Liberia, continued from page 1

An important role on CSI trips is that of our medical records volunteers. They work hard from screening day onward to create and manage a chart for each patient. They partner with the medical team to set and manage the daily surgery schedules and make sure children and families are registered and ready to go each day. Medical records volunteers often have a chance to visit and learn more about each child and family story. While all the stories are important and meaningful, sometimes one story stands out. That was the case for first-time trip volunteer Mike Tveite in Liberia, who shares his story:

"Today has been a very special day for me. I had the opportunity to watch a cleft lip repair surgery on Catherine, an 8-year-old girl from rural Liberia. The pictures are dramatic, but there's way more to the story. After surgery Catherine was eating



Catherine, before and after surgery.

applesauce and was being a bit messy. She had never been able to use her upper lip to get food off her spoon, and she was learning how everything works with her new, intact lip. Her ability to eat and talk will improve significantly as she heals.

After surgery, when we called Catherine's name, her aunt jumped up and practically danced to the door. She related that when Catherine was with other kids in her village, they would stand in a circle around her and simply stare. Catherine's aunt had heard that CSI was coming to Liberia and was determined to give Catherine this chance at a better life. She rode her scooter an hour into the bush to get Catherine and then another four hours to Firestone Duside Hospital. As we made our way back to recovery, she exclaimed that Catherine would now be able to attend school."

### Thank you for making the 2017 Fall Fund Drive a success!

Each fall, Children's Surgery International hosts a year-end giving campaign. The Fall Fund Drive is a critical component of our fundraising goals that support life-changing surgical and education trips around the world.

Donors participated in several ways:

- Give to the Max Day
- Fall Event at Able Seedhouse + Brewery
- Shopping event at Evereve
- Donations to honor trip volunteers
- Individual and corporate donations

We are proud to report that this year was our most successful Fall Fund Drive to date, raising a record \$55,000! Thank you to the many donors who made this possible. These funds help our volunteers make a lasting impact for children, local healthcare professionals and communities in need.

A parent recently wrote a message to one of our urology surgeons, reporting how well her child was doing after surgery and expressing her deep gratitude. She says it best: "Once again I say a big thank you. You will forever be remembered for the hope that you restored." **Thank you!** 

William can go to school and play with friends without fear. His grandfather wants to thank supporters for sending the CSI surgical team to Liberia.



Willam before (left) and after (below).



### Blanca - Mexico - Fall, 2017

Now 15 years old, Blanca has already undergone several surgeries to repair her cleft lip and palate since infancy. She was finally physically ready for surgery to correct the defects to her nose and sinuses this year. We know about the dramatic change

in appearance that comes from cleft lip repair, but these additional surgeries – while less obvious – are critical to a child's development, speech and self-esteem. Likely, this will be Blanca's final maxillofacial surgery!

Blanca recently had her quinceañera, the Hispanic tradition of celebrating a young girl's coming of age on her 15th birthday. It's an incredibly special time for a girl, her family and friends. A special church service, receptions and parties all honor and celebrate this important turning point.

Thanks to the CSI team and our partners in Mexico, Blanca is ready to get on with her life. We are so glad to have been a part of this sweet girl's life. Feliz Quinceañera, Blanca!





Children's Surgery International 825 Nicollet Mall Suite 706 Minneapolis, MN 55402 childrenssurgeryintl.org

### **Return Service Requested**

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# DONATE

Join CSI in changing a child's life by making a tax-deductible donation.

**Children's Surgery International** 825 Nicollet Mall, Suite 706 Minneapolis, MN 55402 info@childrenssurgeryintl.org | Ph: 612.746.4082 **Online Donations:** childrenssurgeryintl.org

## We spread a message of hope ...



# one child at a time.

