



Ethiopia, Spring 2018

Margaux McClure, Philanthropy Coordinator – Lube-Tech

I started at Lube-Tech in November and in February was told I'd be getting to join the CSI team in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. In April, I was headed for the experience of a lifetime. Never in a million years could I have predicted this series of events, and yet, reflecting now after my return, I can say for certain this opportunity was part of my destiny and will be a defining moment in the shape my life takes.

I am the Philanthropy Coordinator at Lube-Tech, a CSI corporate sponsor. My job entails providing fundraising and volunteer events for Lube-Tech employees and partnering with some really awesome organizations. I truly love it and feel so blessed. Still, as cool and rewarding as my work is, it's easy to lose sight of purpose playing a "behind the scenes" impact role. Jumping from campaign to campaign, nonprofit to nonprofit, I often don't have time to just sit back and evaluate what it all means and who it will impact. The mission trip to Ethiopia was that renaissance moment for me.

I didn't know what to expect for this trip; I'd never gone on a mission trip to a foreign country, let alone traveled to Africa! I knew no one on the team, and I didn't really know where my place in the group would exist. I was intimidated to be surrounded by these incredibly smart nurses, doctors and surgeons. As it turns out, they were incredibly smart, but, they also all shared this common goal to make the world a little bit better. This immediately broke down any hierarchy I feared and united us as a team.



Waiting to be screened



Urology patient and mom

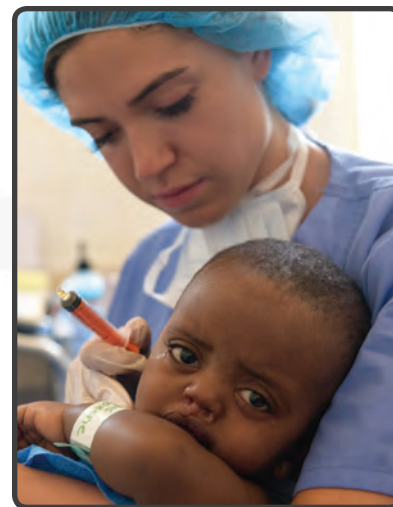


Patient before (left) and after (right) surgery

Our group put me to work on day one. This included my favorite "job," holding the babies after their surgery; I loved every second of it. I was reminded how much I enjoy helping those who can't help themselves, and as cliché as it may be, the trip put perspective back into my life. How often do we allow ourselves to dwell on the truly small problems? The children we work with face unimaginable problems and challenges far beyond their age. On top of the physical and emotional strains of extreme poverty, many also experience harassment from their peers and sometimes even their own parents. If you think they are immune to the effects of bullying, they are not.

Despite the language and cultural barriers that divided our team from the Ethiopians, witnessing the smiles, joy and relief of these children and their families after surgery brought an overwhelming sense of oneness.

The trip to Ethiopia was both chaotic and indescribably good. It's hard to put into words the kind of out of body, "this isn't real life," "am I really here," "how did I get so lucky," kind of feelings I experienced. Few moments in my life can equate. I felt authentic purpose on this trip for one of the first times in my life.



Margaux with a young patient after surgery



CSI ENT surgeon Dr. Chris Discolo (left) and Dr. Raj Petersson (center) with Ethiopian surgeon Dr. Teshome (right)



CSI volunteer urologist Dr. Barry Chang (left) and Ethiopian urologist Dr. Getachew (right)

CALENDAR

Tanzania September 13 - 23

Mexico October 12 - 17

Ethiopia November 7 - 18

Liberia January 10 - 19, 2019

Keep up with CSI when we're abroad! Visit the [Trip Blog at childrensurgeryintl.com](http://childrensurgeryintl.com)



2018 Bash Highlights

Rosie Cataldo, Event Co-host

When you combine commitment, tenacity and true Minnesota grit, you better hold onto your hat. When CSI's supporters say, "The show must go on," they aren't letting a historic blizzard get in the way of a well-planned Bash.

CSI's supporters and volunteers are indisputably dedicated. Albeit the weather was unsettling and nerve-racking, it's nothing compared to what families in underdeveloped countries go through, just for the mere hope of their child receiving surgery for a cleft lip, a cleft palate, or a urological or heart condition. CSI ignites hope in families and communities in need by working to build capacity for medical professionals to care for their children long after we are gone.

Despite the record amount of snow, the Bash went on, and nearly 200 of 360 registered guests attended the Bash. It was an incredible outpouring of support. Thanks to online bidding and many generous donations from those in the room – as well as those snowbound in their homes – our fundraising goal was surpassed, raising a grand total of \$263,000. This is a historic milestone for CSI.

Amy Jo Van Culin of Lube-Tech/Bame Foundation warmed the hearts of our guests as she received the CSI Corporate Service Award on behalf of Lube-Tech/Bame Foundation. Thanks to Chris Egert, our amazing emcee, guests had permission to eat dessert first since the storm left a few unclaimed sweets on the tables. The evening ended with a serenade by Dr. Brent Cataldo, Bash Co-Host, with Barry Manilow's "Can't Smile Without You." It was most definitely a historic evening on many levels.

Thank you to our generous sponsors, Bash committee members and dedicated volunteers for making the event a successful and meaningful one. You make CSI's mission a reality for children, families and communities around the world.

2018 Bash Photo Gallery



Carolyn Jentink and Linda Specht



Matt and Dr. Maddy Goeden, Dr. Brianne and Jeff Roby



Dr. Janelle and Lily Fox



Garrett and Laura Vincent



Amy Erlandson, Susan and Bob McMullan



Dr. Ryan Rekuski and Kerri Shaughnessy, Elizabeth and Dr. Michael Angel



Maria Rubin, Norie Wilson, Sue Baysden



Bradly Winters, Rosie Cataldo, Dr. Dan Sampson



CSI Board Member Zinda Schaefer with Randy and Rosie Jensen



Lora and Jim Koppel with Jan Martland



Alicia and Jason Bame-Anderson, Amy Jo and Arin Van Culin



Drs. Naomi and Dave Tetzlaff



Anne Adix, Rosie Cataldo, Dr. Naomi Tetzlaff



Anna Koppel, Gina Holcomb, Molly Koppel



CSI Board Member Neal Peterson and Deanna Thompson



Bash Co-Hosts Rosie and Dr. Brent Cataldo



Kelli Murphy, Charlie Vanek, Chris Murphy, Elizabeth Westfall



Dr. Erin Novak, Pamela Marentette and Dr. Jesse Hennem, Leah Baroun



Patrick Faunillan and Jeffrey Otis, Amy Erlandson, Mary and Steve Bye



CSI Board Member Lynn Randall and Ruthanne Randall



CSI Executive Director Megan Sparks with Cynthia and Thomas Markham



Leah Baroun, Dr. Ben Novak, Nancy and Alan Andreae



Board Members Norie Wilson and Dr. Siva Chinnadurai



James Zimmerman, Sheila and Roger Stageberg, Dr. Paul Melchert



CSI Board Members Norie Wilson, Melanie McCall, Lora Koppel, Dr. Tim Lander and Dr. Brianne Roby



Melanie McCall and Dr. Dan Sampson, Don and Krista Schwartz, Laura and Daniel Schleck



Dr. Paul Melchert, Emma and Dr. Mark Hudson, Maria Rubin



Steve Helland, Dr. Tim Lander, Dr. Lisa Irvin and Matt Grimes, Dr. Jay Broten, Melissa Helland



Dr. Anamaria Betterman (center) with guests Eric and Sarah Soltys Larson, Cyrus Vahnaji, Satish and Joy Jayaram



Lube-Tech and Bame Foundation crew at the photo booth!



Children's Surgery International
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Return Service Requested

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