



Gratitude in Tanzania

By Theresa Philbin, CSI Nurse

While Children's Surgery International teams have worked in several African countries, September marked our first surgical trip to Tanzania. CSI was welcomed by Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC), a community and specialty hospital in the capital city.

CSI's strong commitment to education, training and the sharing of knowledge is a great match with ALMC. In addition to 37 children receiving life-changing surgeries, lectures were led by CSI surgeons, and two half-day Helping Babies Breathe courses were taught by CSI nurse educator Victoria Vandersteen. Building strong partnerships and trust with local colleagues was a priority and an essential first step for this CSI team. It is only after trust and mutual respect begin to emerge that the CSI team can determine the educational desires and needs of our Tanzanian partners. We look forward to building on this important work in the spring.



CSI nurses Amy Erlandson and Mary Bye caring for patient in Tanzania.

When asked to reflect on my first surgical mission trip and first time in Africa, the first thought that comes to mind is "gratitude."

I have a tremendous amount of gratitude for the Tanzanian people who entrusted us with their children in hopes that we could provide the care they could not otherwise obtain. They were patient with delays and schedule changes. Google translate was pretty good at taking English and turning it into Swahili but often missed the mark and left us all in laughter. The Tanzanian people, like us, love their children fiercely and want to give them the best opportunity possible. I will forever be grateful to them for teaching me about their culture and allowing us to care for their children.

I am grateful for the opportunity to join in such important work with well-seasoned CSI volunteers representing decades of experience providing health care in third-world countries. My teammates welcomed me with open arms, showed me the ropes, answered every question kindly and even made sure I had someone to dine with. CSI volunteers showed me how to meet Tanzanian

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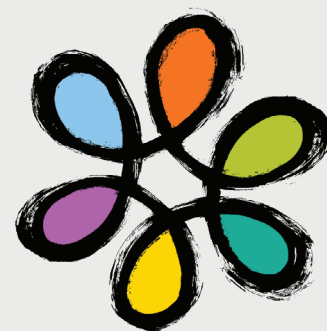
Dr. David Vandersteen working alongside Tanzanian surgical team.

SAVE THE DATE!

CSI GALA

Saturday, April 27, 2019

*U.S. Bank Stadium,
Hyundai Room*



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UPCOMING TRIP CALENDAR

Ethiopia
November 2018 & March 2019

Liberia
January 2019

Tanzania
April 2019

Keep up with CSI when we're abroad.
Visit the Trip Blog at

childrenssurgeryintl.org



(Tanzania, continued from page 1)



Mom and baby ready for cleft lip surgery.

health-care providers where they were educationally and how to teach new ideas and techniques in a respectful manner while learning about their ways of doing things. Developing respectful relationships is just as important as the procedures performed in the operating room.

I am grateful for the Tanzanian nurses who showed patience on our arrival as we navigated the pre- and post-op care of our patients. They are well educated and experienced in caring for many of the surgeries we were performing and open to learning new care techniques for the more complex cases. They were kind and welcoming and showed all of us grace.

Thank you to CSI, surgical team volunteers and the people of Tanzania for this beautiful experience, Asante sana.

Collaboration is Key - Making a Lasting Impact in Mexico

By Megan Sparks, CSI Executive Director

This fall marked CSI's 14th trip to Hermosillo, Mexico, to provide top-notch cleft care to children in need. Our ability to provide this comprehensive care, much like children would get in the United States, is made possible through a unique and special model of collaboration with St. Andrews Children's Clinic and Hospital CIMA. Together, we identify, screen and support children and families who travel from all over Sonora State in Mexico with the hope of greater access to health care and a better future.

CSI's partners in Mexico work all year to prepare for their whirlwind four days with us. Their outreach efforts focus on families with the greatest need. They track children who need multiple surgeries and arrange every last detail, often providing funds for transportation, and securing donations of essentials like baby formula, diapers, and even clean clothes.

When the CSI team arrives, we get right to work. Screening is a busy and complex process. The team met more than 110 children and evaluated many factors to determine the surgical schedule. Nearly 60 children were added to the schedule, and many children who did not receive surgery were told to come back in one year when they are older and stronger. Some children even got to hear the greatest news of all from their CSI surgical team: You've graduated and don't need to come back!

Each day our CSI surgeons, OR nurses and anesthesia providers work side by side with Hospital CIMA staff to complete a variety of cases, including cleft lip and palate, rhinoplasty, fistula repair and bone grafts. We are able to do this wide range of surgeries because of our incredible partners.

CSI pediatricians and nurses also collaborate with Hospital CIMA nurses to support children after surgery and help families prepare for discharge. This year we were proud to work together to introduce enhanced nursing education resources that our CIMA partners could review with parents and children prior to discharge.



CSI Drs. Paul Peterson and Dan Sampson with longtime Hospital CIMA OR colleague Martha Laura Minendez Siguenza.

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Changing lives,

one child at a time.

(Mexico, continued from page 2)

And suddenly, three days of life-changing surgeries and care have concluded, and we are finished. We are already planning for the next trip, exploring ways to collaborate to help more children and families. But before we get ahead of ourselves, let's take a moment to celebrate this year's work. We are deeply grateful for our partners at St. Andrew's Children's Clinic and Hospital CIMA, and we continue to be in awe of the passion, dedication and skill of our very own CSI team. Our volunteers are the absolute greatest, and we are so proud of them.



**Thank you,
team!**

*Angel Enrique holding photo from
his first surgery as a young infant.*



*Patient coordinator and co-founder of St. Andrew's
Maria Luz "Coca" Romero with Vicente.*

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Make a Lasting Impact – Change a Child's Life

Each fall, Children's Surgery International launches our year-end giving campaign. This annual Fall Fund Drive is a critical component of our fundraising goals that support our surgical trips throughout the year.

In 2019, CSI has surgical trips planned to Ethiopia, Liberia, Tanzania and Mexico. Our dedicated volunteers donate their time and their talents to perform the critical surgical care and teaching that occur on each trip, but as you can imagine these trips require considerable funds. Your generous support is the foundation our volunteers need to do their work.

During this Fall Fund Drive, you have many opportunities to help celebrate and support our work:

- Plan a gift to CSI on **Give to the Max Day** – Thursday, November 15.
- **Join us at The Lowbrow**, 4244 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis, on Monday, November 26, anytime between 4-10 p.m. On that night, 10% of all proceeds will go directly to CSI as part of the Dine Out/Give Back program, which allows patrons to eat a great meal and support nonprofits.
- Watch for our **Annual Appeal Letter** in the mail and send your donation in the enclosed envelope.
- Join us for **A Style Social** to benefit CSI – Thursday, December 6, 6-9 p.m. at Evereve in St. Louis Park.
- **Donate** online at childrensurgeryintl.org.

Together, we can change lives, one child at a time!



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Santiago before and after surgery.

DONATE

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

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