

Changing lives,

one child at a time.



From the board chair

For Children's Surgery International, 2020 was a year of introspection and re-imagination; 2021 will be a year of expansion and innovation.

In February 2020, the board undertook the work of updating our mission statement and vision, which were immediately put to the test by the global pandemic. With international travel halted, we could not engage with our global partners in the ways we were used to. Outgoing board chair Melanie McCall led the board through the difficult conversations of pandemic response and nimble adaptation to the changing landscape around us.

The entire board joins me in thanking Melanie for her dedicated leadership during this time and for growing the board and organization to new heights over the last three years.

We are always looking to expand the breadth of our global partnerships, but this year we will also focus on the depth and variety of support we can offer. We continue to develop strategic partnerships, like those that have allowed us to begin 2021 by sending \$40,000 in supplies to our Liberian partners at Firestone Duside Hospital and helping develop an on-site medical clinic for LEAD Monrovia Football Academy.

Our dedicated surgeon partners in Ethiopia have shared their stories of independent success. Their ability to immediately and expertly compensate for the absence of western teams with fantastic surgical outcomes is the fullest embodiment of CSI's dream and has the board adapting our support model to best serve their continued growth.

Internally, we are growing our board to best represent all aspects of CSI. We currently have directors with backgrounds in medicine, business, industry, development and communication. Operations manager Lisa Masterson and communications manager Jen Nagorski have developed tools to revolutionize our mission planning and engagement with volunteers and donors. Executive director Megan Sparks will continue to develop and refine the live online lecture series that she spearheaded in 2020 reaching partners in Zambia, Ethiopia and Liberia.

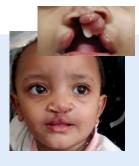
I look back on 2020 with immeasurable gratitude for the commitment and ingenuity demonstrated by our partners, donors and volunteers. On behalf of the board of directors, thank you for all your contributions to CSI. We head into 2021 looking for new ways in which we can add value for our partner sites and pursue our vision: To reduce global health care disparities by helping communities obtain the knowledge, skills and tools to provide life-changing surgical and medical care for children.

Sincerely,

SIVA CHINNADURAI, MD, MPH Chair, CSI board of directors



L to R: Dr. Melesse Gebeyehu, Dr. Rajanya Petersson, Dr. Siva Chinnadaurai and Dr. Fran Schneck in Ethiopia, spring 2019.







I am grateful for what you invest in us to be self reliant.

- Dr. Melesse Gebeyehu who has completed six independent cleft lip and palate repairs.















Tow does an organization dedicated to facilitating surgical trips continue to realize its vision during a pandemic that halts travel?

At CSI, we decided to get creative.

CSI Online Education Series

- Presented by urology and ENT surgeons on topics like cleft palate and urologic imaging, these sessions are opportunities for CSI volunteers to connect with our partners around the world to transfer knowledge and sustain relationships.
- The program launched in October with nine webinar sessions attended by our partners in Ethiopia, Liberia and our new partners in Zambia.
- We look forward to expanded offerings in 2021, including topics in anesthesia, nursing and pediatrics.

Supply support

- When our colleagues at Arusha Lutheran
 Medical Center in Tanzania were in need of
 PPE and medication, we were able to support
 them with supplies our 2019 team left for future missions.
- We sent a shipment of specialized bottles to our partners at St. Andrew's Children's Clinic to help babies with cleft palates in Mexico. These bottles allow babies to feed and get needed nutrients to grow and stay healthy until our in-person work can resume.
- A large shipment of requested medical and surgical supplies, plus coveted PPE, departed to our longtime partners at Firestone Duside Hospital in Liberia last month. This shipment is valued at more than \$40,000. Thanks to our medical volunteers and incredible local and international partners, the cost to CSI was only a fraction of the value.

We are deeply grateful for the strong partnerships and dedicated volunteers that make continuing our work during this difficult time possible. We look forward to seeing how our current innovations strengthen the work we do when we can resume travel.

Giving is personal

People choose to support CSI for many reasons. For one Minnesota family, it's very personal.

When Kelly and Brian Gill were expecting their first child, cleft abnormalities were "something on their radar" because Brian was born with a cleft lip and palate. An ultrasound at 22 weeks gestation revealed Kelly and Brian's baby indeed had a cleft.

"One of the biggest fears we had with the diagnosis was, how am I going to feed my baby?" Kelly recalls. "Being a speech therapist and a child development guru, I knew that breastfeeding was the best thing you could do for your baby. Our surgeon, Dr. Jim Sidman, without question, said, 'We are going to support that.' He knew how to connect to a worried mama." At that moment, Kelly and Brian new Dr. Sidman was the surgeon for them.

As you can see in Hudson's photo, Dr. Sidman was an artist; the surgery turned out beautifully. As time passed, and Hudson grew, Kelly and Brian came to learn that Dr. Sidman volunteered for CSI, as a board member and volunteer surgeon.

Dr. Sidman was passionate about CSI's mission that fosters self-sufficiency of health professionals around the world through hands-on training, education and collaboration. Kelly and Brian were moved by the fact that their nowbeloved surgeon was helping children and families just like theirs in parts of the world where resources are much more limited.







Kelly Gill with Dr. Jim Sidman at in CSI gala in 2016

Kelly and her family attended the CSI gala and became supporters. Sadly, soon after, Dr. Sidman lost a courageous battle with prostate cancer. Kelly and Brian continue to hold him close to their hearts as they actively offer support and guidance to other families giving birth to children with cleft differences, locally—and now around the world.

L: Hudson before surgery. R: Hudson shows off his beautiful smile today.









Giving with intention

We've used many words to describe the past year. Unexpected is one that comes to mind. It certainly describes one of the last gifts CSI received for the year – unexpected in a most wonderful way. In late December, CSI received a generous estate gift from Lillian and Eugene Crandall Sr. of Blaine, Minn.

In 1999, the Crandalls watched a special on WCCO in which anchor Don Shelby shared his experience with Operation Smile. According to their daughter, Kimberly, the story touched them and reminded Eugene of his days in the Navy during World War II where he saw poor and disabled people begging in the streets of India. And so began the couple's dedication to making a difference for children like this around the world. They soon learned about CSI, which had recently branched off from Operation Smile to expand the scope of care and focus on teaching to foster self-sufficiency in partner countries.

Kimberly remembers her mother noting that their parents didn't have the resources to leave a legacy and they wanted to be able to make a larger impact. They "wanted to save childens' lives." The Crandalls lived a modest life, and yet the sale of the Crandalls' family home and acreage, which funded the estate gift, allowed the couple to make a profound impact. This gift will support future CSI trips, providing life-changing surgical care to hundreds of children. With our focus on teaching and collaboration, the Crandall legacy gift will continue to save lives long into the future.

The CSI board of directors, staff and volunteers express their deep gratitude to Eugene, Lillian and their family for this estate gift. While unexpected for CSI, this planned gift was made with intention by a profoundly generous couple. We are proud to honor their wishes to help improve the lives of children around the world!

"He never looked for praises. He was never one to boast. He just went on quietly working for those he loved the most. His dreams were seldom spoken. His wants were very few. And most of the time his worries went unspoken, too. He was there ... a firm foundation through all our storms of life, a sturdy hand to hold onto in times of stress and strife."

- EUGENE CRANDALL SR.'S OBITUARY

Join the Crandalls in changing lives around the world.

Make a lasting impact with a planned gift to CSI. To learn more, contact CSI executive director Megan Sparks at megan@childrenssurgeryintl.org or 612-746-4082.

BE the LIGHT

AT HOME

THANK YOU

to everyone who attended the first-ever CSI virtual fundraising event – held in September in place of our spring gala. Supporters rose to the occasion with generous gifts that totaled over \$220,000. We were thrilled to be joined by hundreds of viewers from around the world.



Danny Lee; Dr. Trish Valusek and kids; Wyn Huynh, CRNA



825 Nicollet Mall, Suite 706 Minneapolis, MN 55402

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED







2021 trips

CSI has surgical trips planned for fall 2021 to Mexico, Ethiopia and Tanzania. Our board and staff continue to work with our partners to determine the safest way to resume travel.



Did you know that many companies will match your charitable

donations? Check with your employer to see if there is a matching program available to you.



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