# WINTER 2023



# Changing lives,

# one child at a time.

# TANZANIA 2022

# My life forever enhanced

While I'm a seasoned leisure traveler, I suspected that my first surgical trip would be different than anything I'd experienced. The 24-hour "commute" was tiring but not out of the ordinary. Upon landing at Kilimanjaro, however, I found myself in a decidedly different culture. New sounds, smells and customs were everywhere.

Our trip began with the wonder of my first ever safari. Seeing an array of animals in their natural habitat was a life-changing

experience as well as a great way to get to know my coworkers. They are truly wonderful people, the sort of folks who would happily give up

vacation time to make a stranger's life better. We found ourselves united in a common goal of doing exactly that.

As our work began, we were immersed in a similar yet unfamiliar surgical setting. Twelve-hour days, dinner with new friends, limited sleep,

then get

Enhancement: the state or quality

of being elevated, heightened or

increased, as in quality, degree,

intensity or value.

## Susan Turnquist, RN CSI volunteer OR nurse

up and do it all again. Outdated equipment, leaky plumbing, no air conditioning, and open, screenless windows. Everything was reused. The CSI surgeons made do with a much smaller list of instruments than they use at home, and cleaning those instruments was a regular part of our day. Doing more with less was a common theme.

The Tanzanian people were uniformly warm and welcoming. They knew that we were doing something that would make an

> enormous difference in the lives of our young patients, and they were deeply appreciative. The sense of "making a difference" was a unifying thread for us. It

explains why so many of my coworkers make the same voyage every year.

As I interacted with patients, families and Tanzanian medical personnel, I became aware that it was not just the children with disabling medical conditions whose lives became enriched through our efforts. I know I'll never look at surgery in quite the same way. The knowledge that I can manage and thrive in exhausting, challenging and unfamiliar conditions is something that I'll carry with me forever.

The relationships forged during our mission will always be treasured.

So while I signed up for this volunteer job with the hope of improving the lives of children, it was also my own life that was enhanced by this wonderful experience. I'd do it again in a heartbeat.



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Omni Viking Lakes Hotel

2611 Nordic Way, Eagan, MN



It's CSI's biggest night of the year! Join us and be the light that changes a child's life and make a lasting impact for children and communities in need.

- Support CSI's mission through both silent and live auctions.
- Connect with others who care deeply about making a difference in the world.
- Participate in fun games and activities.
- Hear about our work this year and what's in store for the year ahead.

For more details, and to register, scan the code with your phone or go to **childrenssurgeryintl.org/events**.





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# January Liberia trip

## **DUSIDE HOSPITAL:**

- Evaluated 97 children and completed **85 surgeries**, including hands-on education with local medical and nursing professionals.
- Taught 4 pediatric lectures to 109 Liberian medical professionals.
- Held CPR sessions for 28 local professionals.
- Equipped the hospital ER with **four ventilators** and trained the local staff on their use.
- A trip highlight: Liberian surgeon Dr. Siba took the lead surgical role in 2 urology procedures!

Our 2023 Liberia trip had a unique and far-reaching impact. Thanks to strong partnerships, our nimble team was able to offer a wide range of medical and surgical care plus extensive education and training both in the hospital and the community - the fullest realization of our vision to increase access to life-changing health care.

## LEAD MONROVIA FOOTBALL ACADEMY:

- Shipped \$9,000 of donated medical supplies to the school.
- Transformed a shipping container into a schoolbased clinic complete with exam tables, stretchers, and essential supplies.
- Certified **10 LEAD staff** in basic CPR.
- Lectured on sports injury care to coaches and medics.
- Provided 200 student athletes with deworming medication.



# SURROUNDING COMMUNITY:

- Provided deworming medication to 6,000 orphans and students.
- Donated 200 pounds of rice and 10 new mattresses to orphanages.
- Donated 50 pairs of shoes to patients and children in the community.
- Donated 27 bikes, 200 hats and hundreds of toys to hospital staff members and their families.

Bringing hope to Monrovia, Liberia







## Lucy Jo Koppel-Lee, the precious infant child and granddaughter of CSI volunteers Anna Koppel and Danny Lee and Lora and Jim Koppel, passed away unexpectedly on December 14, 2022. The Koppel and Lee

families are beloved members of the CSI family holding key positions in the organization. Our hearts are broken for them. Please join the CSI family in holding the Koppel and Lee families close in our hearts and forever letting Lucy's light shine.

# Spotlight on fundraising

We are grateful to the many individuals who have initiated and contributed to Facebook and Instagram fundraisers benefitting CSI.

Facebook waives all fees related to non-profit fundraisers.

**KEVIN HEALY, M.D.A.**, has always enjoyed traveling and "being useful." Kevin has been a team

member on 100 surgical trips around the world with various organizations. He has joined CSI teams in Ethiopia and Liberia. He shared that "the fellowship with other team members was outstanding. It was my pleasure to make CSI my 2022 Facebook beneficiary."

\$3,300 raised





**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED** 

# CSI meets highest giving standards



Platinum Transparency 2022 Candid.

CSI exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in financial health, accountability and transparency.









**ATTENTION RUNNERS!** 

Run the Medtronic TC 10 mile on October 1, in support

of CSI. Email info@childrenssurgeryintl.org for details.



TWIN CITIES

MARATHON



March 9 – 19 October

**Mexico:** September 22 – 27

**Tanzania**: November



#### \$50,000 +

Sexton Foundation

#### \$10,000-\$49,999

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