



Children's Surgery International

Changing lives, one child at a time

In this Issue

Liberia Mission Canceled	1
Site Visit to Vietnam	2
One Child's Story	2
Mission to Hermosillo	3

Save the Date!

**The 11th Annual
Passport to Smiles Gala**
Millennium Hotel, Minneapolis
Saturday, April 18, 2015

Our annual event features live and silent auctions, great food, and inspired speakers. Help us kick off the 2015 mission schedule!

Become a Sponsor!
Contact Sue at
info@childrenssurgeryintl.org

Give to the Max Day

November 13, 2014

Join the great Minnesota Give Together and support CSI!

This year CSI is committing all G2TM proceeds to medical and nutritional support of children orphaned by the Ebola crisis.

Visit our website Nov. 1-13th for links to give online!

**Let's make this the best
Give to the Max Day ever!**

November Liberia Mission Canceled Due to Ebola Crisis

Support Liberian orphans on Give to the Max Day, November 13

Children's Surgery International has a strong connection to Liberia. CSI volunteer surgical teams have traveled to Liberia for four years in partnership with Firestone Natural Rubber, performing surgeries at the Firestone Duside Hospital outside of Monrovia. Sadly, the November 2014 CSI mission to Liberia has been canceled due to the Ebola virus crisis.

The tragic events related to the Ebola crisis in Liberia and West Africa are overwhelming. From unprecedented death rates, to profound economic and health effects, to the fear and chaos that have ensued, the impact is staggering.

The rising death rates in Liberia are causing the number of orphans to soar as well. Parents are often dying at home. If their children survive, extended family members who normally would have cared for them may now be unable to step in because of their own illness, poverty, or fear of contracting the virus. The UN estimates there are nearly 4,000 new orphans across the region, and of course that number will grow exponentially.

CSI volunteers have been honored to provide care to many orphans in Liberia. An orphanage close to Duside Hospital has brought children for surgical treatment during our missions. CSI is proud to have performed life-changing surgeries for these deserving children. Orphanages in Liberia are now working to keep the children healthy, and to prepare for the many new orphans still to come.

While CSI is unable to travel to Liberia this fall, we are committed to reaching out to help the people of Liberia in a meaningful, effective, and timely way during this horrific crisis. CSI will contribute all proceeds from Give to the Max Day to help fund medical and nutritional supplies for the rapidly growing number of Liberian orphans.



Our goal is to raise \$15,000 on Give to the Max Day – November 13, 2014. This is your chance to make a difference in Liberia right now, when it really counts.

Give to the Max!



Children from an orphanage near Duside Hospital seeking care during CSI 2013 mission



CSI Site Visit to Vietnam

A small team of CSI volunteers recently returned from a site inspection in Vietnam. They traveled from Ho Chi Minh City to Quy Nhon, and onto Hanoi. Thanks to a collaborative arrangement with International Pediatrics Specialists Alliance for the Children of Vietnam (IPSAC), the team was able to visit seven hospitals. The group determined that the needs are significant, especially for CSI team members to work alongside local medical professionals to serve the children. A CSI mission trip is in the planning stages for 2015.

CSI carefully screens potential mission sites prior to planning a surgical mission trip. Several important factors when choosing a mission site include patient and volunteer safety, hospital facilities, opportunities for collaborative teaching, and the potential in-country partnerships.



One Child's Story: Francisco from Hermosillo

By Norie Wilson



Francisco with his tutor

Francisco was born with a cleft lip and palate and was subsequently abandoned by his parents because of this ailment. Because he was so young when they were separated, Francisco doesn't remember anything about his family. He spent several years living with a foster family in Nogales, Sonora, but was forced to leave after he reached a certain age because the foster family preferred to focus on raising younger children. Francisco recently moved into an orphanage in Hermosillo.

When he was younger, Francisco had an initial surgical repair for his cleft lip and palate, but unfortunately he continued to have difficulty with speech and articulation. During the annual October CSI mission to Hermosillo, a man who referred to himself as Francisco's tutor brought him to the hospital to be evaluated by the CSI volunteer surgical team. Francisco's tutor, along with his friends who work at a local garage, have taken Francisco under their wings and are helping him succeed in life.

Francisco had his cleft palate repaired by CSI volunteer surgeon Dr. Kofi Boahene. The surgery went very well, and Dr. Boahene was very optimistic that the procedure would help Francisco to speak more clearly. For now, Francisco will be staying in Hermosillo, where he will receive excellent follow-up care by the CIMA hospital volunteers and staff, including speech therapy and orthodontics.

It takes a village to raise a child.

Changing lives, one child at a time

10th Annual CSI Surgical Mission to Hermosillo, Mexico

CSI would like to extend a heartfelt *muchas gracias* to the staff and volunteers at St. Andrews Children's Clinic and Centro Internacional de Medicina (CIMA) Hospital for hosting our 2014 Hermosillo team in October. This marked the 10th Annual CSI mission to Hermosillo, Mexico. This long-standing partnership has allowed nearly 500 children and their families from the region to benefit from free, life-changing surgeries.

Thanks also to the volunteer team, including Jon Grischkan, Kofi Boahene, Daniel Sampson, Michael Fritz, Paul Melchert, Kathy Clinch, Jim Ducharme, Chris Wickland, Kati Pownell, Corrina Kettner, Norie Wilson, Amy Hassenstab, Cheryl Shell, Maria Rubin, Ashley Chitty, Vicki Olson, Ana Rojas, Mary Kay Rossebo, and Melanie McCall. Nice work team!



Upcoming Mission: Rangpur, Bangladesh

CSI's next mission trip will be to Rangpur, Bangladesh! This is our third surgical mission trip to the country. We will be returning to Rangpur Medical College, our host hospital for the previous two trips. The mission is scheduled for February 17-28, 2015.

Make sure to sign up for our blog and follow our team on this and other missions! <http://childrensurgeryintl.blogspot.com>

Did you know...

CSI takes our own anesthesia equipment on most surgical mission trips? Patient safety is our #1 priority, thus having the best equipment is imperative. **Spacelabs Healthcare** has generously donated specialized equipment that provides our anesthesia teams monitoring capability that ensures the highest quality of patient safety possible! Now CSI will have the ability to provide the highest standard of anesthesia care anywhere in the world!



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You can also make a donation online at
www.childrenssurgeryintl.org

Getting Social: Stay connected with CSI



Over the past year CSI has revamped our social media strategy as we strive to spread the word and inform more people about who we are and what we do.

We now offer many ways to connect with CSI! Make sure to check them all out for the latest pictures, news and updates!

CSI on Flickr

Enjoy mission and Gala photos on our Flickr site!
Visit <https://flic.kr/ps/2Eor5Y> to see them all!

Email Newsletter

Sign up to receive email updates and be the first to hear about all CSI's news and events!
Visit <http://www.childrenssurgeryintl.org> and sign up on our home page!

Connect with CSI!

