Annual report

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Children's Surgery International

Our mission

Children's Surgery International provides free pediatric medical and surgical care, medical education and hands-on training in partnership with communities in need around the world.

Our values



Patient safety comes first.

Safety and high-quality care create excellent surgical outcomes, and we commit to utilizing advanced safety practices and knowledge.



Education maximizes impact. Education and training of local medical teams builds self-sufficiency so communities can meet the needs of many more children in the future.



Collaboration begins with respect. Partnerships with local practitioners and respect for their culture lead to better outcomes.



Volunteers change the equation. Selfless gifts of time, talent and expertise from volunteers make it possible to multiply the investment of our supporters.

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.

Meet the children

Demeke | ETHIOPIA

When 19-year-old Demeke learned CSI was in Bahir Dar, he traveled more than 750 km by foot and bus with the hope of having surgery only to learn that our schedule was full. Demeke refused to go home, sleeping at the hospital with no food and drink on the chance there would be a cancellation. To the delight of everyone who witnessed this young man's tenacity, a spot opened and Demeke had his cleft lip repaired. When Demeke saw himself in the mirror for the first time post-op, he could not believe it was him. Shunned within his community for so long for a condition he had no ability to change, he now has a brighter future with more possibilities.



Lucina Guadalupe | MEXICO

Lucina Guadalupe is one of the many children who have benefited from the comprehensive cleft care provided through CSI's partnership with St. Andrew's Children's Clinic and Hospital CIMA and Voluntariados. Lucina was born with a congenital syndrome that poses significant challenges for her and her extended family. She received cleft lip repair at age four and palate repair at age five. CSI's volunteer medical team worked to repair a large fistula/hole in her palate when Lucina was 11. The team will see her in 2024 for a bone graft that will offer a more permanent solution to the recurring fistula. Lucina continues to thrive thanks to support from CSI volunteers and partners.

BEFORE

Ellis | LIBERIA

For his entire life, 13-year-old Ellis had struggled to pass urine. He would cry, push and strain to get even a few drops out of his bladder. CSI's volunteer urology surgical team changed his life through surgery to repair his urethral valve and remove a bladder stone. At the time of surgery, more than two liters of urine was removed from his bladder. Specialized endoscopic equipment on loan from our partners at NorthStar Surgical made this procedure possible. Shortly after surgery, Ellis was able to urinate without pain for the first time in his life! Now free from discomfort and embarrassment, Ellis has more opportunities for a successful future.



2022-2023 highlights

Continuing our tradition of excellent care and collaboration

In 2022-2023, we remained steadfast in our commitment to provide unparalleled care to children in need and to serve, engage and collaborate with medical communities worldwide. In addition to new online education programs, we returned to travel and provided life-changing surgical care to more than 300 children and professional training to 150 local providers in Ethiopia, Liberia, Mexico and Tanzania. Volunteers on 8 trips donated over 5,000 hours of volunteer time. This care, teaching and service is valued at more than \$1.4 million.

The work of reducing healthcare barriers takes place both inside and outside of the operating room. CSI continues to provide life-changing urology and general surgery to hundreds of children in Liberia each year, through our decade-long partnership with Firestone Natural Rubber. In addition to the medical and surgical care, CSI volunteers have grown a strong, collaborative community health outreach program in the area. Together with our partners at Firestone Liberia, CSI volunteers have worked in orphanages and schools to provide deworming medication and basic health assessments to more than 6,000 children. CSI was also able to source and deliver donated high-grade medical equipment and supplies valued at more than \$12,000.

Through our partnership with St. Andrews Children's Clinic and Hospital CIMA and Voluntariados, children in Sonora state, Mexico, can access the same expert, multi-stage surgical, dental, orthodontic and speech therapy care they would have in the U.S. Most amazingly, CSI's cleft lip and palate success rate exceeds the accepted U.S. standard. This effort showcases CSI's commitment to quality care, international collaboration and comprehensive solutions that create real change for children, families and communities.



In Tanzania, significant education and training with our partners continued. In 2022, a small CSI team returned to Tanzania and, together with their Tanzanian colleagues, provided life-changing surgical and medical care to 20 children. Our team delivered daily lectures and conducted bedside and OR training to more than 30 local providers. CSI volunteer Dr. Kevin Umani traveled from Kenya to







join our team. In addition to overseeing the anesthesia care for the week's patients, Kevin gave a talk about IV fluids and pain management to our Tanzanian colleagues in both Swahili and English. The progress continued in the OR, where intensive hands-on training culminated in several cases being performed independently by the local team. The collaborative work of our volunteer surgical teams continues to have an exponential impact on the children, families and communities we serve.



A future beyond self-sufficiency

We saw education in action as our surgeon partners in Ethiopia performed more than 100 successful cleft surgeries during our travel pause due to the pandemic. This is real-life evidence that the education provided by CSI allows us to maximize our impact on local communities both during and between our in-person trips. This is the core of our vision – self-sufficiency for our partners to provide life-changing surgical and medical care for children in their communities. Barriers to care continue, and the complex challenges in global health are real. Ethiopia has roughly 50 ENT doctors and only one pediatric ENT specialist, serving a population of 58 million children. Through collaboration with our partners, we determined that to fully deliver on our mission we must envision a future beyond self-sufficiency.

In 2023, after eight years of partnership, CSI and Bahir Dar University launched a Pediatric ENT and Facial Plastic Surgery Fellowship. This accredited training program is the first of its kind in Ethiopia and the second in all of sub-Saharan Africa. Built on clinical care, teaching and research, this program will create a future work force in Bahir Dar and attract trainees from across the country. These doctors will carry CSI's legacy with them to hospitals across Ethiopia and into operating rooms that we may never see. They will multiply the impact of each volunteer hour and each donor dollar. They will carry hope of a brighter future.

To lead the launch of the first ever fellowship program and to elevate and formalize our educational commitments across all sites, CSI appointed Dr. Siva Chinnadurai to the new board position of Academic Director. This position provides oversight and administers all formal academic activities of CSI, including compliance with educational program requirements, accreditation, and regulatory standards. In addition, the Academic Director provides strategic vision to align the needs and priorities of academic activities within CSI's overall mission, vision and values.



8 surgical trips



125 volunteers provided 6,083 service hours



302 life-changing surgeries





Financial responsibility

CSI is committed to modeling and maintaining the highest standards in our work, including our commitment to financial responsibility, transparency and accountability. Our full financial statements can be found at childrenssurgeryintl.org/financials. CSI complies with all federal and state charitable solicitation requirements and has been awarded a Four Star Charity rating by Charity Navigator and a Platinum Seal of Transparency by Candid.



Consolidated statement of financial position

As of December 31, 2023

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$722,894
Certificates of deposit	\$0
Stocks and mutual funds	\$327,586
Other assets	\$44,913
Total fixed assets	\$0
Accumulated depreciation	-\$141,263
Medical equipment	\$141,263
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,095,394

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Liabilities	
Current liabilities	\$0
Long-term liabilities	\$0
Net	\$1,095,394
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND ASSETS	\$1,095,394



Program sustainability

Total donor revenue in 2022 and 2023

Statement of activities

Revenue and support	2022	2023*
Individuals	\$89,342	\$170,684
Corporations,		
foundations and grants	\$134,244	\$179,535
Dividend income	\$1,811	\$0
Events	\$176,974	\$324,379
Trip income	\$32,890	\$42,337
Contributed medical services	\$451,544	\$996,384
Total income	\$886,805	\$1,713,319

Expenses	2022	2023*
Program		
Surgical trip expenses	\$447,900	\$561,385
Contributed medical service	es \$451,544	\$996,384
Fundraising/marketing	\$49,536	\$196,948
Administration	\$56,289	\$52,036
Total expenses	\$1,005,269	\$1,806,754



Extensive safe return to travel planning and prescreening

Online education



Four full-team trips with enhanced safety protocols

Fellowship program planning and curriculum development

Online education

*Estimates



Contributed medical services

The CSI model relies on highly trained medical professionals to provide hundreds of hours of donated contributed medical services each year to provide free surgery, medical care and professional training to the communities we serve. Contributed services are calculated by combining the average market rate for a surgery plus the average hourly rate for all medical professionals on the trip.

Contributed medical services	2022	2023
Surgery	\$261,524	\$681,870
Medical professional services	\$190,020	\$317,054
Total contributed medical services	\$451,544	\$998,924



















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New Brighton, Minnesota 612-746-4082 • info@childrenssurgeryintl.org



Leadership

Megan Sparks Executive Director

David Tetzlaff, MD Medical Director

Siva Chinnadurai, MD, MPH Academic Director

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