



Changing lives,

one child at a time.

MEXICO

CSI volunteers made an extraordinary impact during our October surgical trip to Hermosillo, Mexico, transforming the lives of 45 children. Many of these incredible young patients face complex medical challenges, requiring multiple procedures and additional care from our expert team. Even a power outage at the hospital couldn't slow our dedicated and adaptable team!

This trip also marked a momentous milestone — 20 years of collaboration with our valued partners St. Andrew's Children's Clinic, Voluntariado CIMA and Hospital CIMA. Since 2005, CSI has had the honor of being a part of this powerful collaboration. We are proud to work hand in hand with our trusted partners to deliver cleft care that meets or exceeds U.S. standards.



20 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

445

trip volunteers

19,500

hours of professional medical service

1,000

life-changing surgeries

Executive Director

Megan Sparks

Medical Director

Dave Tetzlaff, MD

Academic Director

Siva Chinnadurai, MD, MPH

Operations Manager

Aisling O'Sullivan Goel

Communications Manager

Veronika Skorich

Office Manager

Zoë Friberg

Board of Directors

- Garrett Vincent, Chair
- Katherine Clinch, MD, Vice-Chair
- Peter Falker, Treasurer
- Melanie McCall, Secretary
- Dody Barr, RN
- Siva Chinnadurai, MD, MPH
- Jason DeShaw, CTP
- John Erlandson, CRNA, APRN
- Ran Hanson
- Katie Lane
- Karen Resch, MD
- Ellen Reynolds, APRN
- Brianne Roby, MD
- Zinda Schafer
- Todd Stinson
- David Tetzlaff, MD
- David Vandersteen, MD
- James Zimmerman

Uriel's Story

You may not recognize him because he's grown so much since his first cleft surgery last November. Uriel, now 14 months and thriving, received his cleft palate repair surgery this September.

When Uriel was first evaluated by the CSI team in September 2023, his surgery had to be postponed because he was too small and malnourished due to feeding difficulties from his cleft lip and palate. By November, when CSI returned for a special cleft-rhinoplasty trip, the team saw he had grown stronger and were able to work him into the surgery schedule.

Dr. Brianne Roby performed both of Uriel's surgeries, and Dr. Britta Dosland served as anesthesiologist during both procedures.

TOP: URIEL AND HIS MOTHER WITH DR. ROBY IN FALL 2024
 BOTTOM: URIEL IN FALL 2023



YEAR-END GIVING CAMPAIGN

We've launched our year-end giving campaign — a critical part of our annual fundraising efforts.

Your support means more surgeons and healthcare professionals around the world can provide life-changing surgical care to children like Hemen.

There are many ways you can make an impact:

- **Participate in Give to the Max Day** on Thursday, November 21.
- **Watch for our Annual Appeal Letter** in your mailbox this month, featuring a message from Dr. Kassaw Ketemaw and make a gift using the enclosed envelope.
- **Donate online at childrensurgeryintl.org/giving/** — a quick and easy way to make a difference.



- **Purchase sweets** from our See's Candies fundraising storefront, open now through December 6. See page 3 for shop details.
- **Shop our new merch store** at childrensurgeryintl.org/shop/.
- **Make a gift through a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) or a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** from your IRA.

Thank you for your support as we prepare for 2025!

Sending Support to Liberia

Thank you to all those who donated items to send to Liberia and to the volunteers who assisted in itemizing and packing these supplies.

Twelve pallets, weighing an impressive 3,875 pounds, are en route to Liberia! Valued at \$56,000, these essential medical and community outreach supplies will support our surgical training team in January 2025 and be distributed to our in-country partners, equipping them to continue their vital work.

We couldn't do this work without our partners at Matter, Murphy Logistics Solutions, and Firestone, who help source products, donate transportation and cover the cost of sending these supplies via shipping container.

CSI Merchandise Shop

Shop at our new online merchandise storefront. From stylish tees and hats to cozy hoodies and bags, we have something for everyone! childrensurgeryintl.org/shop/

NEW



UPCOMING TRIPS

The Gambia:

November 7-17, 2024

Liberia:

January 16-26, 2025

Ethiopia:

February 13-23, 2025

October 16-26, 2025

Mexico:

October 3-8, 2025



ETHIOPIA 2024

We were thrilled to send a team to Ethiopia last month after an 18-month pause due to civil unrest. CSI volunteers overcame a number of unexpected challenges with supply and equipment shortages as well as last-minute schedule and venue changes to ensure team safety. Despite these challenges, the team was able to safely travel to Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, and work side by side with long-time colleagues at Bahir Dar University and Felege Hiwot Hospital to change lives. The team provided life-changing surgical care to 48 patients, most of whom were young children. The team was also able to care for several young adults who had been waiting for surgery they should have received as children — patients like 25-year-old Sewent Muket.

Sewent is from Debre Tabor, a city in the Amhara Region of South Gondor. She is in trade school studying agriculture so she can take that knowledge back to support the family farm. Born with a cleft lip and palate, Sewent had her lip repaired in 2014 by another international surgical team and has been waiting 11 years to receive her cleft palate repair surgery. She has been able to adapt to life with a cleft palate and find a way to eat safely. Sewent has difficulty speaking and being understood and is very shy and soft spoken, reporting that most people are not able to understand her when she speaks.

Sewent and her family made the three-hour walk to the city, then rode the bus 100 kilometers to Bahir Dar in hopes that our volunteers might repair



SEWENT

her cleft palate. Thanks to outstanding teamwork, collaboration and efficiency, the team was able to add her to the full surgical schedule, and she received this long-awaited care. After surgery, she was full of gratitude and pride — excited for a future with more normal speech, feeding and breathing.



ETHIOPIA BY THE NUMBERS

18

trip volunteers



5

days of surgery



30

in-country colleagues received specialized surgical and anesthesia training



48

life-changing surgeries

A Sweet Way to Change Lives!

Our See's Candies fundraising storefront is open — just in time for the holidays! Whether you're treating yourself or looking for the perfect gift, your purchase will help fund surgeries and medical training that will transform children's lives. CSI receives at least 20% of every purchase made. **Visit our See's Storefront at bit.ly/CSISeesShop.** Sales end December 6. Make a difference — one sweet treat at a time!



ORDER NOW

Items ship directly to you or your gift recipient!



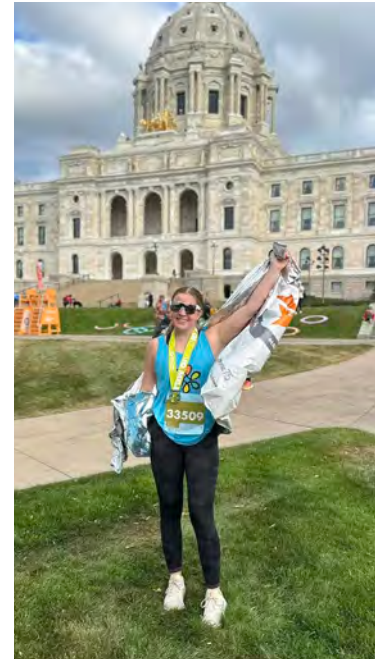
SPOTLIGHT ON FUNDRAISING

Team CSI Runs to Change Lives

CSI was a charity partner of the Twin Cities 10 Mile which took place on October 6. Many thanks to our team of 11 runners who collectively raised \$10k to support our mission — incredible work!



THANK YOU, TEAM CSI



Meet Our New Office Manager



Zoë Friberg, a skilled office manager with a background in social justice nonprofit communications, joined our team in October. Zoë played a key role in transforming a grassroots movement into a registered nonprofit by implementing new software, fostering member connections, and managing schedules. They also coordinated complex projects during their Film Production Program in Vancouver, British Columbia. Zoë is eager to bring their meticulous organizational and technical expertise back to the nonprofit world to contribute to a meaningful cause.

be the light

Volunteer for Our Gala Committee

It's never too soon to think about CSI's biggest night of the year. Let's make next year's gala unforgettable. Serve on the gala committee for our Be the Light gala taking place May 3, 2025. This fundraiser brings in over half of our annual donations to support the vital work we do in the global community.

Whether you're into event planning, logistics, or just want to be part of something meaningful and fun, we'd love to have you. **To join the team, contact info@childrenssurgeryintl.org.**



GIVE NOW →

Scan the QR code or go to childrenssurgeryintl.org/donate to make a gift today.



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

