



2024

IMPACT REPORT



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At **Global Surgical Expedition (GSE)**, we are breaking down barriers to life-changing surgical care by training surgical teams, strengthening local healthcare systems, and providing free surgeries and equipment in some of the world's most underserved communities. Beginning as a small, surgeon-led initiative, **GSE has grown into a far-reaching movement, driven by the belief that everyone deserves access to safe and essential surgery.**

This **2024 Impact Report** is more than just numbers and statistics - it is a **testament to the power of compassionate care, dedicated volunteers, and supporters like you.** Every surgery performed, every provider trained, and every piece of equipment donated represents **a life changed, a family supported, and a community strengthened.**



At GSE, our first responsibility is to our patients. We are also responsible to you: our donors, volunteers, and advocates who make this work possible.



This year, we took **bold steps forward** to expand our reach, deepen our impact, and build a future where no one suffers needlessly from lack of surgical care. Because of your generosity, **in 2024** we:



Deployed 10 surgical teams to Belize, Botswana, and Honduras



Provided 182 surgeries, giving patients relief from pain, disability, and life-threatening conditions



Hosted 176 surgical training sessions



Developed a virtual urology curriculum for African surgeons, launching in 2025



Introduced laparoscopic gallbladder surgery in Belize's public healthcare system for the first time



Expanded our care outreach efforts to include general surgery, in addition to urology, gynecology, and pelvic floor physical therapy



Partnered with leading universities to provide hands-on global surgery education and experiences

We take pride in providing the highest-quality care and impact, while simultaneously ensuring that every dollar donated is used as efficiently and effectively as possible. In 2024, **our cost per surgery remained below \$600**, demonstrating the incredible value GSE has been able to provide.

Every number in this report represents **a story of hope and transformation.** Take Ruth, for example. When she arrived at a hospital in Botswana, she was suffering from severe bleeding caused by a precancerous condition. She was told she would need a high-risk, open surgery that carried a long and difficult recovery. Thanks to GSE's team and collaboration with local surgeons, Ruth instead received a minimally invasive hysterectomy, allowing her to recover quickly and avoid life-threatening complications. Today, she is cancer-free and thriving.

This is why we do what we do. This is what your support makes possible. **Together, we are not just providing surgeries, we are restoring dignity, independence, and opportunity to people who need it most.**

Thank you for being part of this mission. **The impact we make today is only the beginning of what we will accomplish together tomorrow.**

With gratitude,

David E. Rapp, MD

Founder and Executive Director



OUR MODEL OF SUSTAINABILITY



Surgery is a team effort, requiring not just skilled surgeons, but also anesthesiologists, surgical technicians, nurses, and equipment specialists working together.

*At GSE, we believe that **preventing the need for surgery is just as important as providing it.***

Dr. Kenne collaborating with Bostwana team to provide surgical training.

At GSE, we believe that providing direct surgical care is only part of the solution. In 2024, our teams performed **182 life-changing surgeries** across the world, giving patients relief from pain, disability, and life-threatening conditions.

But the impact doesn't stop there. **True change happens when local healthcare providers are equipped to deliver care themselves.**

That's why GSE is committed to training and empowering local surgical teams, ensuring that skills, knowledge, and resources stay within the communities we serve.

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surgical technicians, nurses, and equipment specialists working together.

In **2024, we conducted 44 hands-on training sessions**, equipping healthcare providers with the expertise to perform complex procedures safely and effectively. Through education and mentorship, we are building a **future where life-saving surgery is available to all long after our teams have left.**

At GSE, innovation is at the heart of how we expand access to surgical care. By integrating new approaches and technologies, we are making training more effective, surgery more accessible, and care more sustainable.

One of the most exciting advancements is our **virtual urology training program**, developed in collaboration with **The University of British Columbia and Doctors Without Borders.** This cutting-edge program will provide

Dr. Fields delivers classroom education for the local team.

subspecialty surgical training to surgeons in underserved regions, and in 2025, it will go live in South Sudan, empowering local surgeons with the knowledge and skills they need to transform patient care.

Beyond surgery, **GSE is also focused on prevention.** In **Belize, we launched a groundbreaking pelvic floor therapy program**, offering non-surgical treatment options for women who have long suffered in silence. At GSE, we believe that preventing the need for surgery is just as important as providing it. In 2025, we will take this work even further, using virtual training technologies to equip maternal nurses and midwives with the skills to provide pelvic floor therapy year-round, ensuring that more women have access to care, regardless of location.

And there's more on the horizon - **virtual reality training!** GSE is thrilled to be working with **SurgicalED VR and Dr. Lauren Siff** to explore how VR technology can revolutionize surgical training. Stay tuned as we bring these exciting innovations to life, expanding our impact like never before!

TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE

THROUGH EDUCATION



GSE resident scholar, Dr. Yeaman, delivering surgical care to treat prostate blockage.

Education is at the heart of **GSE's mission** not just to provide surgical care, but to train and inspire the next generation of global surgery leaders.

Just as we are committed to sustainable surgical solutions, we are equally dedicated to building **sustainable educational programs** that empower students, residents, and healthcare professionals to dedicate their careers to global surgery. Through a comprehensive approach, GSE goes beyond traditional outreach trips, supplementing hands-on experience with formal global health education and research opportunities.

Developed in collaboration with leading institutions, our educational curriculum offers a **transformative learning experience**, equipping future medical professionals with the knowledge and skills to make a lasting impact. This commitment is reflected in our growing educational impact, including **over 100 medical and undergraduate GSE scholars** and a growing number of collaborations with leading universities, including the **University of Virginia, University of British Columbia, Virginia Commonwealth University, and others.**

By fostering the next generation of global surgery humanitarians, **GSE is shaping a future where more skilled professionals are ready to meet the urgent need for surgical care worldwide.**

STRENGTHENING RESEARCH

TO MAXIMIZE IMPACT

At **GSE**, research is more than data - it's **the key to improving lives.** By collecting and analyzing outcomes, we ensure that every surgery performed and every program developed creates the greatest possible impact.

This year, **we expanded our research efforts**, strengthening our ability to measure and assess the real-world impact of our work. A major focus was developing a model to track **Quality-Adjusted Life Years (QALYs)**, a measure of how much healthier and more productive a person's life becomes after surgery. We are thrilled to report that in **2024, GSE restored 2,125 QALYs** to our patients. That means **2,125 additional years of healthy, fulfilling life** for people who otherwise would have continued suffering from untreated conditions.

Beyond the numbers, our research is shaping the future of global surgery. This year, we **presented groundbreaking findings at national and international conferences**, sharing insights that will help the global surgical community build sustainable and effective surgical programs.

At GSE, research doesn't sit on a shelf - it **drives action.** By continuously learning and improving, we are ensuring that **every patient we treat and every provider we train creates lasting change.**



A PICTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY

What do you see in this picture?

This image captures the very essence of sustainability and partnership. It represents over a year of collaboration between **GSE, Partners for Medical Relief, and the Belize Ministry of Health and Wellness**, all working together to build the capacity for laparoscopic gallbladder removals in Belize.

Why does this matter? Because **laparoscopic surgery is a game-changer.** It results in fewer complications, faster recovery, and can be performed on an outpatient basis, meaning more patients receive life-changing care in less time. By eliminating the need for overnight hospital stays, more surgeries can be done each day, reaching even more people in need.

And this picture proves it's working. Notice the two surgeons positioned along the back wall? That's **our US surgical team!** After a week of setting up equipment and training, they were able to **step back and watch as the local Belizean surgical team successfully performed a gallbladder removal on**

their own. This was a defining moment, demonstrating that the local team could continue performing these surgeries long after we left.

This is what sustainability looks like.

At GSE, we believe that the best way to tackle the enormous surgical care gap in underserved regions is through **empowerment, not dependency. That's why we don't just provide surgeries, we donate medical equipment, build local surgical capacity, and train healthcare professionals** so that patients continue receiving quality care year-round.

This image is more than a snapshot. **It's a symbol of lasting change.**



Team GSE in Honduras in collaboration with One World Surgery.



Anesthesia team in Honduras discussing the cases for the day.

GROWING OUR IMPACT

This year, **GSE expanded its reach to Honduras**, marking an exciting milestone in our mission to bring life-changing surgical care to underserved communities.

We were honored to **partner with One World Surgery (OWS)** to provide high-quality surgical care at the Holy Family Surgery Center, a state-of-the-art facility located on the 2,000-acre campus of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, a home for vulnerable children. Together with teams from across the U.S., we helped deliver **specialized surgical care in urology, gynecology, general surgery, orthopedics, and ophthalmology** ensuring that more patients received the

treatment they desperately needed.

And this is just the beginning.

In **2025, GSE will return to Honduras** to continue this important work, strengthening our partnership with OWS and expanding access to surgical care for even more patients. **Collaboration is key to creating sustainable impact.** By joining forces with other medical teams and organizations, we can dramatically increase the number of surgeries performed and transform even more lives.

BEYOND SURGERIES

At **GSE**, our work goes beyond the operating room. Through surgery, we are not only restoring health, we are **fighting poverty, promoting social equity, and even helping the environment.**

One powerful example is our **prostate surgery program**, which has **reduced over 21,000 kg of CO2 emissions** by eliminating the need for long-term plastic catheters in men who can be cured with a single surgery. **By providing one life-changing procedure, we are preventing years of medical waste & unnecessary pollution.** Beyond patient care, we **continuously work to reduce our own environmental footprint.**

That includes seeking partnerships to implement reusable surgical drapes, cutting down on the waste created by disposable alternatives. Here's a picture of our team organizing our reusable drape system for surgery - a



Team GSE preparing our reusable surgical drapes to decrease the environmental impact of disposable drapes.

small but significant step toward a greener, more sustainable future.

At **GSE**, **sustainability isn't just about building long-term healthcare solutions, it's about ensuring a healthier planet for future generations.**



Wider Impact

- 2x** Doubled income potential for working patients
- ↑** Empowered social and gender equity and advancement, education opportunities, and prosperity through surgeries

GSE IN NUMBERS

\$2.2M
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DONATED

2,477
QUALITY OF LIFE YEARS RESTORED

\$1.2M+
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DONATIONS

\$3.01 M
VALUE SURGICAL CARE PROVIDED

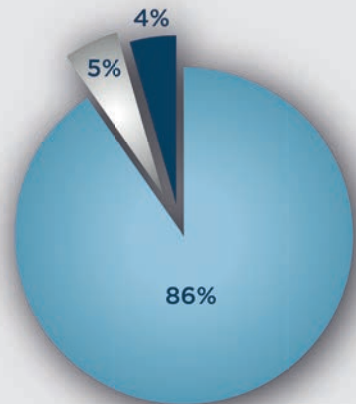
176 PROVIDER TRAINING SESSIONS | **55** SURGICAL TEAMS DEPLOYED

1974 PATIENTS TREATED | **\$515** COST PER SURGERY | **<2%** COMPLICATION RATE

2 LEADERSHIP GRADUATES | **100+** STUDENT SCHOLARS | **19** RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

6 GRANT AWARDS | **11** PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS | **21** PRESENTED ABSTRACTS

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Total funds allocated

- Programs - 86%
- Fundraising - 5%
- Administration - 4%

Sources of Revenue	
Contributions	\$320,879
Gift-in-kind	83,945
Contributed services	543,600
Total	\$948,424

How funds were allocated	
Programs	\$789,877
Fundraising	41,983
Administration	38,851
Total funds allocated	\$870,711

GSE IN STORIES



I was wheeled into surgery in 19th of January. I am eight years now, recovering well and cancer free”



I was upset, scared, frightened, frustrated. And that’s when I met you ... you did the surgery for me, for our family. I am so, so, so grateful for you all”

GSE IN
PICTURES



WAYS TO
GIVE



SCAN THE QR CODE



DONATE YOUR TIME



BECOME A PARTNER



WILLS AND ESTATES



GIFTS OF SECURITIES

2025 Annual Gala

Save the date

 November 21, 2025

 Country Club of Virginia

CONTACT US
TODAY!



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The impact we make today is only *the beginning* of what we will *accomplish together tomorrow.*

David E. Rapp, MD
Founder and Executive Director

