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ANCHOR: An Iraqi citizen severely injured while assisting US troops in the War on Terror is in America tonight. He's only identified to us by his first name, Uday, in order to protect his family still in Iraq. RNN Long Island reporter Carolyn Rowe tells us how local doctors are helping a man they call an American Hero.

ELISSA MONTANTI, GLOBAL MEDICAL RELIEF FUND: Uday is an incredible spirit. He's full of love, optimism, and a very brave man.

CAROLYN ROWE, REPORTER: When American troops arrived in Iraq, Uday, a private Iraqi citizen, felt compelled to help. So he decided to act as a translator for allied forces in Baghdad

UDAY, IRAQI CITIZEN: Because the Americans came to Iraq, I believe that they came to help us.

ROWE: But in May of 2003, Uday was attacked by two Saddam loyalists who shot him in the face and the arm. He woke up five days later in a Kuwait hospital fighting for his life.

DR. THOMAS DAVENPORT, NORTH SHORE/LIJ HEALTH SYSTEM: Uday had very, very extensive injuries. He had a bullet wound to the right side of his face, his nose, his entire lower orbit.

ROWE: Uday lost his right eye and is still unable to see, hear taste or smell on the right side of his face. While in Kuwait, Uday met Elissa Montani, the founder of a small Staten Island based charity called The Global Medical Relief Fund. She was able to set him up with a Long Island doctor who's agreed to perform reconstructive surgery, here at North Shore University Hospital, free of charge. Elissa's charity traditionally works with children, but she says she was so touched by Uday's story that she, her sister and a friend personally paid to bring him over for treatment.

MONTANTI: This is the right thing to do. It's just the right thing to do. This man almost gave his life for our country. And there was no other way to go but to try to help him.

ROWE: Uday says he feels extremely lucky to be in America and out of danger.

UDAY: Only this stage when I came here in America I am sleeping well. I feel good sleeping. But when I was there I am feeling every day that something not normal will happen to me.

ROWE: Uday will begin a series of complicated surgeries in about two weeks. He says after he recovers, he dreams of bringing his wife and four children over to America to stay.

UDAY: I love America. And I love all the people here because I

found them very good people and very nice people. Thank you.

ROWE: Reporting from Manhasset, Carolyn Rowe, RNN.