

PROGRAM: NEWS 55
STATION: WLNY-TV
DATE/TIME: 10/5/06 11:00 PM
SUBJECT: DONATED MEDICAL SERVICES
LENGTH: 1:30

ANCHOR: Two local surgeons have been volunteering their services for fifteen years. This month, they are performing surgery for an Iraqi man who took a bullet for freedom.

NICOLE SELLARS, REPORTER: It's a story of courage and hope. An Iraqi man, who made his living as a mechanic, chose to perform as an English-speaking translator for the United States Army in Baghdad. One day back in 2003, he was shot in the face by insurgents and left disfigured.

MAJOR KATHRYN VANAUKEN, US ARMY RESERVE: His injuries were so severe that he needed better and more permanent care than you can get in a desert hospital tent.

SELLARS: Uday is now scheduled to receive a series of reconstructive surgeries right here at North Shore/LIJ in Manhasset.

MICHAEL DOWLING, NORTH SHORE/LIJ HEALTH SYSTEM: When you hear the story, there is no way you can say no. So we said yes, and we're very privileged to do it, but the people that really deserve credit are the two physicians.

SELLARS: The two physicians voluntarily performing Uday's surgeries are Doctors Thomas Davenport and Kaveh Alizadeh.

DR. KAVEH ALIZADEH, NORTH SHORE/LIJ HEALTH SYSTEM: We put this tissue expander, which is really a balloon, to open up the skin. Then we can put that hardware, which is the implant, underneath the skin to be able to recreate it as close as possible.

SELLARS: Uday says he is not only grateful to the North Shore/LIJ Health System, but he says he is also thankful to be here in the land of opportunity where he says he will, hopefully, be able to call home someday.

UDAY, IRAQI CITIZEN: I love America, and I love all the people here. Thank you.

SELLARS: In Manhasset, Nicole Sellars, News 55.

—