

THE SPIRIT OF Giving



“Changing someone’s outlook on life and improving their self-confidence by supporting their decision to have elective surgery; well that’s pretty amazing,” says Dr. Paul P. Daraei, MD. “Helping that happen every day - that’s my passion.” The Atlantian sat down with Atlanta’s go-to nose and hair guy to hear about his most recent pro bono case with Hope (the patient) and to find out more about his spirit of giving. With 26,000 hours of ENT residency and an estimated 5,000 hours of American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery fellowship under his belt, it’s no wonder that he joined Atlanta’s number one face and nose practice, Premier Image Cosmetic and Laser Surgery!

THE ATLANTIAN: What was the appeal in joining Premier Image Cosmetic and Laser Surgery earlier this year? Was pro bono work a driving factor?

DR. DARAEI: My decision to join Atlanta’s number one face and nose practice was based on Dr. Louis DeJoseph, his team of experts, and their level of skill and compassion. We are fortunate to be able to select a case or two a year to give back to our community. Hope’s case was one of those and we were very fortunate to be able to work with her.

THE ATLANTIAN: Was the process of approving a patient for pro bono work collaborative? How so?



DR. DARAEI: That’s a good question for our administrator, Scott Cooper as he fields all interest. Trust me, we wish we had the opportunity to help everyone, but when we decide on a case, it must be special and check all the boxes. Our owner Louis DeJoseph, MD and our team look at a number of factors based on need and quality of life. Once we decide, we solicit the expertise of our OR and anesthesia partners. A huge ‘thank you’ is owed to Northside Hospital and Anesthesiologist Michael S Weinstein, M.D. for offering their time and resources. As for the surgical plan, Dr. Louis DeJoseph, Atlanta’s face guy, and I consulted with Hope (patient) and worked extensively on the plan, so yes, it is a highly collaborative plan.

THE ATLANTIAN: For this particular case, what was the patient’s goal in getting the surgery?

DR. DARAEI: Hope had both cosmetic and reconstructive goals. She wanted to improve the shape of her nose as well as its basic function. The patient’s middle third of her nose was completely collapsed and the tip of her nose lacked any support, therefore making it look flat.

THE ATLANTIAN: How long of a process was it from initial contact to post-surgery follow-up? Was the timeline impacted by COVID-19?



DR. DARAEI: We committed to the surgery right before “the lockdown” in March. After receiving the green light from the CDC and state and local governments to perform elective surgeries, we did Hope’s reconstructive rhinoplasty in September 2020.

THE ATLANTAN: How would you classify Hope’s surgery in terms of what she had done for her outcome goals?

DR. DARAEI: The surgery included both functional and our trademarked QT Rhinoplasty™ protocol. We performed extensive grafting to rebuild and stabilize the nose. Using the combination of the two, we believe we hit a homerun.

“My ultimate goal for every patient is to make sure that I can help achieve an aesthetic which matches their personality and the way they see themselves. Hope had been through a lot, and restoring her nose in a natural manner, while improving her ability to breathe, was paramount. We wanted to give back to an exemplary member of our Atlanta community – and Hope is a vibrant example of just that! So with the help of Louis DeJoseph, MD, Northside Hospital, our colleagues and our staff, we were able to accomplish this.”

THE ATLANTAN: Is there anything that’s different in recovery for a reconstructive QT Rhinoplasty™?

DR. DARAEI: Typically, revision rhinoplasty involves more swelling and bruising than a “first” or primary rhinoplasty. In the case of Hope, we used our trademarked QT Rhinoplasty™ technique, cutting recovery time by 20-30%, which is important to a busy mother.

Hope was gracious enough to share a few reflections on her experience with Dr. Daraei, Dr. DeJoseph and the Premier Image Cosmetic and Laser Surgery staff.

THE ATLANTAN: How did you feel when you found out you would get the surgery done?

HOPE: I was absolutely elated! This surgery had been a dream for many years but it felt unattainable due to the cost associated with such a complex revision. I am the sole parent to my daughter. The cost of this surgery was far beyond my means. Without the life changing generosity of Premier Image, this surgery would not have been a reality.

THE ATLANTAN: Now that you are seeing the results, how has it changed your life now and your outlook for the future?

HOPE: Words do not exist to properly convey how grateful I am for the hearts, hands and skills of Dr. Daraei and Dr. DeJoseph. They have changed the trajectory of my life. Prior to the surgery, my self-confidence was incredibly low and looking at my nose in the mirror was tough. My breathing was severely compromised. I avoided photos and meeting new people gave me great anxiety. Were they looking at my nose? Today, I am proud and excited about my reflection in the mirror! Not to mention, I can BREATHE. This surgery was a gift of a lifetime and I am truly humbled at this second chance at a beautiful nose.



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