

Dear Colleagues:

Operation Walk USA (OWUSA), a program each December - and now through January - where orthopaedic surgeons around the country provide free joint replacements for patients who can't afford them, has already been restoring mobility for patients from coast to coast and giving them a renewed quality of life through extraordinary humanitarian efforts.

An estimated 24 patients in total will receive free joint replacements from 20 orthopaedic surgeons at 18 hospitals around the country. To date, the program has provided free joint replacements for 802 patients and surgeries valued at more than \$21.6 million.

We already have remarkable success stories to share:

"All went well," said Michael Leftwich, 61, of Nashville, Tennessee and a former golf course superintendent. "It's hands down the best times ten! I I'm so appreciative of Operation Walk USA, my hospital, Ascension St. Thomas and my outstanding orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. William Kurtz. I'm walking, stretching, taking it easy and getting better every day."

"This is the best gift I could ever receive" said [Rodna Smiton](#), 54, of Clearwater, Florida who had suffered from an orthopaedic injury experienced in her youth and had surgery last month at AdventHealth Carrollwood (Fla.). "I have dealt with pain for so many years and my leg has always been a compass for what I could or couldn't do. I now look forward to regaining my mobility and I can't wait to start doing again all the things I enjoy." B-roll from Rodna and other AdventHealth surgeries is [here](#).

OWUSA President Adolph V. Lombardi, Jr., MD, along with individual patients and their orthopaedic surgeons are available for interview.

All program details are below and we hope to bring this program to life for your audience to celebrate the season and most importantly to restore health.

I can be reached at 917-301-1350 or robin@robwax.com.

With warm regards,

Robin Waxenberg



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**Restoring Mobility, Giving Hope:
Operation Walk USA Celebrates 11 Years of Improving
Patient Quality of Life**

**Orthopaedic surgeons have provided free joint replacements for
802 patients who can't afford them and surgeries valued at more than \$21.6 million**

Schaumburg, Ill. – Many of us are stepping into the new year with resolutions in place and plans to make this year filled with success of all kinds.

But for many Americans who suffer from debilitating hip or knee pain, stepping into 2022 may prove impossible. Participating in daily activities – whether lifting a child, taking a walk, enjoying exercise or navigating work responsibilities where mobility is involved – may be mentally and physically overwhelming for those suffering from end-stage arthritis. And even if hip or knee surgery is an option, many patients may not have access to it and feel helpless and without options.

That's where Operation Walk USA provides a solution and helps to return an uninsured patient to mobility and the quality of life he or she once enjoyed. Starting in December and through January, an estimated 24 patients will receive free joint replacements from 20 orthopaedic surgeons at 18 hospitals around the country.

**REVIEW CASE HISTORIES, SELECT SUCCESS STORIES AND BROLL [HERE](#).
ALL PATIENTS AND ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW.**

Now in its eleventh year, Operation Walk USA kicks off each December as a humanitarian effort and this year continues into January due to the high demand of surgeries. The program provides every element of treatment — surgery, hospitalization, and pre-and post-operative care — at no cost to patients who may not qualify for government health coverage, have insurance or be able to afford surgery on their own.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control](#), nearly 23 percent of adults – or more than 54 million people suffer from arthritis. By 2040 that is expected to climb to 26 percent or 78 million of us. Arthritic disease is the most common cause of disability in the U.S., with the debilitating end stages of hip or knee degenerative disease making any movement or activity exceedingly difficult and near impossible.

“We are so glad to offer the services of Operation Walk USA again this year and especially since the program was on hiatus last year due to the pandemic. Our orthopaedic community is so eager to help restore patient mobility and the quality of life they once enjoyed,” says New Albany, Ohio orthopaedic surgeon Adolph V. Lombardi, Jr., MD, president and co-founder of Operation Walk USA. “We are inspired by the remarkable success stories of our patients and recognize the tremendous efforts of all those who volunteer to make this program so impactful.”

Dr. Lombardi also noted that this year’s national outreach is conducted in memory of Lawrence D. Dorr, MD (1941-2020), founder of Operation Walk (International) and co-founder of Operation Walk USA, to honor his lifelong commitment to excellence in patient care, philanthropy, and giving back.

Operation Walk USA began in 2010 following the tremendous success of Operation Walk, an international volunteer medical service organization that provides treatment for patients with arthritis and joint conditions in developing countries. To date, 802 patients received help through Operation Walk USA, held in the month of December, annually since 2010. Since its inception, Operation Walk USA has provided knee and hip replacement surgeries valued at more than \$21.6 million.

Device manufacturers DePuy Synthes, DJO, Medacta, Smith & Nephew, Stryker, Total Joint Orthopedics, and Zimmer Biomet are donating the hip and knee implants for the 2021 Operation Walk USA.

Operation Walk USA facts:

- This year’s Operation Walk USA is being held at 18 hospitals throughout the country from December and into early 2022.
- An estimated 20 orthopaedic surgeons will provide hip and joint replacements, free of charge, to 24 patients nationwide.
- Operation Walk USA is based on the successful experiences of Operation Walk, which has provided hip and knee replacements to thousands of patients throughout the world since 1996.
- This is the eleventh year for Operation Walk USA, which has provided free total joint replacement to 802 patients to date and surgeries valued at more than \$21.6 million.
- To find a list of participating orthopaedic surgeons and cities, visit www.operationwalkusa.org or follow Operation Walk USA 2021 on [Facebook](#).

[Operation Walk 2021](#)

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