

OP WALK TALK

-A PUBLICATION FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF OPERATION WALK DENVER

SUMMER 2007

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Operation Walk Denver Invites You to the Second Annual Walk of Dreams Gala

So many individuals around the world dream of someday walking without pain. This dream is beyond their reach due to the costs of medical care and the lack of skilled orthopedic surgeons.

On Saturday, September 29, 2007, the Walk of Dreams Gala will be held at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Denver. A wonderful dinner, live auction, a fabulous Fashion Show provided by Saks 5th Avenue will fill the evening! There will even be an opportunity to bid on trip to Panama with the Operation Walk's team. Live music and dancing will complete the night.

Your presence at our Gala will help transport our team of physicians, nurses, physical therapists and surgical technologists as

well as helping to provide all the equipment, supplies, and medication needed to complete fifty to sixty joint replacement surgeries during our week long missions. We simply can't do it without your support!

We have two missions planned for 2008. With trips to the Dominican Republic and to Panama in the initial stages, this gala is a vital part of our fundraising efforts.

Table sponsorships are available for corporate and individual friends of Operation Walk Denver. Would you be willing to fill a table to help make 2008 a huge success? If you are interested in becoming one of the event sponsors, please call Sandy Daniel at the Foundation, 303-715-7605.

Here is another great way to become involved

~ how about fun or unique live auction items? Donations of airfare, a vacation getaway, or unique products from your company will help make our "live" auction a wonderful success.



Make plans now to join us for an enchanting evening. Do we have your current address? Send an email to sandydaniel@centura.org or call 303.715.7605 with your address to insure your personal invitation.

Join Dr. Douglas Dennis, Dr. Todd Miner, Dr. Brian Haas and Dr. Raymond Kim, plus special guests, guest models and your friends for the Walk of Dreams Gala.



Save the Date!

“Hands On”

Though they don't consider themselves philanthropists, board members John and Angie Moss find it rewarding to participate “hands on” when they give help to others. For these two there is nothing better than observing students, international patients and even animals reap the benefits of their shared blessings and successes.

Several years ago, his land conservation in Mesa County earned John Moss the Colorado

Division of Wildlife's 'Landowner of the Year' for applied conservation practices on his Ladder Canyon Ranch. John and Angie continue their stewardship of the land with a 70 acre personal conservation project located on the Colorado River, in Grand Junction, where they make their home. This project benefits deer, coyotes, upland game, waterfowl, songbirds, eagles and the occasional bobcat.

Whether supporting their alma mater Mesa State College through scholarships, supported projects, and most recently providing vision, energy and economic support in creating the 'Moss Performing Arts Center' the Moss' love to see others around them benefit from their blessings.

“Dr. Dennis enthusiasm and determination encouraged this “grateful patient” to become involved by donating time, energy and funding.

Their annual Taco Bell Western Slope Open has been the most widely attended tennis tournament in the state of Colorado. For 20 years, Moss Inc. has supported this weeklong event held in Grand Junction the last week of July. Whether one is 5 or 85, novice, expert, or even wheelchair-bound, there is a place for you in this tournament.

After John's hip replacement six years ago, the Mosses became involved in Operation Walk Denver. At that time, there was not an organized board of directors, no scheduled first mission, and very little money for a mission. However, Dr. Dennis' enthusiasm and determination encouraged this 'grateful patient' to become involved by donating time, energy and funding.

Of course, John and Angie again took the “hands on” approach by joining the board of OpWalk Denver, and eagerly joined the team

on their first mission to Panama. Not one to stand on the sidelines, John and Angie donned surgical masks and spent several days in the OR with Dr. Dennis.

John feels like a new person since his total hip replacement, and he and Angie are proud to be able to pass on to others this pleasure of walking pain free.

A Note from the Director



Dear friends of Operation Walk Denver,

With our recent mission to Panama successfully completed, our focus has shifted to other important issues including our next medical mission and our upcoming Walk of Dreams Gala. One of the long term goals of Operation Walk, in addition to helping disabled patients walk again, is to stimulate interest and train other healthcare providers to form additional chapters of Operation Walk. On our last trip to Panama, I invited Thomas Thornhill, M.D. to serve as one of the surgeons on our team. He is one of the chairmen of the department of Orthopedic Surgery at Harvard University and a close friend of mine. As commonly occurs after participating on

a mission, Dr. Thornhill was stimulated to begin development of his own team (Operation Walk Boston). To accomplish this, a lot of training from an experienced Operation Walk team is required and we are thrilled to fill that role. Some of my team members have already visited Boston and we are planning a mission to the Dominican Republic in February of 2008 in which Operation Walk Denver team members will work side by side with their colleagues from Boston to help them gain the experience they need to perform medical missions on their own.

Planning for our upcoming gala on Saturday, September 29th at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Denver is well under way. Due to the success of last year's gala, we will again have a top notch dinner, live entertainment, a fashion show sponsored by Saks Fifth Avenue plus many exciting live auction items.

This is a great event to learn more about Operation Walk Denver and enjoy a fun evening. I encourage all of you to add this to your calendar and attend.

In closing, I want to again emphasize how many people are working daily “behind the scenes” to assure the success of Operation Walk Denver. I owe many thanks to all of them.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Dennis, MD
Executive Director, Operation Walk Denver

Unsung Heroes

By Peggy Kettler

Can you imagine hand washing dishes for 1500 people at a Thanksgiving dinner?

That is equivalent to the number of instruments that our sterile processing team must scrub, rinse and sterilize in order to successfully complete 60 total joint replacements on an Operation Walk Denver Mission. Each surgery requires eight trays of approximately 100 individual pieces. These trays weigh 18-20 lbs each.



What causes these men to travel to third world countries with Operation Walk Denver over and over again? Peary Schroeder, team leader shared his thoughts:

“It is an honor and a privilege to be part of Operation Walk Denver. Participating in Operation Walk is a way that I can give something back. Medical care is easily accessible in the U.S., but not in Panama

It is rewarding to be a part of a team that helps people who have tolerated years of pain, poor mobility and poverty simply because they cannot afford the

There are limited medical resources available at the hospitals in the countries we visit. So to save cargo and shipping expenses we travel with only enough instruments to run four operating rooms at one time.

They have been deemed the “Unsung Heroes” by Dr. Dennis and his OR team.

Following each surgery, these trays are carried to the Sterile Processing Department, usually quite a distance from the operating rooms, and returned as quickly as possible to set up for the next operation. The teamwork is incredible between Peary Schroeder, Tom Curran and Bryan Rhoades. They are often the first to arrive at the hospital in the morning to assure all the equipment is ready and most likely the last ones to leave at the end of the day after cleaning and sterilizing all the instruments from the last cases of the day. They have been deemed the “Unsung Heroes” by Dr. Douglas Dennis.

treatment to make them better. Operation Walk is the only way they can get a joint replacement that will dramatically improve their quality of life”.

Hats off to Peary, Bryan and Tom for their great attitudes, hard work, and camaraderie. This team of three plus Steve Haas and the many other volunteers who jump in

to lend a hand is what makes Operation Walk Denver a success. Thanks is also extended to the local Panamanian staff; Cecelia, Ana and others who help make it possible for the OpWalk surgeons to perform the sixty to seventy joint replacements in a mere five days!

