

DORR RESEARCH FOUNDATION

THE JOINT JOURNAL



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ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Remember: Our newsletter is now
electronic only. If you wish to
receive the next issues via email,
please send your email address to
Alejandra Castillo at
alejandra@operationwalk.org

The newsletter can also be viewed
on our webpage:
www.operationwalk.org

WINNIE CROWLEY

She rolls through the parking lot in a big gold sedan. The smiling redhead behind the wheel looks much younger than 88 years old. On this bright Saturday morning in January 2019, she is delivering yet another collection of crutches, canes and wheelchairs to Operation Walk's office in Torrance, CA. Winifred (Winnie) Crowley has been a tireless collector of walking devices to help Operation Walk

patients since having her own hips replaced by Dr. Dorr fourteen years ago, and her knees replaced by Dr. Gilbert over a year ago. An avid golfer and active senior, she knows the limits that joint arthritis can put on life, and the liberation that joint replacement surgery affords.



"Winnie knew that collecting rehab equipment was something she could do to help others."

Winnie became interested in Operation Walk when she learned, during an office visit, about the surgery that Dr. Gilbert and Dr. Lawrence Dorr perform internationally and in the USA for free. Operation Walk provides not only the surgery, but all the things needed to perform it and rehabilitate the patients. Winnie knew that collecting rehab equipment was something she could do to help others.

The equipment she has collected now lives in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Cuba, Tanzania and Vietnam, helping hundreds of people that suffer from hip and knee arthritis that have been operated by the Operation Walk team.

Winnie Crowley has been an inspiration to us all. She shows that no matter your age, with kindness and determination, you can find a way to help. Thank you Winnie, for your years of dedication to collecting these much needed items, and taking the time to personally deliver them to our office.

CALLING ALL ANGELS

The Operation Walk Annual Angels Luncheon will be held May 1, 2019. We are calling for new Angels to join us and become part of a special group of women, who through their philanthropy, help to provide the gift of mobility to individuals in desperate need of life transforming surgeries, primarily in developing countries, but here in the USA as well. These Angels provide financial support for our semi-annual medical missions which are staffed by volunteer doctors, nurses, technicians and physical therapists. These contributions provide critical funding for supplies

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(including implants and recovery equipment), cargo shipping costs and transportation associated with each mission. Per patient, the total cost of our care averages around \$4,000 dollars. This amount covers patient labs, x-rays, medications, food, laundry and operating room time. Donations from our Angels program help to offset these costs.



Pictured: Carolyn Miller, Carolyn Wagner, Barbara Casey, Shelley Lowe, Doris Sarkisian, Jeri Ward, Marilyn Dorr, Denise Botsford, Kathy Goodwin, Jinny Dalbeck, Nina Winterbottom, Susi Gertmenian, Jill Baffert and Debbie Lanni.

What makes this program unique is the connection it provides between donor and patient. Each Angel receives real-time information during our missions that follows patients through their entire journey from screening to surgery to recovery. Our Angels receive exclusive updates and photos and get to know the patients benefiting from Operation Walk.

When you become an Angel, you become part of someone's road to recovery. You will also have the opportunity each Spring to attend our annual luncheon which provides a chance to connect with other Angels,

hear updates about upcoming missions, witness what your support has helped accomplish over the past year and hear from volunteers and patients who have been touched by your support.

Annual membership in the Angels is \$1,000. One hundred percent of the Angel's tax-deductible donations are allocated to medical missions and patient care. Join us May 1 to support our upcoming missions for 2020 and to help make a difference in the life of someone who is suffering the pain and indignity of not being able to live independently. Each year, at the Angels luncheon, existing Angels are encouraged to bring a friend, family member or colleague to join our group. Two years ago, we started the program with 32 Angels. Last year we grew to 54 Angels. Please help us grow! To attend the luncheon on May 1, 2019, please contact Jeri Ward RN at jeri@operationwalk.org or Alejandra Castillo at alejandra@operationwalk.org or call 442-558-8076

OPERATION WALK TEAMS

Did you know that Operation Walk has grown to 18 teams? A new team will be forming in November 2019 from Albany, NY. As the founder of Operation Walk, Dr. Lawrence Dorr helps new teams to develop by providing guidance from the experienced Los Angeles team.

First each new team undergoes a 5-6 hour introductory lecture that covers everything from fund-raising, starting a non-profit 501(c)(3), using the Operation Walk name and logo, forming a qualified team, procuring supplies and implants, to social media. Surgeons starting a new team are taken on an

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This map shows all the countries OpWalk teams have operated in.



On Sunday January, 2019, Verdugo Hills Hospital unveiled the original artwork for the book "The Crooked Man, His Doctor and his Angel," written by Dr. Lawrence Dorr and illustrated by Gayle Garner Roski.

Over 150 people attended the Healing Arts Program show. The artwork will be on permanent display at the hospital. Here, Gayle Garner Roski and Dr. Paul Gilbert show a photo of the Crooked Man 6 months after his very successful surgery!



Mary Ellen Sieben, RN and Jeri Ward, RN, preparing cargo for Cuba. Read more on the following page!

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THE COMEDY AND ANGST OF PACKING

Getting ready for an Operation Walk mission involves a lot of behind the scenes work. First, about 100 surgical trays must be transported from the warehouse to the



sterilizers to be washed, wrapped and sterilized. Each tray weighs between 10-50 pounds. Once sterile, they are wrapped in two additional layers of heavy plastic, transported back to the warehouse, packed in sturdy plastic tubs and palletized for shipping. We also have a packing day.

for the physical therapists to pack wheelchairs, crutches, walkers and canes. Laundry is done; scrubs and towels washed and packed. A Costco run is done for paper towels, toilet paper, snacks and garbage bags.

By now, our small warehouse in Torrance is full! Eleven pallets are taking up all the space. They are stacked at the appropriate height, shrink wrapped and waiting for Transgroup (our shipper) to pick them up and make space for round #2 of supplies needing to be packed.



We are blessed that Keck Medical Center is providing the supplies that we could not get directly donated. Surgical packs, sterilization wrap, surgical gowns, and drapes will arrive. Medications such as aspirin, stool softeners, vitamins and anti-inflammatories will be received. Expiration dates will be logged, and cargo lists will be formalized. Then Transgroup will be called to pick up round #2. But we are never finished, as there will be another mission coming and we will start procuring donations for that.

Alejandra Castillo, who joined us as our Administrative Assistant in July 2018 is seeing her first transformation of the Operation Walk office...a constant movement of supplies orchestrated by Mary Ellen and Jeri.



On Friday January 31, we managed to get all eleven pallets onto the Transgroup truck before the heavens opened up in one of the worst thunder and lightning storms we have seen in a while. We knew the storm was coming later in the day and Mary Ellen moved all the pallets into the lot to expedite loading before

the rain started. When the truck driver pulled up, the sky was turning black as Sargent Mary barked out orders to the driver. The wind was whipping us from all directions and occasional fat raindrops pelted our heads, but nothing was going to keep us from moving those supplies out. With team effort, we did it! Within 30 minutes we were sweeping rain out of the warehouse doorway, and laying down new pallets to await our next round of donations! Just another day in the life of an Operation Walk nurse.