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**For Immediate Release**

**ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON DR. AMANDA MARSHALL-RODRIGUEZ AND SOUTH TEXAS SPINE & SURGICAL HOSPITAL TO PROVIDE **FREE** KNEE REPLACEMENT ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
***OPERATION WALK USA CELEBRATES 12 YEARS OF IMPROVING PATIENT QUALITY OF LIFE***

**December 6, 2022, San Antonio, TX** – The holidays are fast approaching and many of us are already planning to step into the season with celebration and time with friends and family in mind. There are gifts to be wrapped, decorations to be hung and special occasions to be safely held in the weeks ahead.

But for many Americans who suffer from debilitating hip or knee pain, stepping into the season 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 2022 provides a solution and helps to return an uninsured patient to mobility and the quality of life he or she once enjoyed. From December 5 to December 10, an estimated 40 patients will receive free joint replacements from 22 orthopaedic surgeons at 20 hospitals around the country.

This year the San Antonio Operation Walk added a twist by including HEB into our efforts. HEB donated a \$250 gift card to this year’s recipient. This donation is intended to help the patient with additional financial relief. Continuing to give the gift of giving.

“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.”

“Operation Walk USA is an annual tradition for us and a way for orthopaedic surgeons, their staff, and hospitals to give back to those patients who need it most,” stated Dr. Amanda Marshall-Rodriguez. “The best gift we can give is a new lease on life by providing the gift of mobility. This is a true collaborative effort, and we are indebted to all those who volunteer their services.”

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, 830 patients have 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 \$22.4 million.

**Device manufacturers DePuy Synthes, DJO, Medacta, Smith & Nephew, Stryker, Total Joint Orthopedics, and Zimmer Biomet are donating hip and knee implants for the 2022 Operation Walk USA.**

Operation Walk USA 2022 facts:

- Operation Walk USA 2022 is planned to be held at 21 hospitals throughout the country throughout December and into early 2023.
- An estimated 20 plus orthopaedic surgeons will provide hip and joint replacements, free of charge, to 40 patients nationwide.
- Operation Walk USA 2022 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.
- To find a list of participating orthopaedic surgeons and cities, visit [www.operationwalkusa.org](http://www.operationwalkusa.org) or follow Operation Walk USA 2022 on [Facebook](#).

***About South Texas Spine & Surgical Hospital***

Surgery Partners has partnered with local physicians to establish South Texas Spine & Surgical Hospital (STSSH). The hospital was established in September 2001, and in 2022 celebrated its 20th Anniversary, continuing a tradition of excellence and a legacy of caring. In this partnership, the physicians assist in management of the hospital, resulting in a hospital solely run for the benefit of the patient. This innovative approach creates an integrated and holistic approach to healthcare. As a nationally recognized center for spine and joint care excellence, STSSH takes pride in providing the highest quality clinical care in a one-on-one, warm and caring environment. STSSH is a BlueCross BlueShield of Texas Blue Distinction® Center+ in spine surgery and Optum® Center of Excellence in spine and orthopedic surgery. STSSH also received a certificate of distinction for total hip and total knee by The Joint Commission. For additional information, please visit [www.SouthTexaSurgical.com](http://www.SouthTexaSurgical.com), follow us on Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn or like us on Facebook.

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