



OPERATION WALK  
**OPERATION WALK**  
**LOS ANGELES**

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER: **JULY 2021**

## HOW TO BECOME AN ANGEL



**Painting of Dr. Dorr and his team in Guatemala**

*Artist: Gayle Garner Roski*

*"Dear Angel, I do not know how I can ever thank you for helping me. I am far away, but I will never forget you. I suffered with pain in my hip for 6 years. I could barely get out of bed and could not stand for more than a few minutes. I had to stop washing clothes and cooking for my family because of the pain. I was embarrassed that my 15 year old son had to help me dress and use the bathroom.*

*I thought it was too good to be true when my doctor told me about Operation Walk, and thought I was in a dream when I was selected to have hip surgery. One of the nurses told me about the ladies in the USA who, together, were Angels that supported people like me who need help...*

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The Joint Journal is **electronic only**. If you wish to receive the next issues via email, please send your email address to Alejandra Castillo at: [alejandra@operationwalk.org](mailto:alejandra@operationwalk.org)

The newsletter can also be viewed on our website: [operationwalk.org/newsletter](http://operationwalk.org/newsletter)

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[www.operationwalk.org](http://www.operationwalk.org)

*You truly are an Angel. I can't believe that I am getting another chance to work and take care of my family. This is a gift I never expected to receive. I am sending you a small token of thanks. I hope every time you look at it you will think of me and how happy you have made me and so many others. May God bless you,"*

**- Marta**

Receiving letters of gratitude and knowing who and how you have helped others is so rewarding. In a world that can feel sad and overwhelming, there is so much good that happens in small ways.

The Operation Walk Angels are a group of women who, through philanthropy, help provide the gift of mobility to individuals in desperate need of life-transforming surgeries. Annual membership in the Angels is \$1,000 and 100% of the Angels' tax deductible donations are allocated to medical missions and patient care. When you become an Angel, you become a part of someone's road to recovery.

The annual Operation Walk Angels' Luncheon will be held on **September 8th, 2021 at Annandale Golf Club**. Board Members Jill Baffert and Dr. John Kumar will be our guest speakers this year.

All current Angels will receive an invitation to this year's luncheon. If you have not joined the Angels yet, there is still time to become an Angel for 2021! All memberships received by July 30, 2021 will qualify you for an invitation to the luncheon and to be listed on our website. To become an Operation Walk Angel, please visit our website at

**[www.operationwalk.org/become-an-angel](http://www.operationwalk.org/become-an-angel)**

or call Alejandra Castillo at 424-558-8076.

If you are a current Angel, you can RSVP to the luncheon by replying to this email or by clicking the link below.

Thank you, Angels, for your continuous support of Operation Walk Los Angeles.



# FOUNDING ANGELS

JILL BAFFERT

BARBARA CASEY

SUSI GERTMENIAN

MISSY (MELISSA) HOTCHKIN

CAROLINE NAHAS

NANCY SHEINBEIN

PAT BARKLEY

JINNY DALBECK

CINDY GILBERT

JOANNE KOZBERG

CONCHITA O'KANE

BONNIE THOMAS

DENISE BOTSFORD

ARLENE DETER

KATHY GOODWIN

DEBBIE LANNI

NANCY ROBINSON VAN TUYLE

ANDREA VAN DE KAMP

LOUISE BRYSON

MARILYN DORR

PHYLLIS HENNIGAN

SHELLY LOWE

DORIS SARKISIAN

CAROLYN WAGNER

KATHY CADARETTE

SUSAN FLANAGAN

JEAN HIDE-COHEN

LINDA MAGGARD

DIANE SAUNDERS

JERI WARD

BARBARA CARLSBERG

GAYLE GARNER ROSKI

CINDY HOGAN

CAROLYN MILLER

LINDA SEITER

NINA WINTERBOTTOM

## 2021 ANGELS

AS OF JULY 1ST, 2021

DR. MAXINE ANDERSON

JILL BAFFERT

BEA BENNETT

SONJA BUSH

CAREN CAMERON

WINIFRED CROWLEY

SALLY DOLL

MARILYN DORR

LISA FUJIMOTO-YAMAGUCHI

CINDY GILBERT

STACY KELSO

KATHERINE LINK

OLIVIA ROSE LOPEZ

DEE DEE MOFFAT BREWER

THERESA MURPHY

REON ROSKI

DIANE SAUNDERS

DR. ANEESAH SMITH

MARLA SMITH

CAMI WARD

JERI WARD

MARY MARGARET WEST

ANITA P. YAGJIAN



Angel pin design by artist Gayle Garner Roski

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# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: STACY KELSO

So much happens behind the scenes year-round at the Operation Walk office and warehouse. Even when we are not traveling to help patients in need of joint replacement surgery, our months are busy with planning, organization, fundraising, and logistics. Thankfully, our dedicated volunteers are always there to lend a helping hand! This month we're happy to introduce you to Stacy Kelso, who has taken on a more involved volunteer role with us this year.



*Stacy with hospital staff in Havana, Cuba 2019*

Stacy Kelso is a native Southern Californian (3rd generation). She grew up in Whittier and graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics. She is retired from a career of over 20 years in industrial distribution and supply chain. Stacy's experience in industrial distribution included field sales, government contracts, store operations, and ultimately inventory management. To advance her career, Stacy attended California State University, Long Beach in the Master of Arts in Global Logistics program. She earned her MAGL degree in May of 2012 and was honored as the Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year in Global Logistics.



*Stacy with hospital staff in Havana, Cuba 2019*

Stacy became familiar with Operation Walk because her spouse Theresa Murphy was a nurse at Keck Medical Center (then known as USC University Hospital) and took care of Dr. Dorr's patients post-operation. Stacy began her support of Operation Walk by attending the annual galas. Ever since, Stacy has maintained her commitment to the mission of Operation Walk, and even became an Operation Walk Angel in 2018.

Now, Stacy is excited to apply her business experience and skills to the benefit of Operation Walk Los Angeles as a Warehouse Manager. Stacy will be the team going on the Guatemala mission this August. She is eager to learn about the process steps necessary to ensure that our clinical team members get the supplies they need without delay, providing an optimal experience for our patients and their surgical outcomes.

As COVID-19 restrictions and precautions begin to ease, Stacy is anxious to get back to her hobbies of travel, attending sporting events (Dodgers, Kings, Lakers, Rams & Trojans) and practicing Krav Maga (a mixed martial art). Stacy currently is ranked as an orange belt in Krav Maga and plans to earn her green belt in the not-too-distant future.

# LOOKING AHEAD TO GUATEMALA

## BY PAULINA ANDUJO

I have been an orthopaedic nurse for 12 years. I went to school at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas and worked in Dallas for several years before moving to Los Angeles. I learned about Operation Walk when Jeri Ward, R.N. was the keynote speaker at the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses. At that moment, I immediately knew I wanted to get involved with Operation Walk.

Volunteering with Operation Walk reminds me of why I became a nurse: to help others in a positive and meaningful way. My favorite part of the trips is the teamwork. The OpWalk team and the local staff quickly become a dynamic team with the patient's best interest at the forefront. To me, Operation Walk is the model for true patient-centered care.

One of my favorite memories is from one of our trips to Cuba. The nurses wear nurses' caps and the traditional all-white uniform, a tradition we no longer keep here in the US. I really wanted a nurses' cap, and one of the nurses really wanted a set of scrubs, so we traded a cap for a set of scrubs. It was such a touching moment for me.

I'm really looking forward to going back to Guatemala in August. Apart from being a beautiful country, I'm looking forward to hopefully seeing some of the Guatemalan nurses I worked with on my first trip. But most of all, I'm excited to see the smiles on the patients' faces.



*Paulina Andujo R.N. providing patient care in Cuba, 2019*



*Paulina Andujo R.N., Julie Anderson R.N., and the Cuban nursing staff wearing nurses' caps, 2019*



*Paulina and the OpWalk Physical Therapists with a young Cuban patient, 2019*



*Paulina Andujo R.N. reading patient charts in Antigua, Guatemala, 2017*



# OTHER UPDATES

## DR. DORR'S CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The Celebration of Life for Dr. Lawrence Dorr will be held on Saturday, November 6th, 2021 at Annandale Golf Club in Pasadena. This will be a memorial service where we can share stories and pay tribute to Dr. Dorr. We will ask for a prompt RSVP when the invitation is sent out. Thank you for your support of Dr. Dorr's legacy.



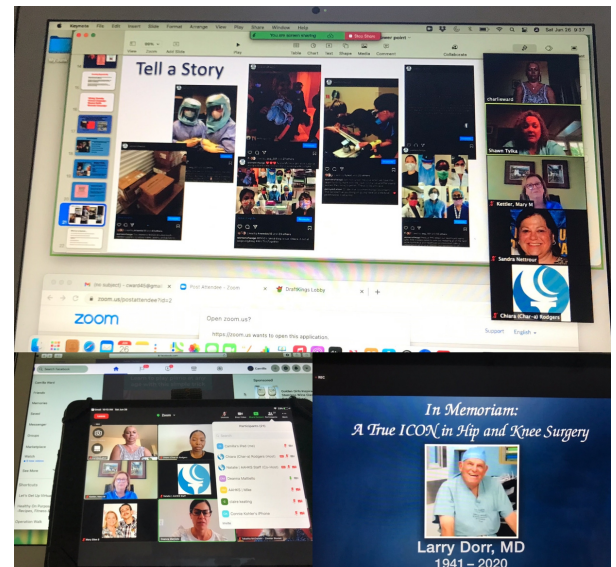
## OPERATION WALK USA

Operation Walk USA will be taking place from **November 29 to December 4, 2021**. If **you or someone you know is in need of a total hip or knee replacement** and does not have health insurance please visit: [www.operationwalkusa.org/patients/](http://www.operationwalkusa.org/patients/) to submit a patient application as soon as possible.

If you are a **surgeon or hospital administrator** interested in providing free total hip and knee replacement surgeries for Operation Walk USA, please visit: [www.operationwalkusa.org/physiciansignup/](http://www.operationwalkusa.org/physiciansignup/)



*Dr. Dorr's Team with Operation Walk USA patients in 2018*



*Virtual Operation Walk Team Leaders Meeting - June 26, 2021*

## 2021 TEAM LEADERS MEETING

Last year we were not able to hold our annual Team Leaders meeting due to circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, AAHKS was able to virtually host the Team Leaders meeting on Saturday, June 26th. Team Leaders were updated about the AAHKS Central Board, learned current recommendations for team travel and COVID-19 safety from Operation Walk Syracuse's Clinical Director Kimberley Murray, received a workshop on Fundraising & Social Media During a Pandemic from our very own Social Media Coordinator Cami Ward and Operation Walk WOGO's Shawn Tylka, and the meeting culminated with a beautiful video tribute to our founder Dr. Lawrence Dorr. Operation Walk team leaders all over the country (and abroad) are eager to get back to operating the patients who have been awaiting life-changing surgery.