



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

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER: **OCTOBER 2021**

**TEAMWORK AND DETERMINATION:  
 A SUCCESSFUL MISSION TO GUATEMALA**



The patient screening area was the quietest ever in Antigua, Guatemala. In an area that is usually bustling with family and friends of hopeful patients, now hopeful patients sat alone, worried that they had no one to share their fate with. Would they be eligible for surgery? The pandemic cast its shadow on all that were gathered. Now it wasn't just a matter of their need of a knee replacement, but they had to pass COVID screening to even be considered for surgery. They would have to pass again 24 hours before their operation. There was no question about wearing a mask...

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*Patients wait to be screened by Operation Walk in Guatemala, August 2021*

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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Each one of them was masked, 6 feet apart, and diligently washing and sanitizing their hands. The friendly smiles of the Operation Walk team were hidden behind masks, but our eyes were shining with kindness and hope that each patient would be selected.

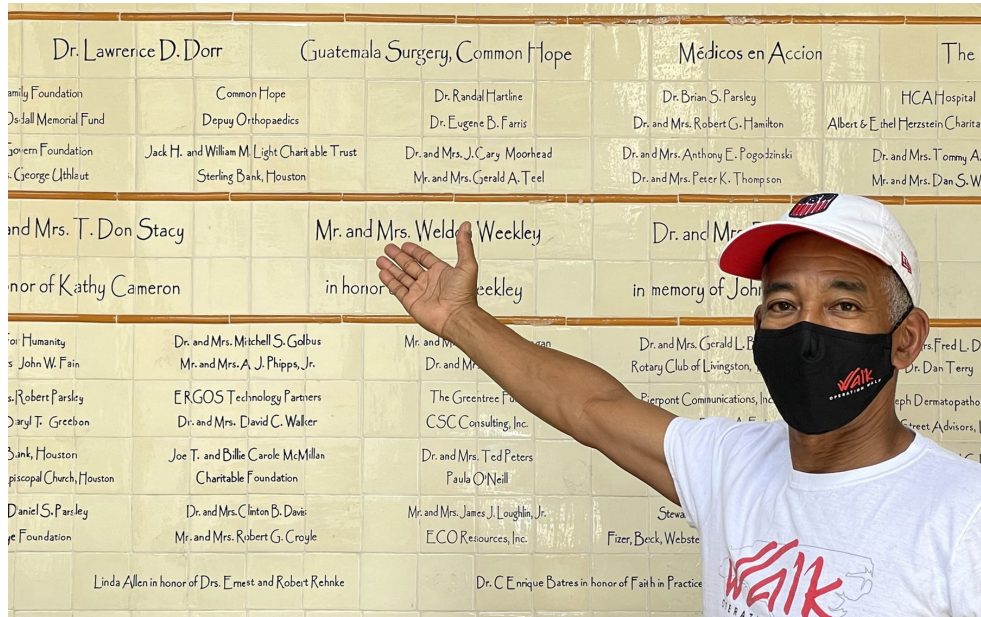
This mission presented additional challenges for our team. Team members who were not vaccinated were dropped from the mission. Not only to protect the patients, but to protect other team members as well. We scrambled to get COVID tested within 72 hours of departure, then got organized to test again before returning to the U.S., concerned about the safety of our families and colleagues.

With a minimal team of 40 people, we safely operated 34 total knee replacements over a 3 day period. We had restrictions on how many patients could be on the post-op ward at once. The patients knew this and were up walking within hours of surgery, ready to go home the next day in order to open a bed for another post-op patient. The cooperation and teamwork was amazing. Our team was incredibly brave, heading out to do their work during the pandemic, on patients who had waited 2 additional years to get their operation. These efforts showed us that Operation Walk is sorely needed and that our team members are willing to work around the "new normal." Viruses are not going away, nor are they going to stop us from doing the charitable work that we do. We have found a safe way to provide care and to improve the quality of life for others.

The entire time we were working, it was like Dr. Larry Dorr was there with us. He was always so brave and positive. Many team members said they expected him to walk around the corner at any time! That was not to be, but we carried on his legacy and will continue his work.



*Vivienne Uytana, PT guides a patient in knee exercises*



*Dr. William Long points to Dr. Lawrence Dorr's name on the wall of contributors at Hospital Obras del Santo Hermano Pedro in Guatemala*

Please stay tuned for more highlights, patient, and team member stories from Guatemala in newsletters and social media updates to come. You can follow our social media using the links below.



# 2021 ANGELS' LUNCHEON



*Guests at the 2021 Angels' Luncheon*

On September 8th, 2021 we held our first in-person gathering since the Covid-19 pandemic started. It was a beautiful outdoor luncheon hosted by Board Members Dr. Terre Osterkamp and Marilyn Dorr at Annandale Golf Club. We welcomed many new faces! Our generous group of Angels brought guests, who we hoped would be inspired by our mission.

Dr. John Kumar, Co-lead Surgeon of Operation Walk Los Angeles, presented a slideshow on our Guatemala medical mission and reminded donors of the direct

impact donations have in the lives of the patients we operate. Attendees also heard a moving speech by Board Member Jill Baffert, in which she highlighted the life-changing experience of undergoing a joint replacement surgery and regaining mobility. It was an afternoon full of hope for the future of Operation Walk, and gratitude for being able to gather safely again.



*Jill Baffert speaking at the Angels' Luncheon*



*Dr. John Kumar presents at the Angels' Luncheon*

A special thank you to the 22 new Angels who joined or renewed their Angel membership for 2021! Thanks to our 59 Angels, we raised \$149,000 for our next mission. It is not too late to become an Angel. You can still make your \$1,000 tax-deductible Angel donation by clicking the link below or by calling (424) 558-8076.



# RUNNING FOR OPERATION WALK

Congratulations to Operation Walk supporter Dr. John Dougall, who came in place #287 out of 900 at the **Big Cottonwood Canyon Marathon** on September 11th, 2021. Dr. Dougall ran with Dr. Dorr in mind, and raised over \$3,000 for Operation Walk via his Go Fund Me campaign. He writes:

*"As a tribute to Dr. Dorr (who sadly passed in late 2020), and to hundreds of amazing professionals who generously provide their time and expertise free of charge, I'm going to run the Big Cottonwood Canyon Marathon on 9/11 and invite donations to Operation Walk. I never ran regularly before the Covid-19 pandemic and those 26.2 miles are going to hurt, but not as much as millions of people with joint disease hurt every day. Covid has curtailed the efforts of Operation Walk to help those people and when travel resumes, there will be more in need than ever.*

***If I can raise \$2,620 by Running for Operation Walk, all I need to do is persuade 10 people to do the same next year—and then for each of them to persuade another 10!***

*It's been my privilege and pleasure to work with founders and participants from many of the amazing Operation Walk teams, including Dr. Dorr."*



*John Dougall runs 26.2 miles for Operation Walk*



*John Dougall running in the Big Cottonwood Canyon Marathon*



# GUATEMALA STORIES

## FROM THE RACETRACK TO CENTRAL: HOW YOUR DONATIONS HELP OUR TEAM

One of the biggest hits during the Guatemala mission were the goggles that Angel Jill Baffert donated to us. These goggles are used to prevent mud and debris from getting into the eyes of jockeys while running a horse race. On Operation Walk, they were used by the Central team who wash and process used surgical instruments. The elastic strap that holds the goggles in place was sturdy and kept the goggles from slipping. The Central crew thought they were excellent. They did not fog up, slip, or allow water or debris to splash into their eyes. Thanks so much Jill, for helping keep our team safe!



*Martha Linehan, PA, Guatemalan Central Staff, and Dr. David Bindelglass wearing the goggles donated by Jill Baffert*

## REMEMBER ROGELIO?

Remember Rogelio? He is the Crooked Man from Dr. Dorr's book "The Crooked Man, his Doctor and his Angel." Rogelio took an 11 hour bus ride from his home in the mountains of Guatemala to come and visit the team that changed his life for the better. We were able to present him with the book that was written by Dr. Dorr and drawn by artist Gayle Garner Roski, and then had to tell him the sad news of their passing last year.

After a few tears were shed, Rogelio met Basilio, another man with 2 crooked knees much like his old ones. He spent some time talking to Basilio, telling him of his experience and how frightened he was. He told the man "Just do what they tell you, and you will be fine." Everything comes full circle when a healed patient encourages a potential patient. It is a gift to us to be able to see the good our work has done. Thanks to Rogelio for making the long trip to show us his progress and gratitude!



*Jeri Ward gives Rogelio the book "The Crooked Man"*



*Left: Rogelio before his surgery in 2017  
Right: Rogelio meets Basilio, 2021*



# OTHER UPDATES

## WAREHOUSE CLEANING DAY

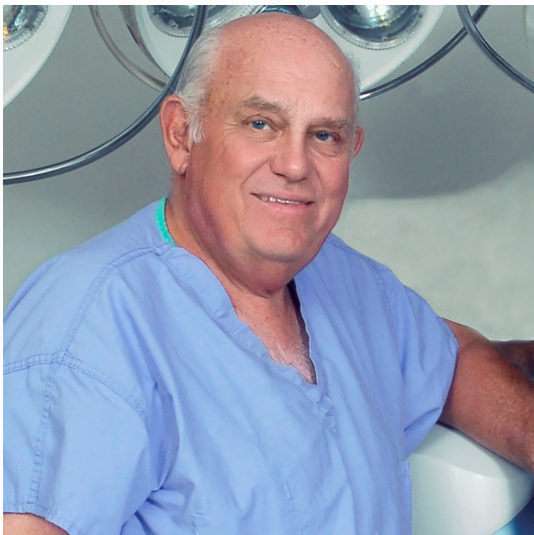
We are beyond grateful to the 16 volunteers who spent their Saturday morning helping us clean and organize the Operation Walk warehouse on September 11, 2021. These volunteers were up bright and early and within four hours, our team had safely disposed of expired medical supplies and repacked, labeled, and took inventory of remaining supplies. Thank you to the following volunteers for kindly donating their time:



**Julie Anderson**  
**Molly Anderson**  
**Alejandra Castillo**  
**Marilu Gonzalez**  
**Stacy Kelso**  
**Dr. John Kumar**  
**Shelly Kumar**  
**Trish Lindsey**  
**Phil Lindsey**  
**Brian Marshall**  
**Matt Sandusky**  
**Mary Ellen Sieben**  
**Jim Sieben**  
**Vivienne Uytana**  
**Jeri Ward**  
**Sharron Whiteley**



## DR. DORR'S CELEBRATION OF LIFE



We will be remembering and honoring the legacy of Dr. Lawrence Dorr on **Saturday, November 6th**. The memorial program will be livestreamed on the Operation Walk website at:

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

The program will begin at **1:30 PM Pacific Time**. If you would like to attend in person, please **RSVP** by calling **424-558-8076** or emailing **Alejandra Castillo: [alejandra@operationwalk.org](mailto:alejandra@operationwalk.org)** Thank you for your support of this special event to honor Dr. Lawrence Dorr.



## 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

DR. MAXINE ANDERSON	CINDY GILBERT	DR. TERRE OSTERKAMP
JULIE ANDERSON	KATHLEEN GOODWIN	PAULA E. PAULUS
CATHERINE ASCHER	PATSY GRANT	NAN RAE
JILL BAFFERT	JEAN E. HIDE-COHEN	GLORIA RAYA
AVA BALDWIN	CECE HORNE	FELICIA RENTY
BEATRICE BENNETT	MAUREEN HOSP	CHRISTY B. ROEBER
DENISE BOTSFORD	MELISSA HOTCHKIN	REON ROSKI
SONJA BUSH	STACY KELSO	DIANE SAUNDERS
CAREN CAMERON	SHELLY KUMAR	MARY ELLEN SIEBEN
DR. MIRIAM CAMERON	TRICIA T. LINDSEY	DR. ANEESAH SMITH
DEBRA CARREON	KATHERINE LINK	MARLA SMITH
WINIFRED CROWLEY	DIANE LINK	JULIE A. STARNES
MARION DARLING	OLIVIA ROSE LOPEZ	NORA SZECHY
SALLY DOLL	CHRISTINE MADSEN	NANCY E. TAMNY
MARILYN DORR	DIERDRE MOFFAT BREWER	SHIRLEY ANN VERKERKE
MEGAN DRAKE	URSULA MOORE	CAMI WARD
KIM ANN EVANS	THERESA MURPHY	JERI WARD
LINDA EVANS	JUDY NORTON	MARY MARGARET WEST
SUSAN FLANAGAN	CONCHITA O'KANE	NINA WINTERBOTTOM
LISA FUJIMOTO-YAMAGUCHI		ANITA YAGJIAN

as of October 1st, 2021