

Dear Friend,

Volunteering on an Operation Walk Chicago mission is a life-changing experience. Awash in joy, love, and happiness, at the end of every trip, volunteers and patients spontaneously pledge their commitment to use what they obtained from the experience (and their new hip, new knee, or renewed sense of purpose) to make the lives of others better.

Vu (pictured right), like many young men we meet, suffered from avascular necrosis, an excruciatingly painful and progressive hip disease. He was told there was a cure – hip replacement – but it was not for him. The cost would be more than a year’s salary and no local surgeon could perform the procedure. When Vu learned that an American team was coming to Ho Chi Minh City, he and his wife travelled 36 hours by bus to Vietnam Military Hospital 175, hoping to be selected as an Operation Walk patient. His was among our first surgeries; patients & volunteers alike cheered on his first steps. Vu’s future plans are clear: “I want to return to my village and work at the hospital to make others better.”



As Vu discovered, hip and knee replacements are among medicine’s most cost effective, able to transform the socioeconomics of entire regions. We witness the dignity and hope it brings to our patients; through that

witness, we volunteers experience a renewed sense of fulfillment and purpose that may be just as transforming.

#### *Pernambuco, Brazil*

Operation Walk Chicago returned to Hospital Don Helder last month, performing 37 knee replacements, uncovering life-threatening but treatable diseases in others, while teaching a myriad of clinicians and helping the hospital evaluate and improve its processes of care.

Pernambuco is the site of our most ambitious ongoing project. In this poor state in Brazil’s Northeast, more than 2000 people are wait-listed for surgery, some for more than 5 years. Through partnerships with the hospital, Ministry of Health, Stryker Orthopedics and the iKone philanthropic team (led by Marcos and Lucy Dubeux), Operation Walk Chicago is helping find ways to provide hip and knee replacement for these suffering poor. In a novel experiment, through the just launched *iKone Challenge Platform*, we hope to engage social entrepreneurs, world-wide, to develop solutions for the myriad of social problems experienced by this low-resource community.

#### *Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*

On our 6<sup>th</sup> large mission trip in Vietnam, fifty Operation Walk volunteers worked last May at Military Hospital 175, performing 43 hip and knee replacement surgeries. Despite the country’s rapid and impressive growth, joint replacement remains rare in Vietnam. The need is great. Founded near the end of the Vietnam War as a collaboration between the U.S. Military and Vietnam, Military Hospital 175 now serves as a public health and safety net hospital for the poor. Inspired by our dedicated and tireless Vietnamese American volunteers,



Vince & Ann Pham, Operation Walk Chicago will return in November, helping the hospital become a nationally recognized center for joint replacement.

#### *Kathmandu, Nepal*

Our decades-long partnership with Nepal Orthopedic Hospital has resulted in a hospital with the equipment and capabilities to perform hip and most knee replacement surgeries. Helping Nepal gain access to quality low-cost implants remains a pressing challenge. Next year we will inaugurate a “Joint Replacement Charitable Fund” to offset the costs of surgery for the poor while helping the hospital build its experience with surgery. We are excited to return to Kathmandu in February, when we will perform 35 very complex knee replacement surgeries.

#### *Manila, The Philippines*

Hospitals who wish to host an Operation Walk mission go through an extensive and lengthy vetting process. Operation Walk Chicago has begun that process with Philippine Orthopedic Center in Manila, a 700-bed public orthopedic hospital providing care for the poor. Last June, our preliminary team identified hospital-wide shortages of equipment necessary for joint replacement. In partnership with Project Cure, Operation Walk Chicago arranged and donated a shipping container full of that critical medical equipment, to arrive at the hospital shortly, in preparation for our future mission work.

We desperately need your help! As you can see, our future plans are ambitious. This ambition is driven by the unimaginable suffering we see. Suffering that we have the ability to cure. But we need your help to do so.

DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE. You can contribute directly on our website at:  
<http://www.operationwalkchicago.com/how-to-help/>

Or, mail a check to:

Operation Walk Chicago  
P.O. Box 3445  
Oak Park, IL 60303

With gratitude,



S. David Stulberg MD & Victoria Anne Brander MD  
Co-Founders and Directors, Operation Walk Chicago



*Operation Walk Chicago is a 501c3 not for profit, tax-exempt medical humanitarian organization. Donations are tax deductible as permissible by law. We are able to accept donations of stock and other securities. We are proud of our low overhead and cost-effective approach: more than 90% of your donation goes directly to patient care.*