TWO LOCAL MEN RECEIVE FREE JOINT REPLACEMENTS THROUGH OPERATION WALK

LONG BRANCH, N.J.—Arthritic disease is the most common cause of disability in the United States, affecting 46 million Americans, or more than 21 percent of the adult population. The debilitating pain of end-stage hip or knee degenerative disease makes even the simplest daily tasks excruciating. While hip and knee replacement surgeries are the most cost-effective and successful of all orthopedic procedures in reducing this pain, these surgeries are expensive and out-of-reach for many under- or uninsured suffering Americans.

Thanks to Operation Walk, a non-profit medical humanitarian organization that provides free hip or knee replacement surgeries for these patients, and a volunteer team of nurses and physicians at Monmouth Medical Center, two local men have been able to receive surgery that will enable them to return to active, productive lives.

Gary Roberti, 56, of Toms River, and George Schwarz, 59, of Long Branch, were both chosen as the recipients of Operation Walk’s surgeries at Monmouth Medical Center, the only hospital in New Jersey to participate in the Operation Walk USA’s surgeries at Monmouth Medical Center, now in its second year. Drawing its inspiration from Operation Walk (International), a private, not-for-profit, volunteer medical services organization that provides free surgical treatment for patients in developing countries, who otherwise have no access to life-improving procedures in 29 states across the country to provide free joint replacements to more than 200 individuals as part of Operation Walk USA 2012

According to Dr. Chalnicks, both surgeries were successful. “Both patients were extremely appreciative. Through Operation Walk, we are able to give them their lives back.”

As part of Operation Walk, all aspects of treatment for both men—including surgery, hospitalization and pre-and post-operative care—were provided at no cost to the patients. In addition to Dr. Chalnicks, time and services were donated by anesthesiologist Yitzhak Belsh, MD, and implants were provided by Smith & Nephew.

“Monmouth Medical Center prides itself on providing quality medical care to those we serve. The compassion and dedication of our staff—like Dr. Chalnicks and Dr. Belsh—allow us to provide the same medical care to needy patients identified through Operation Walk,” said Frank J. Vozos, MD, FACS, President and Chief Executive Officer at Monmouth Medical Center. “We couldn’t be any more proud of our staff and their willingness to participate in such a cause.”

Monmouth Medical Center was one of only 49 hospitals in 29 states across the country to provide free joint replacements to more than 200 individuals as part of Operation Walk USA 2012.

Operation Walk USA, now in its second year, drew its inspiration from Operation Walk (International), a private, not-for-profit, volunteer medical services organization that provides free surgical treatment for patients in developing countries, who otherwise have no access to life-improving care for arthritis or other debilitating bone and joint conditions.

Harnessing a national network of volunteer hospitals, physicians, nurses, physical therapists and others, Operation Walk USA is committed to helping those in need by restoring their mobility, self-esteem, productivity and helping them return to their social work.

ABOUT MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER

Located in Long Branch, N.J., Monmouth Medical Center, a Barnabas Health facility, along with the Children’s Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center, is one of New Jersey’s largest academic medical centers and has been a teaching affiliate of Philadelphia’s Drexel University College of Medicine for more than 40 years. From its earliest days, Monmouth Medical Center has been a leader in surgical advancement and has introduced many technological firsts to the region, including robotic surgery and other minimally invasive techniques. The hospital is routinely recognized by HealthGrades, the nation’s largest premier independent health care quality company, for excellence in both emergency medicine and maternity care. U.S. News & World Report has recognized Monmouth as a regional leader in cancer, geriatrics, gynecology, neurology and neurosurgery. For more information on Monmouth Medical Center, visit www.barnabashealth.org.

WWW.BARNAFASHEALTH.ORG/MONMOUTH

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