

Walk

OPERATION WALK PITTSBURGH

granting the wish to walk

Operation Walk Pittsburgh is a not-for-profit volunteer medical service program that provides free surgical treatment to patients with disabling arthritis in developing countries. Operation Walk also educates in-country orthopaedic surgeons, nurses, physical therapists and other health care professionals on the treatments, processes and surgical techniques for diseases of the hip and knee.



The Operation Walk Pittsburgh team, led by Dr. Anthony DiGioia, will consist of 25 volunteers, including Dr. Michael Weiss and Dr. Anton Playksehuk, anesthesiologists, nurses, therapists, other health care providers, and also a few other volunteers. We are counting down until our trip to Guatemala in August with the goal to complete 70 total joint replacements. While there, Operation Walk staff will also provide education to nurses and therapists in Guatemala and also to family members of patients. During the trip, the surgeons and anesthesiologists will take a day and travel to Guatemala City to give a seminar to local physicians.

We look forward to keeping you up to date on the planning of our first mission and all that goes into it and of reporting all about our trip when we come home! This is an exciting time for our team and we are all looking forward to the work we will do!

Thank you for helping us grant "the wish to walk"!

Former patient Katie Cawley and her husband recently held a dinner in Sewickley, PA to benefit Operation Walk Pittsburgh. Below is her story.



In January of 2007, I started feeling sharp pains in my right hip that would come and go. By that spring, the pain was consistent and progressed through to summer. My PCP read the results of my latest MRI and told me what no 31 year old ever thought she'd hear, "You have the hip of a 90 year-old". What?!? Though I was glad to finally have an answer to why I was in so much pain, I couldn't believe it. That summer I went from surgeon to surgeon hearing the same thing, "too young". Then I walked into Dr. DiGioia's office and my prayers were answered.

Most people are nervous before surgery...I couldn't get there fast enough. The pain was that bad, as many of you reading this can relate. On October 8, 2007, I underwent a full hip replacement performed by Dr. DiGioia.

He gave me my life back.

I have since volunteered my time at Magee Womens Hospital helping other patients like me endure the replacement process and have joined Dr. DiGioia's Operation Walk Pittsburgh Fundraising Committee. Operation Walk Pittsburgh promises to help those less fortunate with similar

debilitating joint diseases. The passion I feel for helping such patients is as life changing as the pain I felt in the summer of 2007. That is why I volunteer my time to help raise money to support Operation Walk Pittsburgh. I can't think of a better way to give back to those in need than to help send Dr. DiGioia, and the other gifted surgeons who are contributing, to those living in pain with no end in sight.

I encourage all readers to think about what they would've done if people like Tony DiGioia weren't accessible to them. He is not only a doctor, he is a citizen committed to using his talents to change people's lives. Let's help him the same way he helped us and our families. Whether it's a bake sale, a bbq, or a golf outing, please consider Operation Walk Pittsburgh the next time you are so inclined to donate your time to a charity effort.

For more information about how to support Operation Walk Pittsburgh or to make a tax deductible donation, please visit www.operationwalkpgh.org.

PLEASE SUPPORT OPERATION WALK PITTSBURGH AND SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS!

[Click here to see our upcoming events](#)

***\$1,000** in donations makes one life changing joint replacement possible.*

***\$1,500** in donations covers the expenses for one of our team member's volunteer participation in this transformative work.*