

# 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.

Operation Walk Pittsburgh  
Day 7: August 27, 2009

Today was discharge day for the first of our patients. The morning started with breakfast, dressing changes and physical therapy. This afternoon four of our patients were discharged with their families. The patients going home visited all of the other people in the same ward to say goodbye and to offer words of encouragement. In the women's ward, there was clapping as Blanca left the ward with her husband and four children to return home. There were many hugs and *gracias* and a few tears as patients and their families sought out the staff to thank them before leaving.

It is amazing that people who were in so much pain walking into the hospital on screening day are now making the long walk out of the hospital with smiles on their faces and tears in their eyes. Several of the patients stopped at the chapel on the way out of the hospital to say a prayer before getting into the car that would take them back to their homes.





*The first patient leaving the hospital*



*Blanca and her family going home*

Another project the Operation Walk volunteers undertook was to restore the basketball hoop to playing condition. It was mostly rust when the Operation Walk team arrived – no net or basketballs to use. It took several days to sand the rust, make some welding repairs and paint, but today it looked as good as new and there were several games played with residents of the hospital, their families and staff.





*Angel sanding*

More photos are posted on our website [here](#).

For more information about how to support Operation Walk Pittsburgh or to make a tax deductible donation, please visit [www.operationwalkpgh.org](http://www.operationwalkpgh.org).



*We look forward to hearing from you! To contact us, please email us at [info@operationwalkpgh.org](mailto:info@operationwalkpgh.org). Please do not reply to this email!*

[Operation Walk Pittsburgh](#)

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