



2013 Operation Walk Canada Team

## 2013 In Review

Here are just a few of the patient stories that we are so happy to share with you from our 2013 missions. Trips to Ecuador and Guatemala were successfully completed with a total of 95 patients served.

### Ecuador — April 9 to 18, 2013

*33 patients served*

#### Meet Paola

Paola is a 28 year old woman with per-existing developmental dislocation of her right hip (DDH) and end-stage osteoarthritis. When we saw her, she had severe right hip pain, a right leg which was five and a half inches shorter than her left and she was unable to work. This story is representative of the patients we treat in Ecuador. Paola, who was born at home in rural Ecuador was as is the tradition of her country, swaddled from birth with her hips extended and was not assessed by a physician until she was six years old when her DDH was diagnosed. If her DDH had been recognized and treated at birth (something taken for granted in first world countries), Paola's hips would have been normal. Paola remembers always having a short leg and being considered disabled by her young friends. In her late teens, her right hip began to hurt. She was referred to a doctor in Ecuador and underwent

surgery which unfortunately made her pain worse. She was eventually seen by our team and underwent complex hip surgery. Six centimetres of bone were removed from her femur (thigh bone) which allowed us to bring her affected hip to its proper anatomical position. We then used special implants to reconstruct her hip and stabilize the cut in her femur. She had her operation in 2012 and returned to see us during our 2013 mission.

Paolo has no pain, walks normally and her legs are of equal length. She feels that Operation Walk Canada has given her life back to her. She is now working, engaged to be married and looking forward to a happy life!



Dr. Bourne, Paola and Dr. Kaper one year post-op

## Guatemala — November 2 to 8, 2013

*62 patients served*

### Maritza's Story

In November 2013 the life of 41 year old Maritza was profoundly changed. Maritza is a school teacher, but a severe condition in her hips, which had been deteriorating for the last 10 years, had left her unable to walk without severe pain through the mountainous terrain of Guatemala to get to the school. For the last few years she could not leave her house to make a living for her family. But, in November, she said that 'Angels' – the Operation Walk Canada Team – came to help her.

*“treating a person can and does affect countless others”*

She received replacements of both her hips made possible by another larger group of angels – Operation Walk Canada's donors and supporters. Now, after a decade in pain, Maritza is looking forward to something she thought was never going to be possible – going back to teaching, and thriving, and providing a future for her family. This is a great story about how “treating a person can and does affect countless others”. To view a short video of Maritza's Story, visit our website.

[www.operationwalk.ca](http://www.operationwalk.ca)



Post-operative Day 1 - Maritza after hip replacement surgery.



Operation Walk Canada Surgical Team



Maritza's home town, Guatemala

## On Volunteering

*“I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. And then I realized - I am somebody.” -Anonymous*



## Premature Aging Hip Disease

47 year old Marco has always been able to provide for his wife and 3 children as a barber, but in recent years he has suffered from what the doctors called “premature aging hip disease”. His inability to continue working forced the family to sell their vehicle and cut back on their house utilities to be able to afford medical exams and medications to manage his pain.

In November 2013, Operation Walk Canada gave Marco 2 hip implants, a procedure that has given him and his family their lives back. Marco has already returned to work. And, if that gift was not enough, while meeting Marco’s family, our team heard about the playground accident his son Anthony, age 8, had a few months before. A soccer ball hit him in the head leaving him blind in his right eye.

Dr. Bourne had him examined and then contacted another Eye Surgery Medical Mission that was going to Guatemala in January. That team performed surgery on Anthony and successfully restored full vision to his eye. We can only imagine the joy and gratitude their entire family feels for Operation Walk Canada and its supporters.



Dr. Bourne showing Marco his new hips!

## Operation Walk Facts

- Since 2006 in Guatemala and 2009 in Ecuador, our teams have helped close to 500 patients regain their mobility... one (and many times two) joints at a time.
- Did you know that total joint replacement is one of the most successful and cost effective surgeries and that there is reliable and dramatic relief from pain and restored mobility in 95% of cases?
- Operation Walk Canada is governed by a Board of Directors. It is a registered not-for-profit charity and all donations are receiptable income tax purposes. 100% of all funds raised go to each mission. (CRA Charitable Registration # 356006 – RR001)
- Did you know that for \$1000 you can sponsor your own patient? This will pay for his or her hospitalization and surgery and you or your business will receive a photo of your patient with a personal acknowledgment of your gift. Go to [www.operationwalk.ca](http://www.operationwalk.ca) for details.
- All implants used for hip and knee replacements in Ecuador and Guatemala are donated by Smith & Nephew Inc. [www.smith-nephew.com](http://www.smith-nephew.com)
- Operation Walk’s teams are not just from London, Ontario or even just from Canada, but include members from Lima, Ohio, Prescott, Arizona as well as Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver.
- We ship between 11 to 16 - 6’ x 6’ skids of surgical equipment, medical supplies and medicines to Guatemala for each mission.
- The Ecuador team carries all their supplies including implants in hockey bags with two (2) assigned to each team member.
- During our missions, in-country surgeons, nurses, physiotherapists and other health care professionals take part in formal educational sessions and are given opportunities for hands-on learning.

## Ahead in 2014

Plans are well underway for the team's mission to Ecuador, April 11 to 18 of this year. We will be returning to Cuenca for the sixth time and again we will be operating on patients with osteoarthritis of their hip joints secondary to developmental hip dislocation (DDH). At the same time we will be continuing our educational efforts to promote the early diagnosis and treatment of DDH.

And soon our preparation for this year's Guatemala mission will begin. A small team will go in mid-June and assess

potential patients. This is a one day clinic during which we will interview and do physical assessments on approximately 90 patients. These are triaged based on the severity of their disease and suitability for surgery. Their x-rays are reviewed once we get back to London, ON and then the OR schedule is planned. We will book 60 patients and keep a waiting list in case there is time for more.

Our Guatemala mission dates are November 1 to 7. As in the past 8 years, we will work at the Obras Sociales del Hermano.

[www.obrashermandepedro.org](http://www.obrashermandepedro.org)

## David's Bistro

### St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser 2013

We gratefully acknowledge David Chapman of David's Bistro in London, Ontario for directing the proceeds of his Annual Anniversary Dinner to Operation Walk Canada. This is a yearly event, where David invites the Bistro's patrons as his guests, to a fabulous dinner and solicits donations for a specific charity.

This year, Operation Walk was the fortunate beneficiary, who through the generosity of David's and his guests, received \$6,000.



David's Bistro - 432 Richmond St. London, ON

## Your Donation Matters

- Buys medicines, IV's and operating room supplies (i.e., sterile drapes, prep solutions, etc.)
- Contributes to the expense for shipping all important equipment to our destinations
- Helps cover the hospitalization costs for all of our patients

## Upcoming Events

Our annual London, Ontario 'Fundraising Concert' will take place on Tuesday, September 23, 2014.

Mark your calendars, details to follow.

[www.operationwalk.ca/events](http://www.operationwalk.ca/events)

## Operation Walk Canada

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## I would like to make a donation to Operation Walk Canada

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$200  \$500  \$1000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your cheque along with this form to the address shown above. To make a donation with a credit card, please visit the Operation Walk Canada website.