

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elmhurst Hospital Center Joins Operation Walk 2012

While more than one million hip and knee replacements are performed in the U.S. each year, countless men and women continue to live with severe arthritis pain and immobility because they cannot afford [Joint Replacement Surgery](#).

Operation Walk USA 2012 provides all aspect of treatment – surgery, hospitalization, and pre-and post-operative care – at no cost to participating patients.

Through Operation Walk USA 2012, 109 orthopedic surgeons across the U.S. will provide free hip or knee replacements to more than 200 individuals in 29 states on December 7. Dr. Edward Yang, Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at Elmhurst Hospital Center, will perform a procedure on an elderly uninsured patient requiring hip replacement.

“I know there are many more Americans who would benefit from this operation,” says Dr. Yang. “Unfortunately, not all of us can afford this procedure, but with the assistance of Operation Walk, EHC will be able to operate on one of our patients and alleviate their suffering.”

“We are proud to be involved in this year’s Operation Walk efforts,” says Elmhurst Hospital Center’s Executive Director Chris Constantino. “Elmhurst serves a diverse group of patients, many of whom have terrible arthritic conditions but don’t have access to medical insurance. Participating in Operation Walk gives us an opportunity to help one of these

patients and improve their quality of life.”

Arthritic disease is the most common cause of disability in the U.S., affecting approximately 48 million Americans, or more than 21 percent of the adult population. The debilitating pain of end-stage hip or knee degenerative disease often makes working, or completing even the simplest of daily tasks, excruciatingly painful or impossible. Hip and knee replacement surgeries are the most cost-effective and successful of all orthopedic procedures, eliminating pain and allowing patients to resume active, productive lives.

Operation Walk USA began in 2011 following the tremendous success of Operation Walk, an international volunteer medical service organization that provides treatment for patients with arthritis and joint conditions throughout the world. To date, more than 6,000 patients have received new knees and hips through the International Operation Walk.

For more information, please call Atiya Butler, Elmhurst Hospital Center’s Director of External Affairs, at 718.334.1259.

About Elmhurst Hospital Center

Elmhurst Hospital Center, a 545-bed community hospital located in the heart of Queens, has a long history of delivering first-rate, comprehensive and compassionate healthcare services. As a Level I Trauma Center and a leader in Women’s Health, Pediatrics, Preventative Care, and Emergency Medicine, EHC is on the front lines of providing medical care to people of all backgrounds and income levels. Ensuring access to high-quality, affordable health care is our top priority.

About Operation Walk USA

Operation Walk USA 2012 is a collaborative effort between three orthopedic organizations and 49 participating hospitals that provides free hip or knee replacement. Operation Walk USA targets patients – US citizens and permanent residents – who do not qualify for government assistance programs. 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-dignity, productivity, and helping

them return to their social world.