

Limbs of Love to Donate \$250,000 in Prosthetic Limbs



The Amputee and Prosthetic Center, Houston, Texas, has established a new organization, Limbs of Love, dedicated to providing assistance to amputee patients who are financially constrained and need prosthetic care.

“Limbs of Love utilizes the time, skills, and resources of medical professionals and manufacturers who receive no remuneration in an effort to improve the overall quality of life for amputees,” said Joe Sansone, CEO of the Amputee and Prosthetic Center. “Through the support of The Amputee and Prosthetic Center, prosthetic manufacturers, and medical personnel from the Houston area, Limbs of Love will be donating as many as 20 prosthetic limbs with a value of over \$250,000 to those who have suffered the loss of a limb and have been previously turned away.”



Joe Sansone

Each year 150,000 people join the ranks of amputees in the United States alone, Sansone noted. Modern medicine and cutting-edge prosthetic technology have enabled amputees to return to surprisingly active lifestyles. However, prosthetic care is quite expensive, and many patients who have suffered the loss of a limb have lost their jobs because they lack the funds for a prosthesis. After experiencing the frustration of breaking the devastating news to patients and explaining that because of lack of insurance coverage they will never walk again, Sansone decided to fight back.

“I just felt sick being forced to continually explain to patients that we were unable to assist them with the cost of a limb, and that they may never walk again,” said Sansone. “As a result of this organization, health insurance will no longer be the determining factor in who will walk again, who will have a job, or who will be able to care for their family.”

First Recipient

The Limbs of Love's first recipient, David Reid, was scheduled to receive his limb in March. A definitive date had not been set by the time this issue went to press. Once an active outdoorsman and workaholic, Reid lost his leg after having multiple surgeries on his right foot and was never able to afford a prosthesis.

Before his amputation, Reid managed without healthcare insurance. But after suffering the loss of a limb, he had no financial resources for a prosthesis. After repeated attempts to obtain assistance for an artificial leg, he became discouraged. He couldn't obtain a loan without a job, but he couldn't get a job without a limb. He visited several doctors and prosthetic companies only to be turned away. Medical providers were simply unable to absorb the extra expenses.

Reid persevered and decided to, once again, roll the dice and ask for help. He literally hopped into The Amputee and Prosthetic Center. There he met Ben Falls, CP, LPO, who is not only a prosthetist, but also an amputee.

“I told Ben my story...” Reid said. “He said to me, ‘Son, I won't shoot you down. You'll be hearing from us in a few days. But I guarantee you this—we'll get you a limb.’”

Falls had found the first patient for the Limbs of Love project.

For more information about the Limbs of Love, contact Kimberly Waguespack at The Amputee and Prosthetic Center: 713.394.9716; Kimw@tmcortho.com



From left: Ben Falls, CP, LPO, and David Reid.

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