



for immediate release

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LOCAL SURGERY CENTER TO EDUCATE PUBLIC DURING ARTHRITIS COMMUNITY WALK

Appleton, Wis.– The Hand and Upper Extremity Center of Northeast Wisconsin, Ltd. is working to lessen the pain of arthritis this May by educating the public during the Arthritis Foundation's annual fundraising walk.

The Arthritis WalkSM will begin at Lions Park in Greenville, Wis., Saturday, May 21, 2005, with registration at 8:30 a.m. One-mile or three-mile scenic walks begin at 10:00 a.m.

Participants in the walk may stop by the Hand and Upper Extremity Center's information table to discuss arthritis therapy. Therapists from the center will be available to answer questions, provide tips for living with arthritis, and demonstrate various adaptive devices developed to lessen arthritis pain during day-to-day activities.

"Arthritis is our nation's leading cause of disability," said Ann Loehrke, physical therapy manager at the Hand and Upper Extremity Center. "We hope our participation in the Arthritis WalkSM will help us to educate the public about actions and activities that can limit its devastating impact."

Loehrke explained that the Hand and Upper Extremity Center regularly assists arthritis sufferers with therapeutic exercises to strengthen the muscles supporting inflamed joints, and with surgical procedures that can address arthritis in the fingers and wrists. The center can also fit patients with splints and adaptive devices.

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“ One pound of pressure placed on the tip of a thumb can actually put 10 pounds of pressure on an inflamed thumb joint,” Loehrke said. “ We can help patients lessen this pressure and the pain it causes through exercises to strengthen the supporting muscle, and with simple adaptive devices like over-sized pens.”

Founded in 1987, the Hand and Upper Extremity Center of Northeast Wisconsin, Ltd. is home to some of the Midwest’s most highly trained and experienced hand and upper extremity surgeons, nurses, and therapists. By providing comprehensive surgical and rehabilitative services under one roof, the Center’s staff is able to work as a team to achieve the best functional outcome for the patient. Based in Appleton, the Center also has satellite clinics in Marinette and Manitowoc. For more information, please visit www.newhands.md.

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Editor’s Note: *The surgeons and therapists of the Hand and Upper Extremity Center are available to discuss arthritis treatments upon request. Please contact Rob Carviou at 920-435-9800 to arrange an interview.*



"The Hand and Upper Extremity Center sponsored more than 40 walkers in the Arthritis Foundation's annual fundraising walk, held on Saturday, May 21, 2005. The 2005 event surpassed its goal of \$25,000, with the Center participants raising more than \$2,800."