

[[Mary begins speaking in Portuguese. Male voiceover in English]]

Um. Twenty years ago, I went out for a motorcycle ride. The motorcycle belonged to a friend who didn't want to lend it to me, but I insisted a lot. It was supposed to be a trip around the corner, but eventually I went farther. I was hit by a car and went to the hospital five days after the accident. They decided they would amputate my leg.

Yes, it has been a challenge to learn to walk on the prosthesis, but more than this the bigger challenge was to be here, and to have access to this level of equipment and this level of service and this level of care. Because I didn't think I was going to get this. I didn't think this was possible given my financial condition.

My first objective is to run with more ease and comfort, and longer distances. Because one thing is running a half marathon on crutches, which is something I did last month, and it's going to be very different to run that distance or even longer distances with this new athletic leg. But beyond this objective, my objective is to serve as a role model and as an inspiration to other women amputees who will see that it is possible for them to run as well, and to achieve what I am achieving.

[[Linda Loma Medical Center staff member]]

This, um, the real difference of this leg compared to a walking leg is the foot. You can see it's shaped in kind of a funny looking arc. And the design kind of comes from nature when you look at the hind leg of a cheetah, and how that foot has an arc that's like a big C. And what that does is it, when the client loads that foot, the carbon fiber will store the energy, and as they shift the weight over to the other leg, this leg sort of almost explodes in a propulsive energy force that propels the patient forward.

Normally this would cost about \$20,000. Um, but because some donors were able to sort of step up and help with those costs and contribute to some of these expensive components, we were able to keep costs to an absolute minimum. And um, we would like to see more people get access to this kind of technology, because it's here, it's now. Access is always the problem in any health care, so.

[[Nature sounds as Mary walks the path]]

[[Doctor, quieter]] Do you feel like that speaks to you and your students...

[[Linda Loma Medical staff member]]

And we've got a spare one, so that when this wears out, just like a pair of tennis shoes, she can change it, put a new one on, and that helps protect the expensive running foot. This is mounted on a polycentric knee joint. So, what'll happen is when she puts weight on it (that feel okay), it'll stay extended and doesn't bend. The more weight she puts on it, the more this becomes locked so her knee doesn't buckle. Then, when she puts her weight into the toe, it'll release and allow it to swing freely like a normal leg. It's got a hydraulic unit in there so it, you can control how fast it operates when she runs. And then these fins act like a radiator to help. We included a silicone liner with a pin suspension and that's what holds it on so it's got a suction, so it doesn't...

[[Miscellaneous incomprehensible chatter]]

[[Doctor]] I'm pleased we were able to successfully put this program together.

[[Photographer]] Everybody smile

[[Doctor]] Okay, yeah.