Ottobock Team Visits Victims of the Boston Marathon
15 May 2013

Sharing experiences and giving emotional support to the disabled

There were many victims of the bomb attacks at the Boston Marathon in mid-April. Many people were seriously injured, lost limbs or suffer permanent limitation of mobility. To give them the emotional support they need to come to terms with the tragic events, Ottobock USA arranged a two-day trip to Boston with the Wiggle Your Toes Foundation. There the team headed by initiator Chad Floe and Leslie Schneider, manager of clinical and regulatory affairs at Ottobock, visited the survivors in two hospitals.

During this visit, the victims of the attack had a unique opportunity to share their experience and at the same time to learn how other people cope with a disability in their daily lives. This experience was an unforgettable one for Leslie Schneider. “I spoke with a woman who lost both legs in the attack. When I told her my own story, she asked me if I were an amputee. She hadn’t even noticed my prosthetic leg at first,” she recalls. Leslie Schneider was the first leg amputee that the patient had met. Seeing how she coped with the situation and enjoyed life gave the injured women courage and hope for the future.

After returning to Minneapolis, Leslie Schneider reported to KARE 11 TV News about this and many other encounters during her stay in Boston. Speaking for Wiggle Your Toes and Ottobock, she described the common goals they share based on social responsibility for the disabled. The article is available at the link http://www.kare11.com/news/article/1023874/16/Organization-helps-Boston-victims-with-limb-loss.

Chad Floe, an external consultant of the Otto Bock Group and former Bostonian, was just as enthusiastic about this support campaign, “During my entire career at Ottobock I have dealt with the company strategies and finances and become familiar with the fascinating products in research laboratories. Now for the first time, I have
seen first-hand the personal tragedies behind them in Boston.” For him, the focus was more on the corporate philosophy than on the products. “It was very moving to be a part of this initiative,” he summed up.

To ensure the best possible medical technical support, Ottobock works closely with special orthopaedic technology companies all around the world. The support in Boston was provided in cooperation with partners from the Boston area. Together they provided initial fittings and donated mobility solutions. Ottobock made the victims of the Boston Marathon attack and their need for a better quality of life the focus of the aid project.

**Captions:**

The support team:
The support team from Ottobock – all members of the Wiggle Your Toes Foundation – helping the Boston Marathon survivors: Leslie Pitt Schneider, Danielle Scesa, Aaron Holm, Rob Rieckenberg and James Scesa (left to right).

Memorial site:
An impromptu memorial sprang up for the victims of the Boston Marathon attack on 15 April 2013.

**For further information:**

Karsten Ley
Director of Corporate Communications
Otto Bock HealthCare GmbH, Max-Näder-Str. 15, 37115 Duderstadt, Germany
Phone: +49(0)5527 848-3036, Fax: +49(0)5527 848-3360
Email: press@ottobock.com
Internet: www.ottobock.com