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help getting off the mountain at noontime. The next day, he went fly-fishing. Standing in the cold water made his knees hurt so much that he quit fishing mid-day.

“I told myself that I wasn’t going to live my life like that,” said Gerber. “I came home and went to see another Campbell Clinic surgeon that I knew from tennis, Dr. James Guyton. He did tests that confirmed it was time for surgery.”

The double knee replacement was performed by two Campbell Clinic surgeons, Dr. Guyton and Dr. James Harkess, working simultaneously so there would be only one recovery period.

“Dr. Guyton warned me that my days of playing tennis might be over, but I think he was just trying to lower my expectations,” Gerber said. “After three or four months, I was able to resume most normal activities. At a year, I was playing tennis again. The first few times, it was a bit uncomfortable. But now, I’m playing my old game, at the same level I used to play. And I haven’t taken pain relievers in 18 months.”

Active in community affairs, Gerber has special zeal for public education reform. He is one of the founders of Promise Academy, a charter school in a low-income neighborhood in North Memphis. “Providing a quality public education for every student, no matter what his or her circumstances, is critical to the future of our city and our country,” he said.

TELLING OTHERS OF THE FOUNDATION’S WORK

Gerber became a member of the Foundation’s board the same year he had replacement surgery. He looks forward to presentations to the Board about research projects, and he enjoys meeting Foundation-supported residents and fellows to discuss their education and training.



“Campbell Clinic is a Memphis treasure,” Gerber said. “The Clinic attracts, trains, and retains some of the best orthopaedic surgeons in the field. I know from experience that we are so fortunate to have world-class orthopaedic care right here in our backyard.”

The Foundation’s role in advancing the musculoskeletal research industry in Memphis also earns Gerber’s praise.

“Supporting innovation and research in general, and the Memphis musculoskeletal research industry in particular, is good for the orthopaedic industry, good for Memphis, and good for patients everywhere,” he said. “I try to be a bridge in helping other Memphis business leaders and residents learn about the great work the Foundation is doing.”

Charles Gerber and his wife Meg, hiking in Sundance, Utah. Gerber was able to complete the seven-mile hike less than a year after his replacement surgery.