

Windsor's Quorum Prosthetics couples technology and consideration to give amputees the right fit

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During the past 22 years, Windsor resident Joe Johnson has turned Quorum Prosthetics from a company he once ran out of his garage to one now worth about \$20 million.

Yet, Johnson isn't an especially wealthy man.

"Quorum Prosthetics is a Windsor-based prosthetic company that makes sockets and limbs for patients throughout the country and in other parts of the world." Quorum works with patients to help secure the proper health insurance to cover the cost of these costly prosthetics. On occasion, Quorum has even donated prosthetics to people with an extreme need, who are without means for paying for their prosthetic. "Quorum is located at 561 Garden Drive, Suite H, in Windsor. Its hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. It's closed weekends and holidays." To schedule an appointment, call (970) 686-2266. For more information, go to opquorum.com.",
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As much as he and his dedicated employees enjoy building, innovating and selling their products, they are just as enamored with helping -even if that occasionally means giving their product away rather than selling it for tens of thousands of dollars.

In 1998, Johnson found Quorum Prosthetics, which designs and builds prosthetic limbs for wounded veterans and other amputees. He runs his business out of a small space in east Windsor, 561 Garden Drive, Suite H.

Johnson wears a prosthetic leg himself, having his leg amputated below the knee after a motorcycle crash in 1984 when he was just 12 years old.

He knows how important it is to have a prosthetic leg that fits and works just right. That's largely why he launched his own business more than two decades ago.

With the help of a team led by Brendan Tuchowski, Johnson has matched thousands of amputees with custom-designed prosthetic sockets and limbs.

Remarkably, Quorum has provided its product to a portion of those amputees for free.

Johnson figures Quorum has served a few thousand amputees from throughout the country and even in other parts of the world.

Those thousands include hundreds of donations, Johnson said.

“That’s what motivates us every day, helping people,” he said. “That’s the reason we’re in this line of work. We’re here to serve others, not serve ourselves.”

Quorum’s trademark product is the Quatro, a socket that uses a trio of dials that allow the highest level of adjustability.

Recently, Quorum donated a prosthetic leg worth more than \$50,000 to a Haitian amputee, Gilbert Lindor, who lost his leg 13 years ago after he fell in a ravine while playing with a friend.



Quorum Prosthetics owner Joe Johnson speaks to a Tribune reporter during a tour of the

shop at Quorum Prosthetics in Windsor on Friday, Feb. 7, 2020. (Alex McIntyre/amcintyre@greeleytribune.com)

Each time Quorum donates a prosthetic leg, it's giving away a product that ranges in cost from \$3,000-\$4,000 for a foot, \$7,000-\$15,000 for a below-the-knee prosthetic, to \$15,000-\$70,000 for an above-the-knee prosthetic.

When a patient approaches Quorum, Johnson and his staff first work with them to secure the proper health insurance to cover the cost.

Unfortunately, Johnson said, in many cases, insurance providers don't consider an amputee disabled unless they are a bilateral amputee – an amputee missing both arms or both legs.

“A lot of times, (patients) just don't know where to turn to because insurance is quite complicated in America,” Johnson said.

Surely, Johnson and his staff can't afford to give away free limbs and sockets to everyone.



Quorum Prosthetics owner Joe Johnson shows a roll of carbon fiber used in making their prosthetics during a tour of the shop at Quorum Prosthetics in Windsor on Friday, Feb. 7, 2020. (Alex McIntyre/amcintyre@greeleytribune.com)

At the same time, though, Johnson isn't necessarily in this business to get rich.

So when an amputee is in need of a limb to significantly improve their quality of life – or perhaps save their life altogether – Johnson and his staff at Quorum are more than willing to hear their story and do what they can to help.

“When somebody needs something, and they're desperate, we make it happen,” Johnson said. “I'm not a wealthy man by any means. But, I'm an amputee myself, and I feel people's plight.”

The next progression for Johnson and his business comes in the form of 3D printing. Johnson is in the process of investing in a \$500,000 3D printer that will allow him to create 3D images for anyone around the world then print prosthetic sockets much faster than traditional methods allow.

The ability to create 3D images for anyone worldwide could allow Quorum to print a socket for someone and send it to them without the patient even having to leave his or her home country. Or, Quorum could deliver these sockets via hubs in patients' home countries, Johnson said.

Through this more efficient process, Johnson said he hopes to provide even more people with life-changing prosthetics, domestically and abroad.

“For each socket we sell in America, we're going to have some kind of donation system where we fund people's limbs around the world,” Johnson said. “Right now, my goal is to give a leg away every quarter (year) with Quorum.”