

ANCHOR INTRO:

CONJOINED TWINS SEPARATED AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ARE NOW TAKING SEPARATE STRIDES. THE TWINS, STUNNING THEIR SURGEON WITH EVERY STEP. NIKI CHAVE HAS THE STORY.

{TAKE PKG}

Nats off Top: @ 1:02 Acen and Apio are now separated (First PKG)

16 MONTHS AGO, CONJOINED TWINS ACEN AND APIO STARTED A NEW LIFE, APART.

BESNER @15:29 One of the most challenging things after the separation surgery for these girls – after the initial recovery from surgery was learning how to walk—because they had spent the first year of their life attached to each other.

Nats of girls before separation.

DR. GAIL BESNER, THE SURGEON WHO LED A 30 + MEMBER TEAM IN SEPARATING THE GIRLS – WHO WERE ATTACHED AT THE HIP AND SPINE —HAD ONE GOAL BEFORE SENDING THE TWINS HOME TO AFRICA.

BESNER @ 14:46 That was—that I wanted them to be able to walk

Nats of girls: Apio walking

MONTHS LATER, IN LACED-UP BRIGHT PINK SHOES... THE TWINS ARE ON THE MOVE.

BESNER @16:03 I first saw them walking independently ... and it was one of the happiest days of my life..

A PROUD MOMENT NOT ONLY FOR THE MEDICAL TEAM, BUT FOR MOM AS WELL.

ESTER @11:27 I'm so much happy about that.

ESTER @11:21 I like to see them play..

BESNER @17:32 it's always been a goal of Ester's to get home... and it's a precious gift to be able to give her that

BESNER @17:55 I really expect them to have a normal life

BESNER @16:25 when they get off that plane in Africa they are going to walk off it—and not be carried.

ESTER @12:06 It's amazing

AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, I'M NIKI CHAVE.

ANCHOR TAG:

AFTER A 21 HOUR FLIGHT, THE TWINS ARE NOW HOME IN UGANDA WITH THEIR FAMILY. DR. BESNER EXPECTS THEM TO HAVE COMPLETELY NORMAL LIVES.