center for
WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY

"Before"

WHY WEIGHT Behind the Scenes?

The Minimally-Invasive Sleeve Gastrectomy Could Be Your Answer

"After"

Working in the movie industry may sound glamorous, but as a Set Painter, **Maureen Kropf's** obesity left her sore, breathless and physically exhausted. With a BMI of 35.8 and a weight of 221.5 pounds, she suffered from diabetes, swollen ankles and feet, arthritis and joint pain, and urinary stress incontinence. "I tried every diet but nothing worked," she explains. "When I was placed on medication for Type II diabetes, I got serious."

As a former patient of Northridge Hospital Medical Center, Maureen naturally chose our **Center for Weight Loss Surgery**. She discussed her options with **Uthaiah Kokkalera, MD,** Co-Medical Director, Center for Weight Loss Surgery. She chose **Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy**—a minimally-invasive bariatric procedure in which the surgeon creates a small, sleeve-shaped stomach about the size of a banana.

"The Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy is an intermediary procedure when considering the Lap-Band and Gastric Bypass. Patients prefer Sleeve Gastrectomy as there is no need for a foreign body such as the band, and therefore no frequent adjustments needed," explains Dr. Kokkalera. "The weight loss offered is more predictable, has shown good long-term success, does not carry the risk of malnutrition and long-term complications are virtually zero. It also has good outcomes with regards to resolution of diabetes, hypertension, sleep apnea and osteoarthritis."

It's been one year since Maureen's surgery and she's lost 87.5 pounds—that's 100 percent of her excess weight. Today, she weighs 134 pounds with a BMI of 22.3 and no longer takes medication for Type II diabetes.

Maureen lost 87.5 pounds since having surgery one year ago.

"It's easier to keep up the pace on movie sets these days," she says. "Plus, I now run, swim, lift weights and bike ride. And since I'm no longer embarrassed to wear a swimsuit, I've enjoyed family vacations to places like Cancun, Costa Rica and Jamaica—it's a whole new life!"

For more information, call **1-877-448-4448**. Or visit *www.NorthridgeHospital.org/WeightLossSurgery*.

Meet our Board-certified bariatric surgeons. From l-r: Sergey Lyass, MD, Co-Medical Director, Center for Weight Loss Surgery; Uthaiah Kokkalera, MD, Co-Medical Director, Center for Weight Loss Surgery; and Mark Paya, MD, Board-Certified Bariatric Surgeon.

Is Weight Loss Surgery for You? A FREE Informational Session.

Presented by Uthaiah Kokkalera, MD, Co-Medical Director, Center for Weight Loss Surgery, and Sergey Lyass, MD, Co-Medical Director, Center for Weight Loss Surgery

Learn more about our comprehensive weight loss surgery program, insurance coverage and our surgeons at this free, no-obligation presentation.

Thursday, June 10
6 – 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Support Group (See page 15 for Support Group details.)
Thursday, July 8
6 – 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Support Group
Thursday, August 12
6 – 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Support Group
Thursday, September 9
6 – 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Support Group

All classes are held in Classrooms 1 and 2.
Call toll-free 1-877-448-4448 to register.

We Offer the Lowest Cash Price Package in Los Angeles and Accept Most Insurances!

$12,700 – Lap-Band
$15,700 – Sleeve Gastrectomy
$20,700 – Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass