

The background features a large, semi-transparent watermark of the Rotary International logo, which is a gear with the words "ROTARY INTERNATIONAL" around it.

Rotary Club of Lancaster

1915 – 2024

*More than a Century of Service
to Lancaster and the World*

Transcripts of program presented on January 24, 2024

1. Overview
2. Rotary Boy's Home
3. Crippled Children's Clinic
4. Cleft Palate Clinic
5. Rotary Youth Leadership Camp

RCL History Celebration: January 24, 2024, PowerPoint Speaker Notes

1	Cover Slide: Intro	<p>Welcome fellow Rotarians, our District leaders, and guests to this celebration of the Rotary Club of Lancaster’s more than a century of service and innovation.</p> <p>We decided that January, the start of a new year, is a good time to revisit our history and celebrate all that we’ve accomplished. It’s also a good time each of us to begin thinking about future opportunities for our club to make a difference.</p> <p>For 108 years, our Club has repeatedly shown how like-minded individuals who put service above self -- and individuals willing to champion their visions -- help make our world a better place and change lives.</p> <p>That’s why we join Rotary and why we’re proud to belong to the Rotary Club of Lancaster...</p>
2	1905 The beginnings of Rotary ===== = 1915 RCL	<p>Every Rotarian is familiar with the birth of Rotary...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ...How it began with the vision of one man – Paul Harris. • ...How he gathered a small group of acquaintances from different professions to build better friendships. • ...And how, over time, Rotary’s reach and vision gradually extended to humanitarian service. <p>Paul Harris once said something that captures our story: “Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves.”</p> <p>Our story begins in 1914, when three Lancaster business leaders agreed over lunch at the Hamilton Club to create the Rotary Club of Lancaster. A year later our founding group – by then consisting of 30 members -- was granted a Rotary International Charter.</p> <p>The new Club had an immediate impact on Rotary: convincing the organization to modify its Constitution and Bylaws... and introducing new membership categories and the idea of meeting make-up.</p>
3	1919 Rotary Boys Home	<p>By the spring of 1919, following the end of the World War that everyone thought would end all wars, the Club was looking for something to replace its limited wartime activities. The project it initiated would change the way our community and our national judicial and corrections systems look at the problem of juvenile delinquency.</p> <p>The Boys Home of Lancaster – later becoming Barnes Hall and now the Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center -- became a model for more compassionate juvenile corrections programs nationwide.</p> <p>We’ll hear more later from Past President Tim Peters, in a review of four of our most notable programs.</p>

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	1925 Crippled Children's / Schreiber Clinic	<p>=====</p> <p>=</p> <p>Our successful efforts with the Boys Home set a precedent. By the early 1920s, our members had become interested in the plight of children crippled by polio, or infantile paralysis. In 1925, this interest led Rotary Club of Lancaster to establish the first-of-its-kind Crippled Children's Clinic. It was founded, sponsored, and developed by our Club, responding to the vision and passion of one individual.</p> <p>This is another of our most notable projects, and Bill Jefferson will tell us about how this initiative became the internationally famous Schreiber Clinic for Pediatric Development.</p>
4	1929 Student Loan Fund	<p>As always, between major initiatives, our growing Club supported numerous community projects and organizations over the next several years. And soon, once again, one person's vision became a commitment. A member's bequest in 1929 created the Student Loan Fund to help young Lancastrians earn a college degree.</p> <p>=====</p>
	1938 Rotary Buddy Club	<p>In a memorable new activity in 1938, the club created the Rotary Buddy Club at the YMCA. It was a precursor to the Lancaster Boys Club, formed a couple of years later, Under the leadership of our Boys' Work Committee, the program was intended to "take 25 or more underprivileged boys off the city streets and give them supervised guidance". Our club continued to support the program as part of its outreach to Lancaster youth.</p>
5	1943 Cleft Palate Clinic	<p>In 1943, while America was fighting in another World War, Lancaster Rotarians on the home front found another humanitarian cause to fight for, another example of one person's vision inspiring action with global ramifications.</p> <p>And once again, our Club responded with compassion and commitment. As later reported internationally in <i>The Rotarian</i> magazine, members of the Rotary Club of Lancaster "arose at once" to the idea to create a unique clinic to treat children with cleft palates.</p> <p>The famous Lancaster Rotary Cleft Palate Clinic is another of our most notable projects, and we'll share the story later in today's program...</p> <p>=====</p>
	1956 Strawberry Roundup	<p>What could be more "Lancaster County" than fresh produce? Our Lancaster County 4-H Strawberry Roundup has become a long-standing tradition and one way our members support our future farmers -- by bidding on award-winning strawberries and supporting a 4-H leadership development fund.</p>

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6	1960 RYLA 1972 North Museum	<p>We've been fortunate to have members who could be called visionaries, who champion a great idea and inspire their fellow Rotarians to make it happen. Many Lancastrians called Past President Bob Haines, a visionary. His accomplishment that had the greatest historical impact was the Rotary Youth Leadership Camp, the leadership training program for young people.</p> <p>It was another of our most notable projects -- conceived and initiated here, later becoming the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program. Chip Kirchner, one of its strong advocates, and two RYLA graduates will share about it in a few minutes,</p> <p>=====</p> <p>After years of seeking another project comparable in size and scope to some of our past initiatives, the club found a significant opportunity. One of the area's most popular museums exists in part because Rotary Club of Lancaster said YES to another project – a vision to enrich local educational experiences.</p> <p>In late 1972, the Club overwhelmingly endorsed the project known as the Lancaster Rotary Club Public School Program of the North Museum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We offered to pay the Museum an annual amount... increase the charitable fund by donations and bequests... and enlist our members as volunteers in the museum.• For many years, our Club hosted programs and tours for school children at North Museum fundraisers.
7	1973 Community Service Awards 1980 Boys Club Graduate House	<p>If you believe in service above self, you should honor those in your community who serve others. The Rotary Club of Lancaster Community Service Awards began in 1973 for that purpose. Selection is based primarily on contributions to strengthening the community through impactful volunteer service in Lancaster County. In 2011, special Community Service Awards were created for high school youth.</p> <p>=====</p> <p>In 1980-1981 the Lancaster Rotary Club was again looking for possible projects that could involve the total membership and be another valuable service to the community. This subsequently proved to be the “Graduate House” for the Boys Club of America. It was created and funded by Rotary Club of Lancaster, in the same area of focus as the Boys Home 70 years earlier.</p> <p>Each young, at-risk Graduate House participant was given two Rotary Club members to act as advisers. Boys were accommodated for a maximum of one year. The Club provided financial support and employment counseling for the boys.</p>

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		In 1982, our Club was co-recipient with the Lancaster Boys Club of the National Award of Excellence for the Graduate House Program – and it later received the prestigious Keystone Award.
8	<p>1986-87 Model Club / “End Polio Now”</p> <p>1988-89 First Women Members</p> <p>1993 Tip-off Tournament</p>	<p>Did you know that Rotary Club of Lancaster had a significant role in the decision by Rotary International to proceed with the global project to eradicate polio? In 1985, Rotary International made a historic commitment to immunize all of the world’s children. Through its Polio Plus program, polio cases worldwide dropped by more than 99 percent, and the world stands on the threshold of wiping out the disease.</p> <p>A future Club meeting program will present our amazing Polio Plus story <i>along with our other international projects</i>. But here are the basics of what many members call Rotary Club of Lancaster’s greatest achievement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RI commitment included \$120 million to buy the vaccine for approximately 800 million children over a period of five years. • Out of 23,000 Rotary clubs worldwide, the Rotary Club of Lancaster was one of 10 asked to be “model clubs” to test the feasibility of a fundraising plan to fulfill the commitment. • RI determined that our statistical share was \$65,000. But as a “model club,” we were asked to set a goal of two to three times higher. Under Past President Rick Oppenheimer’s tenure, the club decided to set our sights on a stunning \$200,000. • The rest is history. Rotary Club of Lancaster raised <u>\$260,000</u>, the equivalent of \$750,000 today. It placed our club at the forefront in Rotary International’s solemn commitment to end polio. • The quest has been more challenging and time consuming than RI and the World Health Organization expected. The cost has exceeded a billion dollars, but Rotary has persisted, and we’ll succeed. <p>=====</p> <p>Let’s face it: With all that Rotary International had accomplished in nearly 75 years, like many organizations it had been limiting itself by not admitting women into membership. That changed with the Supreme Court decision in 1987, and our club wasted little time in recruiting women and welcoming them into membership.</p> <p>A first group of six women were inducted the first year following the decision, during Sam Altdoerffer’s presidency, and it remains a watershed year in the history of Rotary and our club. In 1998, Kathy McElliott, president and CEO of the Cleft Palate Clinic, became the first of our club’s eight female presidents. Today, 40-percent of Rotary’s global members are women.</p> <p>Rotary Club of Lancaster would not have achieved so much in the past 35 years without the exceptional commitment and vision of our women leaders and members. We currently have an authentic pioneer in our membership: Joan Boben was our club’s first female member.</p>

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		<p>=====</p> <p>Since our beginning, Rotary Club of Lancaster held dedicated fund drives among our membership for specific projects. As time went by, the Club wanted to implement larger fundraising events to support our bigger projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual Amateur Bike Race from 1992 to 1997. • A Chicken Barbeque from 1997 to 2010... <p>But our first longer-term fundraising event was yet another example of one club member thinking big and challenging fellow Rotarians to come together to have a profound impact on Lancaster city youth.</p> <p>Franklin and Marshall College hosted the annual Tip-Off Tournament, featuring four top men's and women's NCAA Division Three teams, F&M Athletic Director Bill Marshall was also a member of Rotary Club of Lancaster.</p> <p>In 1993-4, Bill inspired his fellow club members to say YES, share his vision, and seize the opportunity to join forces with F&M and shoot for a higher level of fundraising. The event became the Rotary Club of Lancaster/Franklin & Marshall College Charitable Tip-Off Tournament, and the flagship fundraiser for our club for 27 years.</p> <p>Proceeds benefited the Summer Youth Experience, the United Way-Rotary Club of Lancaster program designed to keep at-risk Lancaster youths engaged and productive over the summer and prevent drop-out.</p> <p>During our participation, the tournament raised up to \$50,000 in net income yearly --and more than \$700,000 total.</p>
9	1994 McCaskey Student Projects	<p>We could devote an entire program just to our significant contributions to – and partnership with -- the School District of Lancaster, one of our major ongoing commitments. The annual cash awards from the Harvey A. Smith Trust to McCaskey seniors demonstrating "selfless service" to school and community were only a beginning.</p> <p>In 1994, the McCaskey Student Project began with a one-time grant of \$5,000 to buy string instruments for the school orchestra. Since then, there have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Leap Ahead" program, providing college funds for selected freshmen if they maintain attendance and academic standards for their next three years. • Thousands of dollars in scholarship awards. • The development and implementation of the McCaskey mentoring project, a major contribution to the growth and future success of students at our city high school. There is often a waiting list of students for the program. • Special awards and nominations to our Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program.

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	<p>2001 Salvation Army Bell Ringing</p>	<p>Our McCaskey projects rank among our most valued commitments.</p> <p>=====</p> <p>Like our Strawberry Roundup, another cherished club tradition is our annual holiday bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Neither tradition is a major project, but the ringing of the bells is always fun despite the cold. Our participation started well before our official commitment in 2001, and one of our members who volunteered was also head of the local Salvation Army. Mostly, our participation symbolizes how we partner with our community and fellow civic organizations in bringing the sound of help, hope, and comfort to our neighbors when they need it most. <u>That is what we do.</u></p>
10	<p>2004 Power Packs</p>	<p>Power Packs Project is an extraordinary program unique to our tri-county region. It began with the vision and determined efforts of one woman. Joan Espenshade, spouse of Rotarian John, was a teacher's assistant and noted tired and hungry kids on Monday mornings. She organized a program to do something about it.</p> <p>With financial assistance from our club, the struggling effort became Power Packs Project, dedicated to ending hunger for school kids over the weekends, when free school breakfasts and lunches aren't available. Every week, families with schoolchildren enrolled in free breakfast and free lunch programs receive a Power Pack -- a fresh recipe and all the ingredients to make healthy, nutritious meals and return to school on Monday ready to learn.</p> <p>Rotary Club of Lancaster provided the seed money and ongoing assistance that helped Power Packs succeed – and become the only program of its kind in America.</p>
	<p>2005 Rotary Park</p>	<p>=====</p> <p>On the centennial of Rotary International's founding in 1905, Rotary clubs in more than 31,000 communities worldwide dedicated Centennial Community Projects that celebrated Rotary and met a need in the community. In Lancaster, our "Lancaster Rotary Park: Let the Kids Play", was created to provide a place for children and their families to gather to celebrate the lessons we all once learned as children during unstructured play.</p>
	<p>2005 Summer Youth Experience</p>	<p>=====</p> <p>Our Club calls Lancaster home, so we believe strongly in our commitment to our city. Helping our city school students succeed has become a consistent priority. In addition to the McCaskey Student Projects, we helped sustain and grow the Summer Youth Experience. It's an innovative effort to help economically disadvantaged Lancaster youth find fun in summer activities that help their academic growth.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2005, our Club presented a \$10,000 Presidential Grant to the United Way Summer Activities Initiative Fund.• In 2012, we adopted the Rotary Summer Youth Experience as an ongoing Club project.• Last summer, our Club committed \$30,000 to the Summer Youth Experience. The program is a partnership with United Way, which committed a matching \$30,000, meaning \$60,000 was available to help 13 social service agencies. They offer summer programs and activities that stress academic growth, artistic skills, leadership opportunities and civic service.
11	<p>2015 Refugee Center</p> <p>2017 Wheels & Wings & 5K</p> <p>2017 Rotary Means Business</p>	<p>2015 was the club's centennial year. Lancaster had been a resettlement area for refugees, people brought here to find refuge. On average, 534 refugees had been resettled in Lancaster each year between 2013 and 2016. Always a caring community, Lancaster wanted to assist refugee families. The U.S. State Department contracted with agencies to help refugees during their first 90 days in America., but that wasn't always enough time for refugees to get on their feet.</p> <p>Rotary Club of Lancaster understood the complexities and said YES to a humanitarian issue, creating the Lancaster Refugee Center as its Club Centennial Project.</p> <p>Rotary International President Ravindran was visiting Lancaster and cut the ribbon to officially open the facility. The Center fills many gaps in the government program, offering English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults... health services... and many of our members have served as volunteers and mentors.</p> <p>=====</p> <p>In 2017, the Club announced the first annual Wheels & Wings Festival and 5K at Lancaster Airport. Within a few years, it replaced the Tip-off Tournament as our primary fundraiser – again, intended to benefit Lancaster youth. This unique event is the area's only combined classic car show, aircraft fly-in, featuring WWII warbirds, and 5K race. The event has grown to over 1,000 attendees, over 300 cars, over 100 runners and walkers, and 15 airplane and 2 helicopters at last count.</p> <p>As described earlier, It supports the Summer Youth Experience, funded by our club in partnership with United Way. Last year, despite a wet morning that kept most show car participants away, we raised nearly \$75,000 in sponsor donations, netting almost \$45,000.</p> <p>=====</p> <p>Rotary Club of Lancaster was a pioneering club in Rotary Means Business -- a District 7390 activity that is hosted by the different Clubs in each of four areas. The activity encourages District Rotarians, potential Rotarians, and families of</p>

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		Rotarians to support the success of their <u>fellow</u> Rotarians by doing business with them and by referring others to them.. Attendees make business connections in an environment of fun and fellowship.
12	<p>2018 Honduras Mission Trip</p> <p>Medical and Dental Missions</p> <p>2022-24 Community Forums</p>	<p>We have a bonafide champion in our club who is well-known at our District level and in Rotary medical mission circles worldwide. Bob McClenathan has participated in approximately 30 mission trips in recent years. We will cover some of those and other significant international projects in upcoming programs.</p> <p>It's part of how we have reached out to help bring healing beyond our borders, respond to Rotary's six areas of focus, and do our small part as Rotarians here in Lancaster to make our world a better place.</p> <p>=====</p> <p>We are also fully committed to helping our members and the public better understand current issues at a variety of newsworthy forums...</p>
13	<p>2022-24 5th Wednesday Service Projects</p> <p>Sustained Commitment</p>	<p>...and to serving others through our hands-on projects at our regular meetings every fifth Wednesday, like food packing or painting braces for children born with club feet.</p> <p>=====</p> <p>We do all of these things because that's who we are, and because as Rotarians we answer the call to serve. Some projects are especially notable, so as I said, we'll take a quick, closer look at <u>four of those</u>:</p>
14	Notable Projects (1) Rotary Boys Home	First, here's Tim to tell us in just a little more detail about our first notable project, the Rotary Boys Home...

Presentation to Rotary Club of Lancaster, January 24, 2024

Rotary Home Involvement

I'm Past President Wally Otto, substituting for Tim Peters. Actually, I'm going to try to do justice to Tim's heartfelt account of this landmark project, because it communicates its profound impact on some of Lancaster's youth. The following is Tim's account:

Good afternoon. I am sorry I cannot be with you today to present this brief history of Rotary Club of Lancaster's Rotary Home involvement.

I am Past President Tim Peters. My dad joined RCL in the year I was born. If you check the list of Past Presidents, you will see that my father, Melvin, was President of Lancaster Rotary in Rotary QqqYear 1958/59. So, you could say I have been familially associated with Lancaster Rotary for all my 76 years. The Rotary Home is a key part of my early Rotary memories. I can remember as a youth knowing boys from the Rotary Home who attended my elementary school, Milton J. Brecht, and I can remember visiting the Rotary Home with my father and siblings to deliver Christmas gifts for the boys.

You may ask "What's the big deal about the Rotary Home?" The Rotary Home for Boys is the first major project ever undertaken by Rotary Club of Lancaster that had a significant impact on the entire community, and started the tradition of Rotary identifying community needs, and developing projects to address the need.

In the early part of the Twentieth Century, the County of Lancaster, contrary to state law, did not have a separate facility to house juvenile delinquents, and so they were housed in the County prison. Rotary Club of Lancaster became aware of this practice in part through public criticism and the focus of the Law-and-Order Society, a self-appointed organization concerned about treatment of juvenile delinquents.

[\[Photo of RCL History briefly\]](#)

The original history of our club states:

As there was no inclination on the part of the County Commissioners to provide a Detention Home for boys, Thad Helm, president of the Club, conceived the idea that the Club should, if possible, establish such a home. He appointed a committee of five to make a survey of the conditions of the underprivileged boys of the community.

This survey revealed the fact that from fifty to seventy-five boys were being brought before the Courts annually, and that many of these boys were sent either to Glen Mills or Huntingdon, from which institutions they were later returned in many cases to become permanent liabilities of the community.

The committee, at the beginning of its work, felt that if a home should be established by the Club, everything of an institutional character should be eliminated insofar as possible, and the boys should be surrounded by the same wholesome influence and be allowed the same freedom that boys in good homes enjoy. If the work of the home was to be productive of the best results, it should be, as Charles Clement, of Sunbury, so aptly described it later, "a house of affection and not a house of correction."

The County Commissioners were then visited, and they agreed, should the home be established, to allow the same amount toward its maintenance that was paid to Huntingdon and Glen Mills for boys

who were sent to those institutions from this community. This amount was thirty-eight cents per day per boy.

Having gathered all the information possible on the subject, the committee presented a report of its work at a meeting held at Galen Hall sometime in the summer of 1919, supplementing the report with a statement that the cost of promoting a home would be approximately \$5,000.00 per year, and that the entire amount, except for the small sum per day per boy allowed by the commissioners, would have to be raised by voluntary contributions from the members.

The Club by unanimous action adopted the recommendation of the committee and instructed it to proceed at once with the work of establishing a home. Harry Wohlsen “discovered” the Mayer property on Fruitville Pike, which was purchased by the Club, and the home was opened sometime in August. On August 23, 1919, the first two boys were turned over to it by Judge Landis.

[\[Photo of the original Home\]](#)

Except for the daily allowance of thirty-eight cents by the County Commissioners, the home was financed until May 1921, by voluntary contributions of members of the club. In May 1921, the County Commissioners, recognizing the value of the home of the community, agreed to allocate the flat sum of \$5,000 per year for its maintenance, and in April 1922, they agreed to an additional allowance of \$2,000 per year. Over time RCL's monetary support grew, too, so that by 1963 RCL support had risen to more than \$20,000 per year.

Throughout its existence, the home was administered and staffed by live-in house parents, with the husband serving as superintendent and his wife as matron. The Rotary Club provided oversight through a standing committee of the club with daily operations managed by the superintendent and matron.

While the home was in operation, more than 2,000 boys came under its influence. From letters by many of those who had been its guests, we know that it is a worthy project. It made an important contribution, not only to the Community, but to the Nation. More than one hundred and fifteen of the boys were known to be in the Armed Forces of World War II. Some of them were commissioned officers.

The Rotary Home for Boys closed in 1963 due to a combination of economics and mandated safety regulations by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. The Rotary Club history indicates the organization was unable to fund the required improvements to the structure to meet the new regulations.

Barnes Hall Juvenile Detention Center, which operated from 1963 to 2002 replaced the Rotary Home for Boys and was subsequently replaced by the current Youth Detention Center.

The proceeds from the sale of the Home are the initial funds that started the Rotary Club of Lancaster Foundation, which to this day supports the current RCL projects.

[\[Show photo of original site today\]](#)

Here is the original site, as it appeared just a few days ago in the snow.

Thank you, and now Bill Jefferson will tell us about another of our most notable projects, the Crippled Children's Clinic

The Rotary Club of Lancaster Response to a Community Need

Polio: A Frightening Disease

During the summer of 1916, a frightening new disease appeared across Pennsylvania. Children developed high fever accompanied by vomiting and diarrhea. Many soon recovered, but a growing number developed muscle weakness and fell while trying to walk, or had difficulty breathing. When muscle paralysis set in, doctors diagnosed infantile paralysis -- a new epidemic in the United States affecting 1 in 1000 children ages 5 to 9.

It should be noted that while this disease has been mostly eradicated in the United States due to a vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk at the University of Pittsburgh, it is still occurring in Third World countries, and remains a Rotary Mission worldwide. It should also be noted that in 1986-1987 under Rick Oppenheimer's presidency, our club raised \$260,000 for the Polio-Plus Project of Rotary International.

Lancaster Rotary Club response to Community Need:

Bracing Clinic

During 1922-23 the club's interest in how it could be involved in the medical needs of children with polio resulted in the club's funding of a bracing clinic. This clinic was headed by Dr. JJ Rugh, an orthopedic surgeon from Philadelphia, and Edna Schreiber, a nurse from Lancaster General. They were hired to conduct a weekly clinic to adjust and fit leg braces on children stricken with polio.

County Crippled Children Committee

During 1931 -32 a new Lancaster County Committee was formed to take over much of our Rotary service club's responsibilities. However, we continued to provide financial support.

Lancaster Society for Crippled Children and Adults

In 1936 the Lancaster Society for Crippled Children and Adults was organized by concerned citizens and Edna Schreiber, RN was hired as its only employee. Ms. Schreiber -- realizing she needed more knowledge in treatment of children with Polio -- went to Mayo Clinic to learn of new treatment methods. As a side note, she also, in 1947, attended D. T. Watson School of Physiatrics to become a registered physical therapist.

National Easter Seal Society

In 1949 the Lancaster Society for Crippled Children and Adults merged with the National Easter Seal Society due to its nationwide involvement and fundraising appeal. Service locally remained the same.

Schreiber Pediatric Rehab Center

In October 1994, the organization disaffiliated from Easter Seal in order to maintain local autonomy over its programs and resources. This new agency was named Schreiber Pediatric Rehab Center in honor of Edna Schreiber, who spearheaded the organization's success for 31 years, from 1936 until 1967. She continued to be active in the Center's affairs until 1999, when she passed away at the age of 97.

Schreiber Center for Pediatric Development

In 2018, the Center changed its name to Schreiber Center for Pediatric Development to better reflect the breadth of services available for children of all abilities.

By then, Rotary Club of Lancaster had made significant contributions in the treatment of disabilities and the worldwide fight against polio.

Past President Tom Gemmill will now tell us about another of breakthrough project that received worldwide recognition: our Cleft Palate Clinic.

Cleft Palate Clinic

As mentioned earlier in the program, one of Rotary Club of Lancaster's most notable achievements, and one that received international recognition, was our enthusiastic support of Doctor Herbert Cooper's vision for treating children born with cleft palates. When he asked if our club could make the kind of commitment it made earlier to the treatment of crippled children, it was an easy call. The story of the Lancaster Rotary Cleft Palate Speech Clinic is another example of Lancaster Rotary recognizing a critical need and seizing the opportunity to make a difference.

Established in 1938, the nonprofit Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic is the oldest clinic in the world devoted to the comprehensive care of children born with cleft lips and palates and other craniofacial anomalies -- regardless of the family's ability to pay. It is also the only one of its kind in the U.S. offering this kind of care outside the auspices of any major hospital system.

Doctor Cooper had started his practice in the 1920's as an orthodontist. He saw a need to fill a void, and transformed his practice into a small clinic for the treatment of children born with facial deformities such as cleft lips and palates. His clinic was on the first floor of his home at 24 North Lime Street. The challenges of providing this service through a private practice model for 13 years led to its incorporation as a not-for-profit entity.

He knew he could accomplish more, and he knew where to turn to make that happen. The Rotary Club of Lancaster had always placed a special emphasis on youth as a focus of their service to the community. As others stepped in to take care of the crippled children in Lancaster County that we had supported for many years, Doctor Cooper's project opened an opportunity for the club to move on to another area. **Doctor Cooper was a member of the Rotary Club of Lancaster.** He obtained immediate support from the club's crippled children's committee and medical and dental members of the club. In 1942 the committee raised \$1000 to ensure the success of the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic. That amount of money would be worth over \$17,000 in today's dollars. The support of the Rotary Club of Lancaster was instrumental in the success of the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic as described in the historical records of the Clinic.

In 1948, Rotary Club of Lancaster became the first organization to receive the Pennsylvania Medical Society's Benjamin Rush Award, their highest award to non-

healthcare professionals who make significant contributions to the advancement of healthcare.

Today we continue to support Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic. Over the past decade we have contributed over \$23,000 financially to the clinic. Club members have served on the Board, serviced the Clinic in Fundraising, and been executives of the Clinic. They have provided our membership with updates through programs and other presentations to club members.

The Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic continues to set the standards for care in the world. Following a push from the World Health Organization, the Clinic says its grandest impact is coming from a project they're leading called Americleft: a collaboration of specialists identifying the best treatments and management strategies. It has expanded to include a speech group, psycho-social group, a surgical group, and a pediatric/medical/dental group.

In addition, it is a leader in a new initiative: Craniofacial Outcomes Research Network (CORNET). This groundbreaking study – funded by the National Institute for Health -- will compare treatment options for children undergoing palate surgery at approximately one year and follow the results of their speech patterns for the next four years.

Our club is proud of what the Clinic has accomplished, proud of its international stature, and proud that we were given the opportunity to share a vision and help make it happen...

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So our history began with innovative projects serving the needs of the youth of Lancaster, and went on to provide care and services to make a difference with many other people in our community and world. So we'll conclude with Chip Kirchner highlighting another very significant youth program that has had positive repercussions far beyond Lancaster...

Rotary Club of Lancaster History Program: RYLA

Bob Haines was our Club President in the 1959-60 Rotary Year, and a visionary. He established the idea of a Leaders Camp for youth, and asked Bill Nitrauer, the Superintendent of Manheim Township School District, to be the Camp Director, and Ken Friend, a teacher and coach, to assist Bill in establishing the curriculum for the camp.

The first “Leaders Rotary Camp” was held on June 19, 1960 at Camp Carson in Lebanon County. The camp was for boys only, and 11 participated that year. The participants were “rising” senior class students. The curriculum delivered by Rotarians dealt with leadership skills, organization skills, communication skills and sports activities. They would return to their school for senior year and implement what they learned into their school activities. The boys gave a report to the Club membership after returning from the Camp. The members were “wowed”.

The Bob Haines presidency ended on June 30, 1960. He pitched the Leaders Rotary Camp idea to Bernard Schmidt, the 1960-61 District Governor (7390) who supported the idea and during his Governorship endorsed a District Leaders Rotary Camp. That Camp was also held at Camp Carson and was led by Bill Nitrauer. Camp size increased, but was initially more boys from Lancaster.

In 1962 District Governor Greenbaum continued the Camp and promoted it, along with Bill Nitrauer and Bob Haines, to broaden the reach Districtwide. The District now considers this their first “Camp”. (2023 was the 61st). This was still led by Bill Nitrauer and was still a Camp and was still all boys.

The curriculum continually evolved to be more leadership skills and less sports activities. The Camp was still all boys until 1976 when Chet

Arthur of West Shore started an all girls camp at Dickinson College with a leadership curriculum ala Bill Nitrauer. In 1983, the Camp became coed and was held at Messiah College.

In the late 1960s, Bill Nitrauer became District Governor 1967-68, and the program flourished. Then the camp name evolved from Leadership Rotary Camp to a conference, called the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA). The concept was that students being interviewed by Rotarians and accepted to the Leadership conference was really an "Award" for the educational and activity achievements of the selected Junior Class students (rising seniors) chosen for the Conference. The students do see this as a true award. They are rewarded by meeting students from our seven County area and participating in sessions led by area professionals to develop their understanding and skills in the components of Leadership. These professionals can serve as mentors for the Conferees.

To this day, the top RYLA conferee chosen by the Conference leadership is awarded the "William E and Violet W Nitrauer Leadership Award" which is a \$750 cash award.