



SMILE CONNECTION

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

GENERATIONS OF LIFE-CHANGING CARE

LCPC PROVIDES MULTI-GENERATIONAL CARE FOR THE ZIMMERMAN FAMILY

LCPC has played a special role for the Zimmerman family because they've provided care to multiple generations.

Lauren Zimmerman's mother, Cynthia, was born with a cleft palate, taken to LCPC, and treated by Dr. Mo Mazaheri, the clinic's prosthodontist for over 50 years, now retired. Her cleft was the result of Stickler syndrome, a genetic connective tissue disorder. When one parent carries the gene, there's a 50/50 chance they will pass it to their children.

Lauren inherited Stickler syndrome, and was born with a severe hard and soft cleft palate. She received treatment in D.C. "It wasn't the same team approach as LCPC," Lauren reflects. "Seeing what great care LCPC provides to my kids, I can't imagine doing anything different."

When Lauren and her husband Jonathan welcomed their son, Rowan, Lauren immediately saw he had inherited Stickler syndrome. The hospital pediatrician confirmed Rowan had a soft cleft palate.

Rowan struggled to eat. The Zimmermans met with a feeding specialist from LCPC, who empowered them to care for Rowan, who began gaining weight.

At Lauren's ultrasound for her second son, Levi, doctors worried that his jaw was so recessed, he might not survive. As doctors predicted, he wasn't breathing when he was born. He had problems feeding and sleeping, due to his recessed jaw and cleft palate. Lauren knew to take Levi to LCPC.

Early on it became clear Levi would need a jaw distraction. Dr. Henry "added hardware to Levi's jaw," Lauren recounts.



"Those pins were rotated to lengthen it. When done slowly, that bone can regenerate."

Levi spent 60 days in the NICU before being discharged. A few months later, Dr. Henry repaired his cleft palate and removed the hardware from his jaw. Levi continued to thrive.

He exhibited delayed speech, but after working with a speech therapist, Levi "talks up a storm." Levi visits the clinic every three months for hearing checks with Rachel, as Stickler syndrome impacts hearing, and he'll come for orthodontics when ready.

"The clinic helps families from all walks of life," Lauren says. "They care for children who may not have been able to live. The money donors give allows our kids to have the support you would want for your own child."

The clinic has played an integral role in the lives of Rowan, Levi, and Lauren's mother. For years, Lauren has witnessed first-hand their life-changing care. "We appreciate all they've done for our boys," she says.

PLANS UNDERWAY TO IMPROVE CARE AND INCREASE RESEARCH IN THE NEW YEAR

We have hit the ground running in 2023!

Our Staff and Board of Directors have been working hard on a new strategic plan that will guide our approach to improve care delivery and increase our research footprint in Craniofacial Care. We also have exciting events planned to better connect our patient families to one another and share the excitement of our mission with the community.



Sadly, this year will also bring goodbyes to some of our longest serving team members. Dr. Don Mackay will be ending his tenure as one of our craniofacial surgeons in June. He will also step down from his clinical and leadership roles at Penn State Hershey Medical Center to pursue his passions, including fly fishing and – not surprisingly – cleft surgery with Operation Smile. Kim Stoner, one of our orthodontic technicians, will be retiring to enjoy her beautiful grandchildren. Kim’s service with us bridges our past and present, as one of our few remaining team members to have started their career at the original clinical building at 24 N. Lime Street. Each serves as a role model to us!

Sincerely,

Liz Prada, DMD, MPH
Executive Director and Pediatric Dentist

A COMMENDATION ON OUR LIFE-CHANGING CARE

In 2022, LCPC was named an Honoree in LNPs Best Workplaces in Lancaster County. A staff member nominated us and the entire staff responded to an anonymous survey to determine our ranking.

MEET OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS



Krista Kirchner, PhD, CCC,
Speech-Language Pathologist

Krista’s research and practice focuses on early identification of speech and language delays and family-centered care in early intervention. She appreciates the importance of a family-centered, team-based approach when

providing care and making sure families are actively involved in their children’s treatment plan. It takes a village!

Lauren Madhoun, PhD, MS, CCC-SLP,
Feeding Specialist

Lauren joins us after completing her doctorate at The Ohio State University, a master’s degree at Boston University, and a bachelor of science from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. Lauren previously served as the feeding specialist at the esteemed Cleft and Craniofacial Team at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, OH.

BEST WISHES TO OUR RETIRING TEAM MEMBERS



Dr. Don Mackay is retiring in July 2023. LCPC is extremely grateful and thankful for his expertise and passion for pediatric plastic surgery for over 30 years at LCPC, treating our craniofacial and cleft palate patients. Dr Mackay was Interim Chair of the Department of Surgery at Penn

State College of Medicine and Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Dr. Mackay’s clinical focus has been in pediatric plastic surgery and cleft lip and palate. Help us wish Dr. Mackay well in his retirement as he continues his mission work with Operation Smile.



Kim Stoner, our Orthodontic Records Tech, is retiring from LCPC in June 2023 after 46 years in the orthodontic craniofacial world of dentistry. She has been with LCPC since 1977 in our original site on Lime Street. Kim also worked 37 years at LOA. She has been dedicated to LCPC’s

mission and patients, taking hundreds of impressions and thousands of photos of our patients through their journey of transforming their smiles. We are so grateful for all the quality care Kim has given to our patients. Kim is looking forward to spending time with her family and grandchildren.

IT SHINES BRIGHT IN THE SMILES

Supporters drew new development director to the clinic



Q&A with Deanna Meyler, PhD

Q: Tell the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic about yourself and your family.

I'm originally from Texas, so most of my family is there, but my husband grew up in Pittsburgh. He loves being back in PA! I also have a white and orange cat named JC (Just Cat). Two of my favorite things to do are work in my vegetable garden and travel.

Q: What brought you to the Clinic?

All the amazing people who care about the Clinic! There is such kindness and compassion from everyone; the families, staff, volunteers, and community. It shines bright in all the smiles and how much people give of themselves to support our work.

Q: What are your goals and dreams for the future of fundraising?

I'm very excited to bring a new event to the Clinic. The pandemic changed so many things, but not the creativity of our patients. Starting in May, we will ask our patients to donate their art to the Clinic so we can share with you on August 4 from 4 to 7pm. We will have coffee table books, holiday cards, calendars, and a silent auction to take home your favorite pieces. More details to come!

Q: What is a 'fun fact' about your life?

In college, I got to study abroad in Venezuela. The experience inspired me to minor in Spanish.



In celebration of the Clinic's milestones, we have created a visual history wall that details our history since 1938. As the birthplace of team care for craniofacial anomalies, the Clinic continues to offer care at every age and stage. Our strategic collaborations and pioneering research allow us to lead the field as we change lives. Stop by the Clinic and review the beautiful, three-dimensional design!

GRANT HELPS US PROVIDE LIFE-CHANGING DENTAL CARE

In February, we celebrated Children's Dental Health Month. Healthy mouths are the foundation for high quality cleft and craniofacial care. However, many of our patients face challenges in their journey to optimum oral health. Tooth decay, gum disease and orthodontic problems are among the most common problems to face children who are born with a cleft. Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease in children and five times more common than asthma. Cavities are significantly more common in children with cleft conditions than children who do not have a cleft. Untreated

dental problems may lead to pain, infection, and difficulty eating, drinking, and speaking. As a result, we work tirelessly to provide high quality dental services, including pediatric and general dentistry and orthodontic treatment.

We are proud to share the news that we were chosen again as a recipient of a \$20,000 Access to Care Grant from the Foundation of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. This grant helps us to provide dental care to those who need it most.



Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic

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SMILE CONNECTION

Platinum
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NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Ensures bright future full of smiles

Strategic plans guide the future of our nonprofit Clinic. After several months of discussions and interviews, LCPC is excited to have a new plan with many excellent goals for research, attracting new practitioners, fiscal health, and expanding our reputation. None of our goals can be reached without you. Despite 85 years of smiles, many do not yet know who we are. Together, we can change this. Keep sharing your stories about the Clinic with everyone, participating in our events, volunteering to help, and inviting friends and family to financially support our work. Together we can make sure LCPC continues to be a special place.

A TOUCH OF BEAUTY

LCPC recently installed four beautiful murals painted and donated by Listrak and the Foundation for Hospital Art. We can't wait for you to come see them!

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!

March 26 | 2-4:00pm | Mix and Mingle

Join other cleft team families at the Clinic, hosted by the LCPC Parent Council - FREE

Talk with other parents, learn about the Parent Council, and join in activities for the kids to interact with each other. Refreshments and cookies will be provided. RSVP to bbilitzo@cleftclinic.org.



May 5 | All-Day | Give Local York

12% of LCPC patients live in York County. Give Local York is a great opportunity to support your local friends and neighbors with cleft and craniofacial conditions.

May 17, 6:00pm | Disability Planning: What Every Caregiver Needs to Know

This free, virtual workshop provides an overview of care management, trust administration, financial planning strategies & estate planning for families that have dependents with special needs.

July 29 | 6:30pm | Barnstormers at Clipper Stadium

July is National Cleft & Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month. Join us in bringing awareness to our community at a Barnstormers baseball game. This evening will include the annual Christmas in July celebration and fireworks!

August 4 | 4-8:00pm | Lancaster First Friday

We will feature patient art. Keep watching for more details. - FREE

September 13 | All Day | ABC27 will host a Telethon for LCPC, 7:30 to 8pm.

All day a phone bank will be taking donations at the station and videos of the clinic will be aired. Tune in to watch our show from 7:30 to 8 pm!

November 17 | All Day | Lancaster ExtraGive

A Lancaster County generosity event that we are part of!