



SMILE CONNECTION

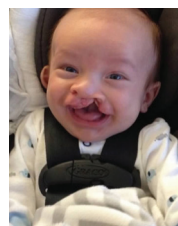
FALL NEWSLETTER 2023

WE WISH YOU THE BEST, DR. LONG

We celebrated the retirement of Dr. Ross “Rusty” E. Long, Jr., DMD, MS, PhD, in June, but he is still actively part of our work and mission. Rusty’s family founded our Clinic in 1938 and he grew up learning about cleft lip and palate from his grandfather, founder and Orthodontist Dr. H. K. Cooper, and father, Orthodontist, Dr. Long, Sr. He became part of the Clinic in 1977 as an Orthodontist and supported many patients over the previous 46 years. In addition to seeing patients, Rusty filled many roles at the Clinic as the Executive Director, Director Emeritus, and Director of Research. Today, we are honored to have him on our Board of Directors and involved with research benefiting our patients.



“Dr. Long’s kindness and patience during the ups and downs of Dwayne’s cleft treatment have been greatly appreciated. Thank you, Dr. Long, for your years of service to these children!” **John, Melody & Dwayne Mellinger**



“We were so blessed when our grandchild Logan was born with a cleft palate/lip and he went to the Lancaster clinic. The doctors performed amazing work. We cannot thank you enough Dr. Long for EVERYTHING you’ve done for us, and we wish you the very best.” **Kim & Keith Sawyer**



“I want to thank Rusty for his mentorship, leadership and most importantly his friendship. His dedication to the patients has served as a constant reminder of why we have all chosen to work here.” **Thomas D. Samson MD FACS FAAP**

“Rusty has been a transformational force in my life as a mentor and colleague. He has supported my journey and growth as executive director and as a dentist at LCPC. What impresses me most about his drive is that he works tirelessly to advance evidence-based care that is based in science. Our patients have better outcomes and quality of life because of his work.” **Liz Prada, DMD, MPH, Executive Director and Pediatric Dentist**

“With all the obstacles that we faced in my care, I remember Dr. Long would explain everything to my mother and I in his caring, compassionate, and down to earth nature. He even helped convince little immature middle school me to wear my retainer because the results would be worth it— and they were indeed.” **Sima Shaikh**

“A big teddy bear, with compassion and love. When I was a heartbroken little girl who lost my father at 8 years old, he did everything he could to try to make me smile and showered me with love. It felt like family at the cleft palate clinic because of all the love and compassion.” **Cassandra Doan**

WHY DO YOU GIVE?



Several years ago, I asked a Clinic supporter what motivated her to give to our organization. There are an incredible number of nonprofits in Lancaster that do amazing work for our community. She could choose any one of them to make a difference. While I never intended to put her in an uncomfortable position, she gave me a vulnerable answer. She told me that she was never able to have children. Giving was her way of making the children we care for “her kids” too. We were a part of her family. It was such a profound and touching response. Whenever I think of her generosity, it reminds me that our team is not limited to the doctors and other providers involved in direct patient care. Our much larger team of donors and other supporters provide the resources to make this work possible. Supporting and cultivating this network motivates me to work hard to create the synergy needed for effective teamwork.

As an independent organization, we rely on a multitude of helpers. They include donors, volunteers, private medical and dental practices, government officials, hospital systems, supply and equipment companies, and the list goes on. Each piece of the puzzle is key to the whole.

Thank you for supporting our team and being a member of our greater family.

With gratitude,

Liz Prada, DMD, MPH
Executive Director and Pediatric Dentist



A SPECIAL VISITOR

The Clinic enjoyed a special visit from a former patient, Lester Usner. Eager to see the new spaces, Lester shared his excitement for renovation and described the contrast of when he was a patient in the 1950's.

We love to welcome former patients and their families!



MEET OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBER

Joanie Mitchell, EFDA, graduated from LCCTC as a Dental Assistant in 2005 and the Expanded Function Dental Assistant Program in 2014. She has three sons and enjoys attending demolition derby's with her family.

GIFTS CARRIED FORWARD

WHY DO I GIVE? I am frequently asked this question. The simple answer is because I care.

I know that we can be our best, together, when we support one another. I grew up very humble. My family relied on our community to fill the gaps of what we could provide for ourselves. Friends, neighbors, churches, and other family members made my childhood better in many ways by giving of themselves. I have experienced how important it is to support one another, especially children. Little ones are still learning about the world and who they might be. It is our responsibility to give them the best future possible. I am compelled to carry forward the gifts that have been given to me.

I give as much as I can, and I strive to graciously accept the gifts of others. My family believes that we must do good deeds for others through sharing of our time, talents, and funds. Being part of the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic and helping raise funds to support all our patients is the embodiment of who I strive to be and what I was taught. And it is only one way I joyfully give to my community.

WHY DO YOU GIVE?



Deanna Meyler, PhD
Director of Development

FAREWELL



Dr. Alyse O'Kelly, DMD has been with LCPC for the last three years. She has been accepted into the Nemours Children's Hospital Pediatric Dental Residency Program in Delaware which started July 2023. This is a two year residency program, and we could not be more excited for her as she strives to achieve this next goal in her dental career.



Brittany Bilitzo, MS, CCC, our Speech Language Pathologist, has made a difficult decision to leave LCPC in October to pursue her career in her hometown in Arizona. She will be missed by her patients and staff. She has been with LCPC for over three years and has been an asset to our Team patients, speech and research projects.



Armstrong World Industries Foundation has awarded us a **\$25,000 Better Buildings Maintenance Grant.**



Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic

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SMILE CONNECTION

EXTRAGIVE & EXTRA IMPACT

As a Nation, we are entering into our season of giving. Upcoming holidays and Giving Tuesday inspire us to give to the people and causes we care about.

Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic patients, volunteers, and staff all hope you will consider giving to support the over 6,000 patients we care for annually. As we continue to grow and meet the needs of our community, even more children benefit from all of us supporting their care. And fall has one very special way to give.

The Lancaster County Community Foundation Extraordinary Give, or ExtraGive, is November 17. For 24-hours, people far and wide are encouraged to give through this special opportunity and bring more funds to the organizations they care about in Lancaster County. By giving in this unique way, we enable the Clinic to qualify for prizes of additional funds. For example, the Clinic will be awarded a monetary prize at the end of ExtraGive from the Foundation based on the number of donors that contributed, not the amount. For additional inspiration to give on this day, **Capital Blue Cross is matching the first \$5,000 donated** to the Clinic through the ExtraGive. Please join us on this special day and help us raise \$60,000 through 300 or more individual donations!



EXTRA GIVE™



ARE YOU ON SOCIAL MEDIA? We have an active Facebook page and are building our Instagram following. Please join us at facebook.com/lancastercleftpalateclinic and [@lancastercleftpalateclinic](https://instagram.com/lancastercleftpalateclinic).