



SMILE CONNECTION

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024



YOU HELPED ME BE THE BEST PERSON I CAN BE

Roger Snyder is an incredible kid. He's an eighth-grade student on the distinguished honor roll, a trombone player in the school band, and a LEGO enthusiast.

He's also overcome his share of challenges, with the help of his Pap, his Grandma, and his amazing team at Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic.

Roger was born with a cleft palate and bilateral (both sides) cleft lip. Dr. Samson performed his repair surgeries at Hershey Medical Center when Roger was one, but then, Roger's follow-up visits to the Clinic became spotty. When Roger's grandparents, Clyde and Mila, received full custody of Roger in March of 2018, they committed to getting him back to the Clinic for care despite the fact that it's an hour and forty-minute drive to Lancaster City.

"In 2019, we took him to Hershey Medical Center three times for surgeries around his nose and on his gums," Clyde reflected. "He was well taken care of."

It became apparent Roger needed braces and additional dental work, so Clyde and Mila decided to have that work done at the Clinic as well. Roger had braces on his top teeth and now has a retainer. The lower braces will be placed when Roger's face finishes growing.

Dr. Samson, who performed that initial surgery, remains involved in Roger's care. "I can't praise Dr. Samson enough," Clyde said. "He's a great doctor. When we go in for the team visit, he's very attentive to Roger."

Clyde is especially grateful for rabbittransit, a transportation service. The Clinic social work services support our families in understanding what is available to overcome transportation barriers. Before Roger's visits, Clyde arranges transportation through rabbittransit so that he and Roger can take a car to the Clinic, where the driver waits for them to finish their appointment, then returns them to their home. To Clyde, the drive is more than worthwhile.

"The team is great," Clyde said. "They explain everything that's going on. I like that, after team visits, we get a detailed explanation in the mail in language that we can understand."

"I'm amazed by the advances that have been made in cleft palate care," Clyde said.

He is knowledgeable about the progression of care because Roger's father, Clyde's own son, received treatment as a child at Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic for his own cleft.

The approach to care may have changed over the last few decades but the incredible, compassionate team at the Clinic has not. "The team is helpful," Roger said. "Dr. Samson is a nice guy. He's funny and a very encouraging person."

Roger is grateful to his Pap and Grandma for being committed to his care. "It makes me feel loved," he said.

The Clinic has a special place in Roger's heart after so many years of care and support. "Thank you to the staff for helping me through everything that's happened over the years and helping me be the best person I can be," Roger said. "I really appreciate it."

OUR STAFF DESERVES TO BE CELEBRATED!



Part of the excitement of working at the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic is the opportunity to work with talented co-workers who care about the quality of their work. Our work is gratifying, knowing we positively impact families affected by craniofacial conditions. Behind the scenes, we have a small army of administrative staff who make that work possible. I would like to introduce them and share my gratitude.

As a small, independent organization, we don't have large hospital departments to support our work. Instead, we have one or two people in each entity at our Clinic who work tirelessly to accomplish great things.

I would like to thank Alice Hernandez and Kim Coles, billing specialists; Gail Henry, credentialing expert; Darla Miles, bookkeeper; Brenda Hohman, team scheduling coordinator; Jackie Foust, building manager and ordering specialist; Kristy Beckman, Director of Finance, and Andrea Weaver, team secretary. Andrea prepares team reports that are mailed to families and their doctors, which is no small feat. These talented women are our Clinic's cornerstone. They ensure bills are paid on time, doctors remain credentialed with insurance companies and hospitals, team appointments are coordinated with multiple providers, insurance companies pay claims properly, records are accurate, and that we have the equipment necessary to perform procedures.

Please join me in thanking them for all they do at LCPC for the team.

Sincerely,



Liz Prada, DMD, MPH
Executive Director and Pediatric Dentist



Thank you, administrative staff!



New Study to Explore the Impact of Social Media on Children with Cleft Palates

The Clinic is in the early stages of a new study with our partners at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Together, we will examine how social media use impacts psychosocial outcomes, like depression, among our teenage patients and their parents. Previous research shows that depression among teens is correlated with social media use. As social media use increases, so too do negative psychosocial outcomes. However, these have not been studied among those who have experienced cleft surgery. Additionally, we will explore how their parent's use of social media for research about clefts affects their perceptions of their children's psychosocial well-being.

Many educational and supportive interventions for children with a cleft utilize social media. However, this could have unforeseen impacts on the psychological health of children, including impacting perception of appearance, satisfaction with surgeries, and more.

We hope that knowing more will allow our providers to better serve our patients' psychosocial needs before and after surgery. Greater understanding of potential mental health outcomes is critical, as our goal is to provide holistic care to patients.

"It is always exciting to begin a new project that will benefit our patients," says Deanna Meyler, PhD. "The more we know, the better we can help everyone have a bright future."



ANTICIPATING A BEAUTIFUL YEAR AHEAD

So many good things from 2023 are impacting 2024, already making it a beautiful year for our patients!

Last November, we raised \$40,910 during the Lancaster County Community Foundation ExtraGive. Our community continues to demonstrate how important our work is through this fundraiser. The smiles of our patients during the event can still be seen on our Facebook and Instagram pages. In December, we were awarded several multi-year grants that will help ensure we can continue to meet the needs of patients over the next three years. We also met our \$100,000 match for the Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation grant. Your generosity makes their gift possible!

We are so grateful to everyone involved with the Clinic and we will celebrate you June 1, our Day of Gratitude. We invite all our generous supporters, our patients and their families, our volunteers, and our staff to join us at Overlook Park to say thank you. Come meet others who care about our mission as much as you do.

We can't wait to experience the beautiful year ahead with you!

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

LCPC has been named an AAPD Foundation Multi-Year Access to Care Grant Recipient. \$225,000 will be awarded to the Clinic over the next three years to support patient care in our Dental Home program.



Ferree Foundation and S. Dale High Foundation

The Clinic has received two \$40,000 grants in support of purchasing a new comprehensive x-ray machine that is critical for patient care, totaling \$80,000. Our current machine was donated 20 years ago and has outlived its life expectancy.



Deanna Meyler, PhD,
Director of Development

CONGRATULATIONS LEXI STAUFFER!



Named New Director of Team Services

Lexi has been with the Clinic since 2013. She always says she “grew up with the Clinic.” Starting as an intern, Lexi has also been a Lab Tech, Pediatric Dental Assistant, Research Coordinator, and Cleft Team Coordinator. Lexi

will continue her work as team coordinator and add overseeing our research program, supporting our team providers, and enhancing collaboration within and beyond our organization with other craniofacial teams. Lexi says she is most excited to “focus on collaboration between the different providers and making sure we are continuing to provide the best care possible for our team patients.”

BEST WISHES ROSANNE AYALA, RN



After 18 years supporting our patients, Rosanne retired from the Clinic at the end of January. She has been a tireless link and advocate for our patients with Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Rosanne was a nurse for 50 years and spent 36 of those years with Penn State Health. Rosanne says, “Working at the Cleft

Palate Clinic has been one of my favorites in my whole career. I am going to miss all the wonderful patients and their families and the dedicated staff at the Clinic.” We will miss Rosanne too. She plans to spend more time with her family, travel, and volunteer.



SMILE CONNECTION

Platinum
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Let's Connect!



Give Local York

MAY 2 AND 3 is Give Local York. With 10% of our patients living in York County and being the only approved craniofacial care provider, this event helps bring critical funds to the care of these patients. Please consider giving during this annual event.



Day of Gratitude

We invite everyone who cares about our mission to the Overlook Park Pavilion, 2040 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, on **JUNE 1 FROM 12-2 P.M.** so we can say thank you. Supporters, patients and their families, volunteers, and staff are all welcome for snacks, games, a bounce house, face painting, and more.



Lancaster Barnstormers FUNdraiser

Join us **JULY 21 AT 3 P.M.** to celebrate National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month. In a dedicated section of the ballpark, we will watch a patient throw out the first ball and all our young patients invited onto the field to meet the players. A portion of ticket sales will be donated to the Clinic.



Celebrating Smiles

Celebrating Smiles will be held on **OCTOBER 4**. Art donations will be accepted beginning June 1 through August 1 from patients and others connected with the Clinic. We intend to publish a small book of written art such as poems and short stories. All art, even doodles and pieces made by small children are welcome. No living art as plants are challenging for us to maintain.

