



SMILE CONNECTION

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024



A SMILE FULL OF SUNSHINE

Six months ago, a little ray of sunshine – Aerilyn – joined the Yoder family.

Her birth was great,” Aerilyn’s mother Candace remembers. “It was quick and easy.”

Despite Aerilyn’s uncomplicated arrival, a shadow of anxious uncertainty hung over the day. “We knew ahead of time about her cleft lip,” Candace shares. “We didn’t know about her palate, but it was a possibility. I was a little nervous to meet her. She’s my first girl after two boys and I worried I wouldn’t feel connected to her.”

But Candace didn’t need to worry. “As soon as I saw her, everything was fine,” she says. “She was perfect.”

Shortly after her birth, the pediatrician confirmed that she did indeed have a cleft palate in addition to her cleft lip. “When we found out before she was born, it was shocking. I felt like my world crashed down,” Candace says, recalling Aerilyn’s ultrasound in which her cleft lip was diagnosed.

But Cody, Candace, and their two boys Aldric, 4, and Elden, 2, had a community of friends and family rally around them to pray for Aerilyn, specifically that she would be able to eat. “I think feeding is everyone’s first concern,” Candace shares. “Giving up breastfeeding was something I had to grieve. But she immediately took to the bottle. She did so well.”

Thanks to UPMC’s timely action in connecting the Yoders to Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, they felt prepared for Aerilyn’s

arrival. Cody and Candace met with the Clinic prior to Aerilyn’s birth and returned with her when she was two weeks old.

“That’s when we met everyone. We loved that all the services are in house,” Candace says. “Every time I’ve left the Clinic, I’ve felt confident and supported.”

Aerilyn’s first surgery at the end of April to repair her lip was a success. When she is nine months old, the Yoders will return to the Clinic to discuss the timing of her palate surgery. “At the Clinic, there are clear, concise plans for moving forward,” Candace says. “They make me feel at ease.”

Candace loves the personal feel of the Clinic. “I’ve always felt like they genuinely care about my baby. When we’re there, people will pop in just to see her. It’s a very friendly place. It’s always been about people first.”

This philosophy is evidenced by the Clinic’s commitment to helping the Yoders obtain insurance coverage for Aerilyn’s taping treatment. “The team at the Clinic guided us through how to apply for the insurance and at our bi-weekly tape checks, they assured us they were doing everything on their end to make sure we didn’t need to pay anything,” Candace shares. “I never worried that it wouldn’t work out!”

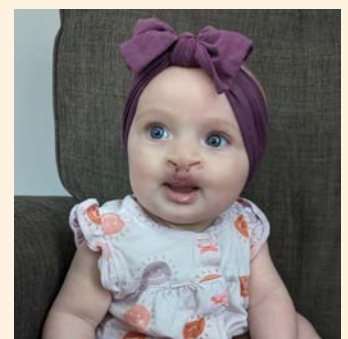
Aerilyn’s bright smile is a testament to the Clinic’s care, and Candace is grateful for the resources the Clinic provides. “I felt a weight lift off my shoulders when they said,

‘Everything you’ll ever need is right here,’” she reflects.

“I don’t want Aerilyn’s cleft diagnosis to define who she is,” Candace continues. “It’s a big part of her, but it’s not limiting, and I’m so grateful that she gets to live a normal life because of the Clinic. As my friend told me, ‘You have a healthy baby! She’s just cleft-affected.’”

Candace encourages community members to get to know the Clinic. “They’re doing such good work for babies,” she says. “They’ve helped us so much and they’re helping many other kids on this journey.”

Thanks to the Clinic, Aerilyn continues to spread her sunshine – one smile at a time.



CELEBRATING A SUMMER OF GROWTH



We have been busy the past few months at the Clinic caring for patients and preparing for a busy Summer and Fall. It has been a blast hearing about everyone's plans to enjoy this exciting vacation season, whether close to home or abroad. Congratulations to our graduating seniors and those who have completed their cleft

care journeys! Recently, several of our teenage patients participated in a seminar hosted by our plastic surgeons, director of team services, Lexi Stauffer, and social worker, Suzanne Woodard, to prepare for their final jaw surgeries. This surgical milestone marks the completion of nearly two decades of care with our team.

At the Clinic, we recently welcomed back Dr. Kristin Connors, Dr. Krista Kirchner, and orthodontic tech Jahaira Vera as they return from maternity leave. Each welcomed beautiful babies into their families - two girls and one boy. On August 5, Camryn Heister will join our team as our newest speech pathologist. She completed her craniofacial speech pathology fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Atlanta and a Master's of Science degree from East Carolina University. She is originally from Lancaster and is excited to return to her roots.

Thank you to all of you for supporting our mission. Wishing you a safe and prosperous end to your summer!

Sincerely,

Liz Prada, DMD, MPH
Executive Director and Pediatric Dentist



ABUNDANT Opportunities to Support Patient Care

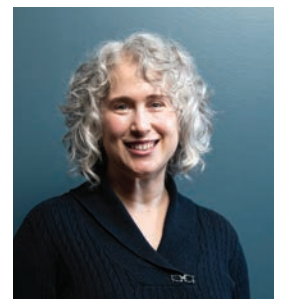


It was wonderful celebrating our Day of Gratitude in June. Thank you to everyone who joined us! The care we provide our patients is made possible by you. Supporters, patients, and staff all had fun with games, books, face painting, balloons, and more on a beautiful day. A special thank you goes to the Kiwanis Club of Lititz Area for bringing books for everyone to

take home, Crystal Springs for providing bottled water, and GIANT for providing snacks. If you were unable to join us this year, we hope you can join us at the next one. Thank you for all you do for our patients!

Our next event is Celebrating Smiles with Fulton Financial Advisors: sip and stroll through Clinic art on October 4 from 4:30 to 8:00 pm at the Prince Street Café in Lancaster, PA. During Lancaster's First Friday we will display donated original art by patients and their family members, practitioners, and others who care about our mission. All donated art will be available to bid on starting September 13. See our website for more information at www.cleftclinic.org/events. We hope you will bid on your favorite pieces to take home at the end of the event (we can also mail art to you). On October 4, come order your favorite café drink, view everyone's talent, and help us raise funds to support patient care!

Deanna Meyler, PhD
Director of Development



STUDY SEEKS TO CONFIRM SAFE ANESTHETIC PROCEDURES FOR PATIENTS WITH CLEFTS

LCPC is partnering with the Department of Anesthesia at Penn State Health Children's Hospital to evaluate sedation-related outcomes for patients who need dental surgery. Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease in children, and it disproportionately affects children with cleft and craniofacial conditions. LCPC provides dental surgery to treat tooth decay and other dental diseases for children with craniofacial conditions. Our patients often need extensive and potentially uncomfortable dental procedures. Treatment may be provided under general anesthesia at the Children's Hospital to ensure patient comfort and safety when children are too young or are otherwise unable to cooperate for in-office dental care.

Anesthesia physicians take extra care when managing breathing and the airways of patients who have a cleft. Children with a cleft can have scarring and unique anatomy in their mouths and noses, making anesthesia more difficult to administer.

Our research project looks at the safety of using breathing tubes, or "intubation tubes," placed through a patient's nose versus a more traditional tube placed through the mouth during dental surgery. Dental surgeons generally prefer intubation through the nose in order to keep a patient's mouth free and clear of any obstacles that could make surgery more difficult or unnecessarily long. This study aims to show that nasal intubation is safe to perform and does not pose additional risks to patients with a cleft. Preliminary data from over 400 surgeries shows that oral and nasal intubation are equally safe for patients with a cleft.



Patient Care and Hearing Aid Lending Library Funded by **GENEROUS GRANTS**



Members 1st Charitable Foundation has awarded the Clinic \$3,000 to support uncompensated patient care costs.

The Josiah W. and Bessie H. Kline Foundation has awarded the Clinic \$10,000 to support the start of a bone conduction hearing aid lending library for our youngest patients.





SMILE CONNECTION

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Kristin Connors, a craniofacial orthodontist, has expanded her time at the Clinic to three days a week and is accepting new patients.



Celebrating Smiles with Fulton Financial Advisors

Sip and stroll through Clinic art



Join us during Lancaster's First Friday on October 4 at the Prince Street Café from 4:30 to 8 pm and see all the incredible art donated by patients and their families, practitioners, and others who care about our mission. Order your favorite café drink while you bid on your favorite pieces to take home with you at the end of the event. The silent online auction will open September 13. Visit our website for more information. www.cleftclinic.org/events.



New i-CAT in the Clinic

There is a **new comprehensive x-ray machine** in the Clinic and everyone is excited about the quality of images it is providing. You might see it during your next Clinic visit!

Support Us Through ExtraGive 2024

Join us on November 22 for the annual Lancaster community ExtraGive! Your gift supporting patient care during this special 24 hours could be matched and will open other gifts to the Clinic. The funds raised through this event support critical needs at the Clinic that help our patients smile.



Gifts That Give Hope 2024

Join us for the 17th annual gift fair on **SUNDAY December 1 at the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road Lancaster PA from 11am-4pm** for a festive, family friendly event where holiday shoppers can find meaningful gifts for everyone on their shopping lists! The event includes opportunities to give gifts towards charitable organizations, including LCPC, shop from social enterprises, business for good, fair trade, ethically sourced products, food trucks, and more!

