

The History of
Rotary Club
of
Youngstown
1915 - 2015

Compiled By
Rand D. Becker
Past President, *1994-95*

Committee Members: Rand D. Becker
Elayne M.S. Bozick
Scott R. Schulick
Samantha Turner

Rotary Club of Youngstown
Number 137

February 1st, 1915
February 1st, 2015

One Hundred Years
of
“Service Above Self”

Prologue

The Rotary Club of Youngstown was founded on February 1, 1915 under the leadership of renowned Youngstown architect Charles F. Owsley. The Club is #137 of over 34,000 clubs worldwide. For the next 100 years individuals from across the Valley have been gathering to make our community and our world a better place to live.

Under the mantra of “Service Above Self”, Rotarians globally have committed to eradicating Polio. We are very close to reaching this goal and we must remain diligent to the cause to make sure there is no resurgence of this ugly disease.

With membership peaking at 300 in the 1950’s, our club sponsored the formation of the Boardman, Canfield, Hubbard, Struthers, Girard/Liberty and Austintown clubs. Locally, the Rotary Club of Youngstown was instrumental in the founding of the Boys and Girls Club of Youngstown and the Easter Seal Society. Rotarians also played a key role in the organizing of the Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, Boy Scouts, Community Chest, Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

In addition to being the regional leader in “Service Above Self”, Youngstown Rotarians have risen to leadership roles within Rotary International. Eight members have served as District Governors, most recently Debbie Esbenshade served as DG in 2013-14. Leonard T. Skeggs served as Vice President of Rotary International in 1925 and most notably, Atty. Robert A. Manchester II served as President of Rotary International in 1976-77.

The Rotary Club of Youngstown is one of the few clubs which has its own Foundation which supports major projects in the area. Over the years, the Rotary Foundation has supported the Harwood Beacon Community Initiative, Wick Neighbors Harrison Field, OH WOW! Roger and Gloria Jones Children’s Center for Science and Technology. Since its founding in 1947, the Rotary Foundation has provided over \$1 million of support to local charitable projects.

A major commitment has been made to the Youngstown City Schools when the Rotary Club adopted Harding Elementary. In 1998 the Rotary Club began an initiative known as “Put Kids First”. The program offers ongoing mentorship and support to the children attending school. In 2005, the Rotary Club helped fund and build a new playground at the school. The award winning Put Kids First program has most recently taken on the fight against cancer with the “Rockin’ Race” raising funds for the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center.

New projects for the club include Operation Warm, Families of the Fallen and the Little Free Library.

If there are good works being done in the community there is a good chance a Youngstown Rotarian was involved!

A job well done for 100 years and best wishes for the next 100 years!!

Paul J. Garchar Jr.
President 2014-15

Rotary International

Thursday, January 29, 2015
Rotary History Exhibit & Cocktail Reception –
The Tyler Mahoning Valley History Center

Friday, January 30, 2015
Centennial Lunch
Ed Futa, Past RI General Secretary – Keynote Speaker
The Tyler Mahoning Valley History Center

Saturday, January 31, 2015
Centennial Gala – Youngstown Country Club – Black Tie

Excerpt taken from: A Century of Service by David C. Forward.

“Even the world’s mightiest rivers have humble beginnings. One hundred years ago, the river called Rotary was born. A lonely lawyer named Paul P. Harris called together three business associates for an evening meeting. That night, they decided to form a club where they could meet and deal with one another in friendship and trust. One of the early objectives was for members to exchange business with each other. But just as streams sometimes change direction, so did the Rotary club, and it did so by discovering the joys of service. Soon service gathered such momentum that Rotary became known as the first “service” club. Tolerance, high ethical standards, fellowship commitment to community service and world peace have engaged the time and efforts of Rotary. Rotarians, realizing that even greater needs existed beyond their own communities, added international service to club, community and vocational service. As Rotary, the pioneer of all service organizations, celebrates its centennial, it has over 1.2 million men and women members in more than 31,000 clubs in over 165 countries around the globe.”

2014-15 Officers

President

Paul J. Garchar Jr.

President - Elect

Rebecca L. Keck

Vice President

David H. Turner

Secretary

H. William Lawson

Treasurer

Robert Calvert

Directors

Term ending June 30, 2015

Elayne M. S. Bozick

Frank Kishel

John Slanina

Term ending June 30, 2016

Deborah A. Esbenshade

John Fahnert

Richard Hahn

Term ending June 30, 2017

Elsa Higby

Don Foley Jr.

Msgr. Robert J. Siffrin

Ex-Officio

Scott R. Schulick

Executive Secretary

Shirley M. Shields

Past Presidents

1914-15	Charles F. Owsley
1915-16	Charles F. Owsley
1916-17	John R. Rowland
1917-18	John N. Reese
1918-19	William J. Williams
1919-20	William W. Gillen, William Yost
1920-21	Clayton E. Reed
1921-22	Bertram G. Parker
1922-23	George R. Clegg
1923-24	Leonard T. Skeggs
1924-25	Curtis A. Manchester
1925-26	James A. Henderson
1926-27	Raymond Brenner, Sr.
1927-28	Raymond Bott
1928-29	Roy L. Hartzell
1929-30	Ed D. Kaulback
1930-31	E. Clyde Woods
1931-32	Thomas H. Murray, Jr.
1932-33	Ralph P. White
1933-34	Lloyd R. Wallis
1934-35	William G. Gutnecht
1935-36	Dr. Clyde B. Norris
1936-37	Dr. W. Howard Hayden
1937-38	Dr. Roland A. Luhman
1938-39	Henry E. Caldwell
1939-40	Donald J. Lynn
1940-41	Fred W. James
1941-42	George A. Hoffman
1942-43	Robert A. Manchester, President Rotary International 1976-77
1943-44	Robert W. Ramsdell
1944-45	John M. Hogan
1945-46	James C. Mann
1946-47	G. Taylor Evans
1947-48	Frank B. Warren
1948-49	Fred W. Lyons
1949-50	Charles B. Cushwa, Jr.
1950-51	J. Fred Essig
1951-52	Reed Pennel
1952-53	John S. Andrews
1953-54	Samuel R. Norris
1954-55	Ralph P. White, Jr.
1955-56	William K. Hunter
1956-57	Sidney S. Moyer
1957-58	Samuel M. Eckert

1958-59	Howard E. Wilson
1959-60	Charles B. Miller
1960-61	Robert J. Fithian
1961-62	Melvin F. Ogram
1962-63	Rev. Eugene C. Beach
1963-64	Guion Osborn
1964-65	Jay C. Brownlee
1965-66	Franklin K. Stillwagon
1966-67	Duncan B. Sutherland
1967-68	Herbert O. Zimmer
1968-69	Edward J. Hulme
1969-70	James L. Beeghley
1970-71	John Weed Powers
1971-72	William F. Zarbaugh
1972-73	William H. Cossler
1973-74	Henry E. Bertolini
1974-75	Dr. Sidney M. Berkowitz
1975-76	Chester A. Amedia
1976-77	Robert E. Brooks
1977-78	George A. Seeds
1978-79	John A. Varley
1979-80	Richard M. Barrett
1980-81	John L. Funcheon
1981-82	Frank A. Kramer
1982-83	Thomas A. Kirt
1983-84	Dr. William J. Cleary, Jr.
1984-85	Dr. Yau Too Chiu, Jr.
1985-86	James Jarvis
1986-87	Donald R. Crane
1987-88	Frederick J. Stillwagon
1988-89	Herbert N. Soss
1989-90	William A. Russell
1990-91	John N. Logue
1991-92	Paul A. Young
1992-93	Jerold A. Haber
1993-94	James W. Cossler
1994-95	Rand D. Becker
1995-96	Alfred W. Owens
1996-97	Lawrence Weiss
1997-98	Msgr. Robert J. Siffrin
1998-99	Charles C. Petzinger
1999-2000	Gary C. Jones
2000-01	C. Reid Schmutz
2001-02	Deborah A. Esbenshade
2002-03	Michael F. Shaffer
2003-04	Scott R. Schulick
2004-05	Elayne M.S. (Kloviss) Bozick

2005-06	Eric J. Caspary
2006-07	Carlton A. Sears
2007-08	Kevin Y. T. Chiu
2008-09	James L. Blomstrom
2009-10	Mary Womble
2010-11	Stephan M. Kristan
2011-12	Suzanne Fleming
2012-13	Ronald C. Faniro
2013-14	Scott R. Schulick
2014-15	Paul J. Garchar

Past Rotary International President

1976-1977

Robert Manchester II

Past District Governors

1925

Leonard Skeggs

1941-1942

Roland Luhman

1946-1947

Robert Manchester II

1961-1962

Fred Lyons

1971-1972

Herbert O. Zimmer

1998-1999

Jerold A. Haber

2013-2014

Deborah Esbenshade

Local Rotary Clubs

Sponsored by The Rotary Club of Youngstown

1955

Boardman

1955

Canfield

1955

Hubbard

1955

Struthers

1956

Girard – Liberty

1968

Austintown

THE FOUNDER OF THE YOUNGSTOWN ROTARY CLUB CHARLES F. OWSLEY

The essence of his life was succinctly captured in the first paragraph of his *Vindicator* obituary: “Charles F. Owsley, leading architect, founder and first president of the Youngstown Rotary Club, died at his country home on Warner Road at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. Mr. Owsley was aged 73.” Mr. Owsley had died the day before, on March 17, 1953, and his passing ended one of the most eventful and productive lives of one of Youngstown’s finest citizens. He truly was Youngstown’s leading architect, and his buildings have become among the most memorable and enduring landmarks of Youngstown’s golden age of prosperity and prominence. Because of his eminence as an architect, it was quite fitting that his obituary should accentuate his vocation, but it was also quite proper that the obituary had highlighted his other legacy – the Youngstown Rotary Club – which Mr. Owsley would be proud to know has endured – and will endure – far beyond the time when his magnificent buildings are just a memory.

FATHER AND SON

Like all successful persons, Mr. Owsley had a deeply embedded passion for his work. In an interview with the *Vindicator* in April of 1926, Mr. Owsley discussed his love of architecture and his entry into that world: “Architecture is my life and my hobby and its structural problems interest me even as much as the practice of architecture as a fine art. In my boyhood, my inclination was early recognized by the drawings and sketches which I loved to make, and my father, who was a leading architect, naturally directed me into the study of architecture.” This was the beginning of a fruitful partnership that would last for several decades. The father, Charles Henry Owsley, was the wise sage of the profession whom his son would rely upon for the experienced guidance and insights that come with longevity in one’s profession. Likewise, the elder Owsley would rely on his son for his artistic flair and the innovative thinking that he derived from a first-class education and from inspiring apprenticeships with European architects associated with the Beaux Arts movement.

Charles Henry Owsley was born in Leicestershire, England in 1846. He was a member of a prominent family and could have remained comfortably on the family manor, but he sought an adventurous life. At age sixteen, he thought he would try the Royal Navy, but soon found that adventure had its limits. On his first voyage, the captain ordered him to climb the mast and unfurl the sail during a fierce storm. Charles Henry thought carefully about the merits of the captain’s order, gave his dissenting opinion, and was promptly flogged – in the timeless tradition of the British navy. At first port, Charles Henry wisely decided that the sea life wasn’t for him, so he deserted from the navy and headed home. Anxious to set his own path, in 1864 he began an apprenticeship with an architect in Wales. During this period, Charles Henry also served with two well-known architects who had done extensive work in restoring cathedrals in Great Britain. At the end of his apprenticeship in 1868, and upon the death of his father in the same year, Charles Henry decided that he needed a fresh start, so he emigrated to Toronto, where he stayed for about a year, and from there, he moved to the Youngstown area.

He set up shop as an architect with an office on Fruit Street, and soon became quite successful. Within a few years after the opening of his business, he landed a prestigious commission for the design of the new county courthouse that would accommodate the transfer of the county seat from Canfield to Youngstown following the contentious court battle which Canfield had taken all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The cost of the new courthouse – located at the southeast corner of Wick Avenue and Wood Street -- was underwritten by Chauncey Andrews, one of Youngstown's most successful capitalists. The design was true to Charles Henry's English antecedents. It was in the High Victorian Gothic style with a four-story tower and a modified mansard roof. The design was quite proper for the times, and the building's distinctiveness was insured when Charles Henry assigned the task of erecting the structure to P. Ross Berry, who would become the preeminent masonry contractor in Youngstown in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Having made his mark with the courthouse, Charles Henry would be called upon by Youngstown's elite class of citizens to design many of their buildings and residences. In the following decades, Charles Henry would design the Strouss-Hirshberg building on West Federal Street, the Pollock House on Wick Avenue, the Peck House also on Wick Avenue, the Memorial Presbyterian Church at Wick and McGuffey, the Richard Brown Memorial Church at Woodbine and Elm, the Dollar Bank Building on the Central Square, and several other well-known buildings in Youngstown and Warren.

On a personal basis, Charles Henry was known to have a genial and generous disposition. He seems also to have been an attentive and nurturing father. During his rise to prominence, he and his wife raised five children. The fourth child, Charles Frederick, was born on January 10, 1880. From an early age, young Charles displayed quite remarkable artistic tendencies, a talent which his father knew would be easily transferable to the field of architecture. In 1896, while young Charles was still a student at the Rayen School, his father sent him to New York for an apprenticeship under the renowned French architect Masqueray. Charles returned to Youngstown and graduated from Rayen in 1899, and from there enrolled in the prestigious architecture program at the University of Pennsylvania. At the time, Penn was one of the few American universities with an architecture program, and because architecture was such a new field in American academia, the universities tended to model their programs on the French system of design methodology.

Charles received his degree in 1903 and decided to supplement his education with a period of apprenticeship in Europe. His first stop was Holland, where he studied painting under an American painter known as William Merritt Chase. Chase was quite popular in that era, and his influence and guidance almost led Charles to pursue a career in art. However, Charles decided to move on, and so he went to Paris where he resumed the study of architecture as an apprentice under two prominent Parisian architects. At that time, the influential Beaux Arts movement had its epicenter in Paris, and Charles's exposure to this school of thought would strongly influence his own professional style and perspective.

In 1905, after two years in Europe, Charles returned to Youngstown and joined his father's firm in its offices on the fifth floor of the Dollar Bank Building. In that same year, Charles had the good fortune of becoming betrothed to a young lady named Katherine McKelvey. "Kate" herself was a member of a well-known and prosperous family. Her father, G.M. McKelvey, had experienced a spectacular rise as the leading retail merchant in Youngstown. Kate might have met Charles when they were both students at the Rayen School in the late 1890s, or she may have met him at any number of exclusive society events in which the children of the prominent families in Youngstown would mingle and find attachments at the upper level of the social register. Kate had also just returned to the Youngstown area after graduating from Smith College in the class of 1904. She and Charles were married on her father's Hubbard Road residence which, incidentally, had been one of Charles's first designs since his return to Youngstown.

Within a few years, the Owsley architectural firm would be commissioned for the most prestigious and challenging project ever undertaken in Youngstown – the design of the new Mahoning County Courthouse. At the time, the county was in the early years of its rapid ascendancy as one of the leading steel centers in the nation. Youngstown Sheet & Tube, Republic Steel, and the Carnegie Works of U.S. Steel were soaring into growth trajectories that would bring a massive inflow of cash into the area. Prosperity was taking hold, and the outlook was intensely bright. With a rapidly expanding tax base, county officials were able to devote a healthy sum of cash toward constructing a new and modern courthouse. For Charles Henry, the courthouse project was history repeating itself, but this time the designing and building of the courthouse would carry the distinct imprint of Owsley the younger.

Ground for the building was broken in December of 1907, and the project was completed in early 1910. At the time of the dedication of the building, Charles was only thirty years of age. Although his father and the other draftsmen in the firm did their part, the vision was that of Charles. The courthouse is a pure reflection of the Beaux Arts Classicism style that was embedded into Charles at the University of Pennsylvania and in the studios of Paris. For Beaux Arts disciples such as Charles, a building is more than an agglomeration of steel and brick and mortar and terrazzo. Rather, it is a work of art that meshes the science and engineering of building design with the concepts of aesthetics, style, and function.

The exterior of the building reflects the grand design. The three-story Ionic columns, the grand entrance with the tripartite arcaded doorways, the carved relief frieze, the sculptured figures of justice, the unique styles of the window coverings, and the surrounding roof and ground-level balustrades are all marks of distinction that portray the Classical design influences. The interior likewise reflects Charles's Paris and Holland experiences. The large central rotunda and the marble staircases are intended to show premeditated grandeur, and the artistic touches include the domed ceiling, inlaid with Tiffany stained glass, framed by the four pendent murals painted by Edwin Blashfield, a renowned New York artist of the era. The artwork in the courtrooms and in the staircases are further flourishes that enhance the artistic merit of the project. Throughout the building, the craftsmanship and attention to detail are awe-inspiring. In deference to Charles's artistic tendencies, one could say that the Mahoning County Courthouse was his Mona Lisa, and like the Mona Lisa, the Courthouse has retained its standing through

the years as a remarkable piece of artwork.

Charles quickly followed up the Courthouse project with the Reuben McMillan Public Library on the corner of Wick and Rayen Avenues. The Library is reflective of the Neo-Classical Revival style, with a more subtle appearance than the Courthouse, and a toned-down emphasis on artistic ornamentation. A concurrent project for Charles was the South High School on Market Street. As with the Library, the South High building was designed more for function than artistic virtue, but the building does have some interesting flourishes, such as the Corinthian columns and Doric pilasters and the roof balustrade.

In 1912, Charles was commissioned to build a residence for C. S. Robinson, one of the top-ranking executives at Sheet & Tube. This project would be quite a departure from the institutional building projects that had occupied Charles for most of the past several years, but it was a challenge that he was willing to undertake. Mr. Robinson owned a large parcel of land at 840 Old Furnace Road, which backed into Mill Creek Park. The task here was to use the Park as the background canvas for a first-class manor home that would blend coherently with the pristine setting. In this project, Charles's artistic vision would be his most useful tool.

If client satisfaction is a measure of success, then Charles hit the mark with his design. Mr. Robinson was tremendously pleased, and for the next thirty-three years until his death in 1945, he would pridefully nurture the home and its surroundings. Mr. Robinson's widow would continue to occupy the home for another seven years until 1952, when she passed away. The home's next occupant was Judge John W. Ford, a well-respected jurist and a member of one of the City's prominent families. Like the Robinsons, Judge Ford cherished the property and took great pride in the home and its picturesque grounds. After Judge Ford's death in 1968, his children donated the home and property to Mill Creek Park. The Park Commissioners converted the home into a nature museum where parents and children could commune among the wonders of nature and study and enjoy the interesting displays prepared by the Park naturalists. To this day, the Ford Nature Center continues to serve its purpose well as a gathering point for nature enthusiasts, and the building itself, despite the wear and tear, is a charming piece of the Owsley legacy.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICE ABOVE SELF

By the end of 1912, two more significant projects – the YWCA Building on Rayen Avenue and the Mercer County Courthouse -- would enhance Charles's already impressive portfolio. He was only thirty-two years old, and his success trajectory was on a steep incline. In the immediately succeeding years, he would be commissioned for the Youngstown City Hall Building, St. Elizabeth Hospital, the McKelvey Building (courtesy of the in-laws), the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Hospital on Wilson Avenue, the Sheet & Tube Laboratory on Poland Avenue, Salem High School, and to cap off his busy decade through 1919, he would design the Home Savings & Loan Building. With the latter project, he would give downtown Youngstown its signature symbol – the Home Savings clock tower.

On a personal level, Charles seems to have had a normal and contented family life. With his family, he resided at 1335 Ohio Avenue and later at 242 Broadway across from Wick Park. He and Kate would have four children – two boys and two girls. With his artistic background, Charles enjoyed painting and sketching as a hobby – and apparently his works were quite meritorious. Charles’s appreciation for art and beauty were complimented by his ventures into the manly pursuits. He was an avid fisherman and hunter, and he particularly enjoyed traveling to Canada for the chance to fire away at ducks and geese. In one especially hair-raising hunting adventure in New Brunswick, he was charged by a three-hundred pound bear, which had the misfortune of finding out that Charles was cool under pressure and was an accurate and deadly shot.

With his growing prominence in town, Charles saw the need to engage in the civic responsibilities that were befitting to a person in his station in life. His founding of the Youngstown Rotary Club in 1915 exemplified his notions of collegiality and team effort for the betterment of society. He was also active in the North Side Improvement Club, whose major focus in those days was to press forward on the important issue of eliminating downtown railroad grade crossings, which tended to impair the flow of traffic and were inhibiting the growth potential of the downtown area. Charles was also a vigorous supporter of the Youngstown Playhouse, the Buckeye Arts Club, the Elks Club, and he was a member of the First Presbyterian Church.

Undoubtedly proud of his son’s success, Charles Henry decided to glide into semi-retirement in 1915, and the reins were confidently handed to Charles. One of Charles’s first moves was to relocate the firm from its offices at the Dollar Bank Building to the thirteenth floor of the Mahoning Bank Building. One wonders if the move was correlated to Charles’s desire to work in close proximity to his magnum opus -- the Courthouse -- just across Boardman Street from the Bank.

Into the 1920s, as Youngstown soared into prodigious levels of prosperity, Charles himself remained busy and prosperous. However, there seems to have been a decided change of emphasis in Charles’s selection of projects. After the intensely busy decade from 1910 through 1920, which started with the Courthouse project and ended with the Home Savings building, Charles seemed inclined to pull back somewhat from the high-profile projects. In the coming decade of the twenties, he would spend a considerable amount of time traveling and pursuing his extracurricular civic obligations. In 1923, he spent nearly the entire year abroad, particularly in Europe and in Egypt, where he earned the distinction of being one of the first outsiders to visit the recently discovered tomb of King Tut. During the decade, he must have been pleased by the increasing prominence of the Youngstown Rotary Club, as its membership roll evolved into a virtual “Who’s Who” of the business elite in town. During the decade, the *Vindicator* developed an affinity with the Rotary Club, and the affairs of the Club received constant coverage on the pages of the *Vindicator*. Of course, the *Vindicator*’s publisher, William F. Maag, was a Rotarian, and his membership was undoubtedly a factor in the paper’s attentiveness.

From Charles’s vantage point on the top floor of the Mahoning Bank Building, he undoubtedly must have watched with interest as Youngstown’s Central Square underwent some dramatic changes with the construction of the Realty Building, the First National Bank Building (now the Bank One Building), and the Central Tower during the years

from 1924 to 1929. Although none of the three were Owsley designs, he undoubtedly must have been pleased with the addition of these fine buildings to Youngstown's skyline, and as a proud citizen, he must have been grateful for the prosperity that they symbolized.

The Central Tower, an Art Deco design that rose to eighteen stories, was not only the tallest building in Youngstown, it was also the crowning symbol of Youngstown's era of glory. The building was completed in 1929, but one year later, it was in receivership – the first domino to fall in the agonizing Depression that was to follow.

With the steep decline in stock values, and with the disappearance of the once-certain dividend checks, Youngstown's seemingly unlimited sources of private capital began drying up. As a consequence, virtually all construction projects would be deferred, and even accomplished architects like Charles Owsley would see a dramatic decline in commissions. Because of his previous success, it is likely that Charles had set aside enough savings to enable him to comfortably endure the early years of the Depression. And yet, for someone like Charles, who had lived and prospered in lockstep with his hometown, it must have been especially frustrating to see such a drastic change of fortune. Then, in 1935, Charles suffered a painful, personal loss with the passing of his father. Charles Henry had lived to the age of eighty-eight. After he had semi-retired in 1915, he remained a trusted advisor and would often visit ongoing projects and report back to Charles. For Charles, it must have been reassuring to know that he could always tap into his father's wisdom and experience when there were bumps in the road. Father and son, the Owsley partnership was itself the most solid of structures, and it must have been difficult for Charles to say goodbye.

THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN

With his father's passing, Charles once again decided on a change of scenery for himself. After twenty years in the Mahoning Bank Building, Charles moved to new offices at 211 North Champion Street, on the hill above Wood Street, where he would have another fine view of downtown Youngstown. As the decade of the thirties rolled along, Charles would benefit from the gradual revival of business activity and from the increased spending on public works projects. As to the latter, Charles was commissioned to design the Municipal Building in Salem, the Buhl Hospital in Sharon, and the Titusville Hospital. For Youngstown College, Charles designed Buechner Hall on Bryson Street, and for Southside Hospital he designed the Buechner Nurses' Home. In a memorable departure from his Beaux Arts Classicism background, Charles put together the innovative design for the Isaly Building on Mahoning Avenue – an Art Moderne concept that gave a refreshing vista of the City to motorists approaching from the west side of town. For the crucial terrazzo work on the Isaly's project, Charles called upon one of his fellow Rotarians, Emil Bertolini, whose company was renowned for its craftsmanship and attention to detail.

In 1939, Charles undertook one of his favorite projects – the restoration of a run-down farmhouse on Warner Road in Liberty Township, which at that time, was considered to be out in the country. Charles bought the property with the intent of becoming a country gentleman. His wife Kate was somewhat dubious, but she succumbed to Charles's passion for the project, and in the end, became enamored herself

with her new home and its surroundings.

Into the 1940s and the war years, the life of an architect would once again be disrupted by the intervention of world affairs. Charles was now in his sixties, and seems to have adjusted to his roles as an elder statesman and a country gentleman. Because of his experience and accomplishments, people sought his counsel, and he was correspondingly generous with his time. He was a valued advisor to the Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority and the Chamber of Commerce, and he was always willing to offer his opinion on matters of city planning. Always dear to his heart was Rotary, and he enjoyed the company of his fellow Rotarians at the weekly meetings at the Ohio Hotel. The Playhouse and the Buckeye Art Club were also favored diversions. At home, he and Kate planted thousands of seedlings on the grounds of their estate, where they would spend many hours walking, exploring, and enjoying the plants, flowers, and resident wildlife. For Charles and Kate, their children, all grown by now, must have been a source of pride. They were well-educated, were successful in their own rights, had married well, and gave Charles and Kate fourteen beloved grandchildren.

The last years of his life seemed to have been a period of repose and reflection, a luxury duly earned by the man whose life had been so consequential. At his country home or while traveling abroad, it was time to enjoy the quiet pleasures. Among them was his artwork. With the instincts of a true artist, he couldn't restrain his creative impulses, and would spend many pleasurable hours with a sketchpad on his lap. He also liked to motor around town with family and friends and point out various buildings of architectural interest, and he especially enjoyed discussing the fine points involved in the design of his own architectural creations. At Christmas time in 1952, a severe stroke disabled him, and his health declined steadily until his death a few months later.

Although he has been gone for sixty-two years, his life and his works are still relevant to our times. The Courthouse, the Main Library, the YWCA, Buechner Hall, The Ford Nature Center, and so many of his other creations that are still accessible today are testaments to his sense of grandeur and dignity. In his work and in his personal life, he was a man of his times. When Youngstown was at its best, so was he. As an architect, he lived among the small details of the drawing board, yet he was able to see the broadest vistas. He was a creator, a builder, an artist, a good citizen, and a devoted family man. His life was exemplary, and we, his Youngstown Rotary descendants, should be proud to have him on a pedestal as the Founder and first President of our Club.

Highlights of Service Over the Past Ninety Years

Organization

Rotary in Youngstown began when Charles F. Owsley and William W. Gillen were invited to a Rotary Club meeting in Cleveland in the early part of August of the year 1914. They had heard about Rotary and how rapidly it was growing and attended the meeting to see what was really done.

The hour and a half that they spent there convinced them that Youngstown should have a club. Returning home, they began to talk up Rotary among their friends in various businesses and professions and a meeting was held at the Hotel Ohio to talk things over. Deciding to proceed, an organizational meeting was held on Thursday, September 3, 1914, at 6:30 p.m. at Hotel Ohio, with about 30 Youngstown businessmen attending; in addition, there were 52 Rotarians from Cleveland and 40 Rotarians from New Castle, PA at the meeting. Mr. Arch C. Klumph, a Cleveland wholesale lumber dealer and later the founder of the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, gave a talk describing the aim and scope of the Rotary Club, saying that, "election to Rotary is an expression of confidence of the Club in the member as tops in his field...he is expected to actively represent it." The vote of those present signified their intention of organizing and forming a Rotary Club of Youngstown.

Two months were spent in further organization and on November 18, 1914, a Wednesday, application was made to Rotary International for admission. As of Wednesday, November 25, 1914, semi-monthly meetings were held with members speaking on their own business. On Wednesday, December 9, 1914, members of the Youngstown, Cleveland, Akron, New Castle and Pittsburgh Rotary Clubs held the first District Rotary meeting in Youngstown. W.D. Biggers, Vice President of the International Association of Rotary Clubs, was the main speaker. Door prizes were (1) a set of wrought andirons by P.J. O'Neill to Ernest Stadelhaffer (of New Castle), (2) a steak plank by Adolf Heller to Tom Walsh (of Youngstown), and (3) an operation for appendicitis to be performed on request by Dr. Buechner to Thomas Elliott (of New Castle).

An excerpt from Biggers' talk: "The Rotary Club is a cleansing crucible, in which a man discards his worst qualities, and strives to acquire the good qualities of his Brother Rotarian. Its object is to strengthen men to meet the larger responsibilities of life. It helps in business, not in the way of bringing more orders to a store or factory for a Rotarian, but in making him better able to handle the business which does come through the regular courses. Above all, it promotes friendship and inculcates the spirit of the motto of the club, 'He Profits Most Who Serves the Best'."

Some sidelights of the meeting: The Pittsburgh Club was always on hand with a snappy yell or stunt. They had a special train and their slogan was, "Iron, Steel, Coal and Coke; Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Holy Smoke!" New Castle sent a chorus for the program. Emil "Spitz" Renner was songleader. Music was furnished by a string orchestra and two cabaret singers. The New Castle Club is considered the sponsoring club for the

Youngstown Rotary Club, although the Cleveland Rotary Club participated, and actively helped get Youngstown Rotary underway.

In January of 1915 there were 120 Rotary Clubs located in the principal cities of United States, Canada, Great Britain and Ireland.

Charter Presented

On February 1, 1915, the Youngstown Rotary Club was admitted to Rotary International, and given the number of 137! At the charter presentation, Arch C. Klumph of Cleveland Rotary was the speaker. Assisting him in the presentation of the charter were Charles McVey, president of the Cleveland Club; Captain Queisser, of Cleveland; and President Muse, of the New Castle Club. When the charter was closed, the list contained 63 names. As of February 5, 1915, monthly evening meetings were held on the first Thursday of each month. The New Castle Rotary Club had been organized two years prior; Pittsburgh was Club No. 20; Cleveland, Club No. 18; and the Canton, Ohio, Rotary Club was organized shortly after Youngstown.

The first officers of the Youngstown Rotary Club were Charles F. Owsley, president; I. Van Baalen, secretary; J. H. Fitch, Jr., treasurer; L. B. McKelvey, sergeant-at-arms; and W. W. Gillen, R. G. Davis, A. M. Tolemie, Harry W. Williams and Mark C. Hannan as the directors. Charles Owsley remained active and a staunch representative of Rotary ideals until his death in 1953.

Meeting Places Varied

The club first met in the private dining room on the second floor of the Hotel Ohio. The next meeting place was the dining room of the old Elks Club on the Southwest corner of Wick Avenue and Wood Street. This was before the days of the grade elimination and the Erie Railroad Rotarian, George Hughes, took quite a ribbing for blockading the crossing at the foot of the hill. There also, the famous Lillian Russell was made an honorary member of the Club. As the membership of the Club increased, the meeting place was again moved back to the Hotel Ohio; then returned to the Elks Club; and finally the Hotel Ohio ballroom was named the official meeting place. Beginning in 1980, meetings were held at the YMCA. Today, meetings are held at the downtown YMCA.

Speaker and Programs

During the early years, no outside speakers were brought in; most of the meetings being devoted to listening to talks by various members on their own businesses. It was the custom then for the speaker to give a prize and many valuable offerings were presented. As the Club grew however, it became necessary to call on outside talent for the weekly speeches. The Club, in its beginning, was looked upon as a sort of fad by many persons and it was freely predicted that it would not last out the year. Today, a Rotary membership is one of the most highly prized possessions of every member. Originally, it was difficult to compile a list of fifty members. At its peak, and prior to the sponsorship of suburban clubs, membership exceeded 300. Today, total membership is approximately 80+.

Early Activities

In the old days, there were some lively activities particularly on the social programs of the Rotary Club. Ladies Day and Family meetings were held at the various country clubs. A feature of all these meetings was the drawing for more or less valuable prizes, which were given to members and their wives. Dr. Buechner (surgeon) gave another appendectomy operation; Bill Gillen (undertaker) gave a funeral; the coal dealer gave a freight car load of coal; there was also a carload of limestone as a prize; etc. Believe it or not most of the prizes were collected. The family parties and Crippled Children Christmas Parties were begun about 1926. The plan for the development of fellowship featured in all of these meetings formed the strong foundation of the Rotary Club of Youngstown. The Club, in those days, also visited various industries such as the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co., Campbell plant, the Republic Rubber Co., the General Fireproofing Co., the Bessemer Brick Co., a limestone plant at Wampum, and several others.

Outstanding speakers have been the rule rather than the exception for most Rotary programs through the years. Rotary International presidents speaking in Youngstown include Arch Klumph, Frank Mulholland and Allen Albert; Ed Kelsey of Toledo, one of the pioneers in crippled children work; and Alfred Sheldon, the Rotarian who is credited with originating the slogan, "He Profits Most Who Serves the Best," were two more of the top notchers; and Phil Lovejoy, Rotary International, executive secretary, was outstanding. Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, spoke to Youngstown Rotary in October 1927.

Community Service and Projects

The Rotary Club of Youngstown has long been a factor in community service! A membership campaign to establish the Chamber of Commerce enlisted the entire Rotary membership in the early years. A few years later when funds were lacking in the Boy Scout movement, which was then in its infancy, the Rotary Club provided the funds and helped to keep that important work going. Through the years, Rotarians have been the leaders or composed the top echelon of almost every community undertaking such as the Community Chest program, with all of its Red Feather agencies, the Red Cross, Salvation Army drives, Polio Foundation with its March of Dimes, YMCA and YWCA building campaigns and programs, City Hospital drives, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls, Mahoning County Society for Crippled Children, and even to the establishment of a "RO Club" at South High School for Junior and Senior boys which is patterned after the Rotary Club. The "RO Club" was established about 1950. In 1968, Rotary established the Boys Club of Youngstown, now known as The Boys & Girls Club of Youngstown. In recent years, the Club maintained its focus on youth by establishing the "Put Kids First" Initiative to provide support and improvement in the Youngstown Public Schools. This effort has led to the development of an adoption of Harding Elementary School on Youngstown's North Side. At Harding, Rotary has established an award-winning mentoring program and led the effort to build a \$100,000 playground in conjunction with the construction of a new school building.

Past International and Local Projects

At one time, the Rotary Club of Youngstown maintained twelve subscriptions (known as Fourth Object subscriptions) to Revista Rotaria (Spanish edition of Rotarian Magazine) which were sent to Central and South American countries monthly. Two CARE packages were sent monthly via the International Service Committee, one to a family in France, and one to a family in Austria. Representatives from each of four or more of our local high schools were sent annually to the World Affairs Institute in Cincinnati, and their report on their return was one of the highlights of a regular Rotary meeting. Other activities such as sending badly needed clothing to a city in Denmark which suffered as a result of a flood (these activities are handled or assigned via Rotary International, which even assigns the Rotary Club in the foreign city to contact). Clothing was sent to Berlin, Germany, when 1,000 refugees per day were escaping from behind the Iron Curtain. A community in the Philippine Islands desired to start a library, and our Rotary Club, through the International Service Committee, again went to work and sent hundreds of books to help them get underway.

One entire displaced family was brought to this country from Germany through many varied efforts of the International Service Committee; the son was aided in getting into medical school in United States, and finally our student loan fund went to work to supply the needed funds to help him gain his goal. The father was formerly a president of his own Lithuanian Rotary Club, a doctor, who had begun practice in this country. Much work and effort had gone into all of these projects, and similar undertakings are constantly being continued through Rotary's "Service Above Self"!

During the 1989-1990 Rotary year, Youngstown Rotarians, Shri Raxit Shah and Jerry Haber, initiated a World Community Service link between District 6650 clubs in Ohio and a Rotary club in the impoverished Indian province of Gujarat, the one-time home of Shah's grandparents.

In 1993, approximately \$30,000 was collected from the donations of Youngstown Rotarians and interested individuals from District 6650's other clubs. In part, this sum was made possible through a \$15,000 Matching Grant from the Rotary Foundation of R.I., due to the efforts of Haber and Shah.

With this sum of money available, the P.T. Mirani Eye Hospital was created in the State of Gujarat, whose principal objective was to provide site-saving cataract surgeries to the impoverished citizens residing therein. This initial sum of money was used to purchase equipment and erect a suitable facility.

When Mr. Shah moved to the Girard-Liberty Rotary Club in 1998, this project was expanded. Additional contributions exceeding \$60,000 were enlisted to bring new, technologically-superior equipment on line and to keep the P.T. Mirani facility operating efficiently. In part, this was made available by another Matching Grant from Rotary International. District 6650 clubs again contributed their personal assets in a most generous fashion.

In 2000, this project reached completion. Today, the P.T. Mirani Eye Hospital, thanks to the generosity and hard work of Rotarians from District 6650 in Northeast Ohio, continues to bring sight-saving surgeries and medical treatment to thousands of citizens – young and old – in Godhra, Gujarat. Said one prominent member of the Rotary Club of Godhra, the names of Rotarians from Youngstown will “dance on our tongues” for the remainder of our lives!

It has long been Rotary’s policy to take on a needed project and, once established, to have Rotary drop out of the picture and undertake another worthy and needed project; each project continuing on its own. Such was the case with the Better Business Bureau, the Crippled Children’s Program, the Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts, Boys & Girls Club, etc. However, Rotarians continue to maintain a personal active interest in almost every such program.

Annual Awards Presented

Annually during Boy Scout Week, a Rotary award was presented to the outstanding Boy Scout troop during the past year (this took place in February). Likewise, annually in the fall (usually sometime in November), the city championship football team was presented the Rotary Trophy honoring them, at which time the team, coaches and principal were honored at our regular meeting. Another annual function of the Youngstown Rotary Club through the Youth Service Committee was the award of two trophies for speech contests within the high schools of seventeen counties of Northeastern Ohio. Rotarians acted as co-sponsors with the Speech League of the high schools. One trophy was a “traveling trophy” which had to be won three times for permanent possession; the other was a permanent trophy awarded annually to the top speech team. In 1952, the award was won by Barberton High School.

Today, the Rotary Club of Youngstown honors annually the top juniors in each of Youngstown’s public and parochial high schools through the Junior Scholastic Program. Additionally, scholarships are presented from the Student Aid Fund to graduating senior from each of these schools to attend Youngstown State University. The Vindicator Spelling Bee champion is also recognized for his or her accomplishment in an annual ceremony.

Student Loan and Paul Harris Fund

A student loan fund was organized within the Youngstown Rotary Club on May 17, 1946, with the purpose in mind of issuing loans, **not gifts**, to students deemed worthy after careful investigation, primarily in their later years of college study, and who were unable to complete their education because of financial difficulties. In 1956, the scope and purpose of The Student Loan fund was changed to become the Student Aid Fund. The loans were discontinued and is now part of the Youngstown Rotary Foundation. The Student Aid Fund provides scholarships annually to graduates from Youngstown public and parochial high schools who attend Youngstown State University. In addition to the above, when the Paul Harris (Founder of Rotary) Memorial Fund was set up by Rotary International on May 7, 1947, the Rotary Club of Youngstown contributed \$10 per member to become one of the first clubs in the country to be 100% and it has been

maintained with the contributions of each new member.

Rotary Society for Crippled Children

In 1921, members of the Rotary Club of Youngstown joined with Rotarians from Toledo, Cleveland and Elyria Clubs to form the Ohio Rotary Society for Crippled Children to promote legislation for the Ohio Plan for the Care of Crippled Children. With the need for such work so obvious, the Rotary Club of Youngstown held the now famous Rotary Reviews and Minstrel Shows. (Some of the most outstanding with Rotarians themselves providing the main background, body of the show, choral work and funding.) A total of eight shows were presented. In 1922, with 3,000 attending, a \$3,500 profit was realized; in 1923, with 4,000 present, the net was \$5,000; in 1924, with 5,000 present, the net profit was \$8,000; and in 1925, with 7,500 attending, they showed a profit of \$12,500. These first four shows with the grand total of \$29,000, provided the money with which the Youngstown Rotary Society for Crippled Children (comprising every member of the Rotary Club) – organized in February 1925 – purchased a three-story frame building at 420 Werner Street, and also a two-story frame building (next door) at 414 Werner Street for the purpose of providing a convalescent home for Crippled Children. The remaining four shows were presented in November 1934, netting \$3,000; in November of 1935, showing \$4,000 profit; in February, 1935, netting \$4,562; and finally in February of 1939, profiting \$3,500. These funds were used for improvements and equipment for the homes.

The Youngstown Rotary Society for Crippled Children was organized and incorporated with George Clegg, Dr. R.R. Morrall, Roy Welch, Byron Stewart, C. A. Manchester, C. H. Owsley, Bert G. Parker, Harry Williams, Bert Summers, Ray Brenner, Fred Gehring, Adolf Heller, Sidney Moyer, Edgar Reilly, L. B. McKelvey and James M. Henderson as incorporators and trustees.

Nearly all cases entering the home required a long period of convalescence and, of course, the children who were state wards were from indigent families who did not have the proper home environment for convalescence. Frequently, when they were returned to their homes instead of a location such as our Rotary Home, the result of improper care often offset the doctors' work; therefore the cases were kept in the convalescent home as long as the need for special care existed. Much was accomplished since the early days through this undertaking and the Rotary Society for Crippled Children remained active for many decades.

Since 1921, the Rotary Club through its Crippled Children Committee has been active in assisting all the agencies, both public and private, in the services for crippled children. Each year the Rotary Club held a big Christmas party, entertaining from 50 to 100 crippled children. Often a big summer picnic, a full day's visit to the Canfield Fair, or a trip to Sea World was provided by the Rotary Club for these children who loved to spend such a day of excitement. These were always big events during the Rotary year for the Rotarians as well as the children.

A Cerebral Palsy Project, in cooperation with several state departments, was conducted as a research group at the Rotary Home for four years. This project, having served its purpose, yielded to a Pre-School Parent Educational Project for Cerebral Palsy

Children, sponsored, financed and operated by the Youngstown Rotary Society. Much of this share of the work was turned over to the Mahoning County Society for Crippled Children. The Mahoning County Society for Crippled Children had no connection with Rotary although it was formed predominantly through the work of several Rotarians due to the advent of Easter Seals in this area in 1948.

Rotary Honors Bestowed

In 1925, the first of many top Rotary honors was bestowed on our club by the election of Leonard Skeggs to be Rotary District Governor of the then District No. 21. He set an outstanding record by instituting 26 new Rotary Clubs in the 21st District in one year, a record unsurpassed in the country at that time. Later he became a director of Rotary International and was chairman of the committee responsible for re-writing the Classification Outline Manual of Rotary International.

In 1941, Rev. Roland Luhman became the second District Governor from Youngstown Club, and on April 29, of 1946, Attorney Robert Manchester was elected District Governor of District 158 (our new district number). He was our third district governor from Youngstown. Bob was appointed chairman of the R. I. Youth Committee on July 11, 1947, and then at the International Convention of Rotary in Paris, France, in June 1952, Bob was elected a director of Rotary International representing our Zone No. II covering parts of ten states. Other members of The Rotary Club of Youngstown who served as District Governor are: Fred Lyons (1961-1962), Herbert O. Zimmer (1971-1972), Jerold A. Haber (1998-1999), and Deborah Esbenshade (2013-2014).

The impact of the Rotary Club of Youngstown on the entire community is beyond measure. Year after year, the Rotary Club has been at the forefront of every positive measure to improve the quality of life in this community and is currently involved in the Smoky Hollow project, the "Put Kids First" project and several other community projects as well as supporting Rotary International's many world-wide efforts.

"Service Above Self" was, is and will continue to be the watchword of our Rotary.

Some Rotary Highlights Over the Years in Youngstown

- 12/15/20 Youngstown Rotary gives \$1,000 to fund for European children.
- 1921 Esther Hamilton begins reporting Rotary meetings for Youngstown Telegram.
The “DYING COUGH QUARTET,” the hit of the show at the June district conference of Rotarians in Akron, was composed of Howard Evans, Andrew Henderson, Ben Evans, William Ambrose and Raymond Brenner.
- 1922 Charles A. Leedy presented beautiful gold watch in recognition of his fine service as club secretary, 1916-1922.
The Rotary Minstrel Show Revue cast of approximately 25 Rotarians went to Cleveland in Robert Parsons’ (vice-president of Erie Railroad) private railroad car to broadcast from the “Blue Room” of Station WTAM. (This was a new experience, since broadcasting had not come to Youngstown as yet.)
- 1922-1923 History making Rotary Minstrel Revues raise over \$20,000 for purchase of Crippled Children’s Home.
- 02/04/25 Werner Street Site for Crippled Children considered for \$25,000.
- 04/04/25 District Conference scheduled for Youngstown.
- 06/1925 Ninety-nine members of the Youngstown Rotary Club had a 100 percent attendance during the past month.
- 10/07/25 Youngstown Rotary Society for Crippled Children Incorporated to direct the Convalescent Home
- 11/01/25 Rotary Home for Crippled Children opens (cost \$30,000); Dr. R. R. Morrall, chief surgeon; George R. Clegg, president.
- 1925-1926 Leonard Skeggs becomes first District Governor from Youngstown Rotary, District No. 21.
- 04/14/26 James A. Campbell made honorary member.
- 05/16/26 Isabelle M. Parker named assistant secretary.
- 07/19/27 Lillian Butcher Stambaugh begins as Club pianist.
- 1927-1928 Leonard Skeggs serves as second vice-president of Rotary International.
- 03/24/34 James A. Henderson and Richard Graham provide sparkling program via debating: “Resolved – The Modern Automobile is a Better Vehicle than the Ancient Ox-Cart.”
- 06/16/38 South Side unit Youngstown Hospital given \$2,000 for orthopedic tank.
- 11/18/39 Walter D. Head, president of R. I., speaks to 300 Rotarians here.
- 12/21/39 109 handicapped children at Rotary Christmas Party.
- 11/21/40 Plan to discontinue minstrel shows and revues as means of raising money. Some other method being sought, since taxes are too great.
- 03/13/41 Rev. Dr. Roland Luhman becomes new district governor at District Conference in Akron.
- 02/05/42 Nine original charter members at 27th anniversary party.
- 05/02/43 Forty-six Rotary clubs join in District Conference (158th) here. Robert Manchester, president of Youngstown club.
- 09/09/43 Announce establishment of research program for care of crippled children with cerebral palsy, known as “spastic paralyzed.” Only such center in state.

- 09/30/43 William F. Maag, Jr. addresses Rotary on his trip through Britain.
- 04/29/46 Attorney Robert A. Manchester new governor of 158th District.
- 06/20/46 Plan Student Loan Fund in Youngstown Rotary Club.
- 01/10/47 Esther Hamilton made honorary member of Club.
- 02/06/47 Arch C. Klumph, one of organizers of Rotary here, speaks of Youngstown's early days in Rotary.
- 05/07/47 Paul Harris Memorial Fund (Rotary Foundation Fund) resolution passed Youngstown Rotary Club contributes \$10 per member for 100% participation.
- 07/11/47 Robert A. Manchester named to Youth Committee of Rotary International
- 08/01/47 One hundred crippled children feted on the Strouss estate.
- 07/19/48 Mrs. Mary Morsbach employed as Assistant Secretary.
- 12/21/48 Convalescent Home for Crippled Children receives \$2,500 from will of John R. Rowland.
- 07/20/50 Rotarians to give new bleachers, seating almost 1,000, to Mahoning Valley Council of Boy Scouts at Camp Stambaugh. Bleachers presented on 07/21/50.
- 01/06/52 Rotarians pack books for libraries in Philippine Islands.
- 01/24/52 Rotarians honor Secretaries as invited guests at regular meeting.
- 02/20/52 Rotary installing tub for child polio victims.
- 04/19/52 Youngstown Rotary Club wins district governor's award, the Silver Cup, for the best all-around club in the district. Reed Pennel, president.
- 01/01/53 Annual Family Day celebrated at Rotary meeting.
- 04/19/53 Rotary Home gets six new air conditioners.
- 04/30/53 One hundred fifty Rotarians tour Vindicator newspaper plant.
- 08/02/53 Eight students (graduate students) from Finland arrive in Youngstown through "Experiment in International Living" (via Rotary International Service Committee) to live for one month prior to the opening of college, in the homes of eight Youngstown Rotarians.
- 11/1954 Harry Schagrin, charter member will begin his 40th year of perfect attendance in Rotary. A record unsurpassed in the district, and even throughout the Rotary world as far as can be determined. Harry was even brought to one meeting via "stretcher" when he was sick.
- 09/26/55 Total expenses for Robert Jarsma of Holland for a year at Youngstown College will not exceed \$535 including transportation to New York next June). Robert was our first foreign student. We later became a part of the Rotary Student Exchange Program.
- 06/25/56 Discussion of the future of the Rotary Home for Crippled Children, 420 Werner Street. Repair, (\$25,000+) replace or discontinue? Nine children, capacity of twenty. Thousands spent last year; \$6,000 unpaid bills – Polio vaccine and prevention program for Rheumatic heart cases; other agencies able to take all children.
- 09/24/56 A major change was made in the Student Loan Fund. Resolution of July 17, 1946 changing the scope, purpose and even the name to the Student Aid Fund.
- 03/21/57 The organization of a Metropolitan Citizen's League was discussed to resolve area wide problems. The sum of \$250 was provided for possible expenses (08/16/57).
- 04/22/57 The Rotary Home was leased without charge to the Mahoning County

- Society for Crippled Children.
- 12/20/57 Moved to support the formation of an Independent Better Business Bureau.
- 06/27/58 A firm offer from the Youngstown Hospital Association was received for both homes on Werner Street. (Approved 06/12/59 for the sum of \$24,700)
- 10/05/58 Robert Manchester II appointed as Director of National Association of State School Boards.
- 09/18/59 Initial discussion of establishing a club in Austintown. Not yet enough business activity. Another survey was held 03/17/61 but not sufficient response.
- 06/17/60 At present, 16 student loans are outstanding representing some \$16,490.
- 10/21/60 Student Recognition Day began with a presentation of a Thesaurus to the Junior boys and girls of the City Schools
- 02/16/62 The Boy Scouts of Camp Stambaugh are in desperate need of a swimming pool. The Youngstown Rotary agreed to support the project. Project approved 03/17/63 not to exceed. \$65,000.
- 04/30/63 "Books to Nigeria" approved for packing, shipping and postage up to \$750.
- 10/18/64 A request form from the Mahoning Saddle and Bridle Association to sponsor future Youngstown Charity Horse Shows.
- 08/21/65 Harry Schagrin was memorialized by retiring his attendance badge and the 50 year Perfect Attendance Pin.
- 11/20/66 Voted to participate in the establishment of a Consumer Credit Counseling Service for the Youngstown area.
- 05/19/67 The Youngstown Rotary Foundation is established.
- 01/19/68 A Classroom on Wheels in the amount of \$13,000 was approved.
- 09/20/68 Initial discussion on information of a Youngstown Boys Club and support for the Youngstown Schools "Lighted School Program" (01/16/70 a one-year grant of \$15,000 was approved.)
- 02/19/71 The Herman Ritter Fund for crippled children was dissolved with 1/3 to Rotary Fund for crippled children, 1/3 to East Seal Society and 1/3 to the Cerebral Palsy Center.
- 03/19/71 W.H. McGuffey Historical Society of Youngstown presented their plans to establish a McGuffey Homesite Park.
- 07/01/76 Our own Robert A. Manchester II begins year as Rotary International President. Our proudest moment!

[Insert Picture]

Robert A. Manchester II, 1976-77

Youngstown, Ohio, U.S.A.

Robert Asa Manchester II was born in Canfield, Ohio, U.S.A., and was a lifelong resident there. In the summers, he worked in his family's hardware business. After high school, he studied law at the University of Michigan, earning bachelor of arts, bachelor of law, and doctor of law degrees. After graduation he joined the firm of Harrington, Huxley and Smith, in Youngstown, a few miles from Canfield. At age 25, he was elected mayor of Canfield, the youngest man in the state to fill such an office.

Bob was a member of the American Bar Association, a number of state bar associations, and the Ohio Judicature Society.

The Manchesters came to the U.S. from England in the 17th century and settled in New Haven in the settlement of New England, in the region which is now the State of Connecticut. As a member of one of the country's oldest families, Bob was an appropriate choice as Rotary's president for the year of the U.S. bicentennial.

Bob was active in scouting from the time it was introduced to the State of Ohio and, at the 1977 Rotary Convention in San Francisco, was designated a Double Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America.

He served on the Ohio State Board of Education, the Youngstown Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and he was a founder and president of the National Association of State Boards of Education. He was named "Man of the Year" by both the Order of Protestant Men—he was an elder in the Presbyterian church—and the Youngstown Area Chamber of Commerce.

Bob became a member of The Rotary Club of Youngstown in 1938 and served his club, district, and Rotary International in many capacities. He and his wife, Mary, almost as well-known to the Rotary world as he, entertained Rotarian visitors from around the world at their Canfield home, which was built of handmade bricks and stones from the school Bob attended as a boy and in which Mary once taught.

Bob Manchester died 11 February 1982.

Paul Harris and His Successors: Profiles in Leadership. Copyright 1997 by Rotary International.

Publication number CD2-914

- 07/22/80 Moved office and club meetings to YMCA.
- 09/22/81 Student Aid Fund \$47,000 with \$20,367 out in loans.
- 10/27/81 Jane Lamb of *The Youngstown Vindicator* was presented a Paul Harris Fellowship upon her retirement.
- 11/22/81 Twenty-one Rotarians packed medical supplies for India.
- 12/22/82 Proceeds from a "Lunchless" meeting sent to local food bank (\$500).

- 09/20/83 A fund raising raffle of a 1984 Cadillac earned \$18,000.
- 06/19/84 Approved the “Ban Lantawan” (Sunflower) project of Bangkok to provide food and medicine for children under two years of age.
- 01/01/85 Lillian Butcher Stambaugh, our Club pianist for fifty-six years and a Paul Harris Fellow, passed away.
- 03/26/85 Moved to resume sponsorship of the Charity Horse Show.
- 05/27/85 Members of the Club painted the handrails of the Spring Common Bridge as a special project.
- 10/22/86 Approved a pledge of \$50,000 to the Polio Plus drive. Increased to \$70,000 on 04/28/87. Individual member pledges raised the total to \$102,000.
- 06/22/86 Provided \$10,000 for the Mill Creek Park handicapped picnic area and \$15,000 for the Daybreak project to rehabilitate a home for run-away and abused children.
- 01/13/87 Moved to “adopt” the Choffin Vocational School helping with awards and career day.
- 12/03/87 Ruth Horner – Youngstown Postmaster becomes first Female Member of the Youngstown Rotary.
- 06/20/89 Student Aid Fund restructured in a Grant-in-Aid Program
- 08/22/89 \$3,000 to fund “Party on the Plaza.”
- 02/27/90 Resignation of Mary Morsbach – long time Club Executive Secretary. Ruth Crawford appointed Secretary/Pianist.
- 03/19/90 Contracted with Easy Street Productions for a Review Show prior to Walk on Wick.
- 03/27/90 Contracted with Easy Street Production for a special show.
- 06/19/90 Agreed to take part in Boardman Rotary’s Octoberfest. A plaque for Easter Seals Center playground crediting Rotary was passed. Disabled children to Sea World.
- 08/16/90
- 10/08/90 Dr. Richard Murray began the “Medical Surplus Project.” Estimated value of items collected and given to World Aide is \$200,000.
- 11/12/90 Fifteen high school students were taken to the Pittsburgh Institute of International Affairs. (The largest group from a single Rotary Club.)
- 10/12/91 Hosted Group Study Exchange Team from Australia.
- 04/29/92 Held the first Safety Forces Program to honor fire and police.
- 06/09/92 Sent \$60,000 worth of medical supplies to the Ukraine and Chernobyl, USSR.
- 01/12/93 Paid tuition for 16 South High students to be trained by Lynn Harmicar as AIDS educators.
- 04/13/93 Formed the Youngstown Educational Leadership Award at YSU.
- 05/11/93 Dr. Richard Murray and Jerry Haber went to New York City to receive honors from Princess Elizabeth for our Club’s help in sending medical supplies to Yugoslavia.
- 06/08/93 Sent clothing to “Poorest of the Poor” Program.
- 07/13/93 Inherited 18 burial plots at Forest Law Cemetery. Donated them to the local hospitals, Salvation Army, Hospice and Rescue Mission.
- 07/13/93 Decided not to participate in Walk on Wick.
- 11/09/93 Sponsored Rotary District 6650 Conference at the Metroplex.
- 12/14/93 Agreed to sponsor an Air Show at the Western Reserve Port Authority in September 1994. Okayed the first of three Air Shows to begin 9/95.

- 06/12/94 Election procedures approved.
Rotary Acts was created by President Becker and approved. (Active Commitment to Service.)
- 09/13/94 Reviewed By-laws to remove sexist language.
- 02/14/95 Approved first Rose "Sale" suggested by John Logue.
- 05/21/96 "Put Kids First" Initiative suggested by Fred Owens and committee established.
- 06/18/97 Our own Jerry Haber elected District 6650 Governor.
- 10/13/98 Replaced Air Show with Runway Run at Youngstown Airport.
- 09/14/99 Youngstown Rotary Foundation and Student Aid Funds combined as single foundation with Student Aid Fund becoming a sub-account.
- 03/14/2000 Organized first "Reverse Raffle."
- 05/09/2000 Highway Clean-up project approved.
- 01/16/01 Agreed to finance new playground equipment at Harding School at an estimated cost of \$16,000 after receipt of a detailed plan acceptable to the Board and upon completion of a new school building.
- 02/20/01 Decided against another Air Show.
- 02/12/02 Hosted 52 Exchange Students at the YMCA for an overnighter.
- 04/22/02 Revised By-laws to comply with Rotary International, edited by our member, Atty. James Blomstrom.
- 08/13/02 Agreed to support an additional Polio Plus request for funds.
- 12/10/02 Agreed to put \$4,000 per year aside to pay \$16,000 for the new Harding playground equipment.
- 09/01/03 Establishment of an Interact Club at Ursuline High School.
- 09/16/03 Proposed a business venture with Wendell August Forge to sell Rotary embossed merchandise with all profits to the Youngstown Rotary Foundation.
- 12/9/03 Approved proposal to proceed with the first phase of the joint venture with Wendell August Forge, named ROYCO (Rotarians of Youngstown Company.)
- 2/10/04 Approved formation of a finance committee and a planning committee.
Approved participation in a joint fundraiser, golf ball drop, with the Warren Rotary Club.
- 03/10/04 Co-Sponsorship of Community Crime Summit.
- 5/18/04 Discussed concept of strategic planning.
- 8/10/04 Developed a mission statement for strategic planning and began process by holding two meetings per month for the next three months.
- 09/25/04 As part of the Put Kids First Initiative, construction of Youngstown Rotary Playground, our club's Centennial Project, completed at Harding Elementary School. Our club's lead gift of \$25,000 helped to leverage an additional \$75,000 from the Mahoning County Green Team to complete the project.
- 7/20/05 ROYCO (Rotarians of Youngstown, LLC) was featured at the Rotary convention in Chicago.
- 9/28/05 Our Ursuline High School Interact Club planted a perennial garden on School grounds to celebrate Ursuline's 100th.
- 12/29/05 Mayor Jay Williams listed his four (4) major goals: Quality of Life, Safety, Improve Economy and Regional Cooperation.
- 1/5/06 Extreme make-over of the Rotary office.

- 2/9/06 Mary Womble introduced our new communication tool, ClubRunner.
- 3/2/06 Celebrated 91 Years of Service “Mardi Gras” party.
- 3/9/06 4-Way Test, Interact Club and the GSE team all spiced up the meeting.
- 4/11/06 “Secretaries Day” changed to “Administrative Professionals’ Day.”
- 5/18/06 Foundation awards, scholastic achievements with \$100 savings bonds.
- 6/1/06 Fred Owens and Kelly Stevens presented “Homework Express” to the club.
- 6/22/06 Reverse Raffle earned \$17,456. 187 tickets sold, the largest amount ever raised.
- 7/5/06 A field trip to the Chevy Center (now Covelli).
- 7/26/06 Ed Hulme honored for 50 years of service. (Ed also sponsored 50 new members.)
- 8/3/06 Put Kids First mentors meet the kids.
- 8/31/06 Field trip to sister Jerome’s Mill Creek Children’s Center.
- 10/11/06 Field trip to YSU’s Gallery in Kilcawley Center for a tour.
- 11/2/06 Youngstown Rotary awarded the Anthony Vivo community service citation for the 1921 founding of the Ohio Society for Crippled Children now known as Easter Seals.
- 12/6/06 Henry Bertolini received his 59th perfect attendance award.
- 1/10/07 The Hot Dog Cart (Ron Faniro’s project) at First Night Youngstown was a great success due to his 10 Rotarian helpers.
- 1/18/07 Youngstown Rotary receives the Youngstown Business Journal grant for image building.
- 3/8/07 Walter DeBald congratulated for 55 years in business in Youngstown.
- 3/29/07 Annie Logue (daughter of John & Mary Logue) presented a program based on her book HEDGE FUNDS FOR DUMMIES.
- 4/11/07 Margaret Murphy reported the Harrison Field project is under way. We committed \$50,000.
- 7/25/07 Ruth Crawford, our executive secretary for many years died July 20, 2007. She will be greatly missed by all but especially club presidents, past and future.
- 8/1/07 Ron Faniro’s article on Harry Burt’s “Good Humor Bar” was accepted by PARADE magazine.
- 8/8/07 Henry Bertolini celebrates 60 years of perfect attendance.
- 8/8/07 Youngstown Rotary’s ROYCO decides to cease operations.
- 2/7/08 Another Reverse Raffle smash produced \$16,000.
- 11/20/08 Carol and Bruce Sherman were honored by the Zionist Organization of America for their work for education and Jewish heritage.
- 12/11/08 Profit on our first Pancake Breakfast was \$3,000 with 60% of club members participating. Rand Becker won the most unusual trophy for selling the most tickets.
- 2/22/09 Field trip to the new Newport Public Library.
- 4/16/09 “Tax Break Night Out” at the Upstairs Lounge.
- 5/7/09 Herb Soss reported on the Ace Lumber story.
- 5/20/09 We hosted a picnic for the Harding students at Wick Park.
- 6/10/09 Debbie Esbenshade reported \$18,500 net from the reverse raffle.
- 7/15/09 Field trip to Stambaugh Auditorium. Thirty (30) perfect attendance awards were given out with Henry Bertolini getting his 62nd!
- 8/17/09 District Governor J. Douglas Simpson outlined the ways to connect

- Rotary with current culture. In other words, "Get With It!"
- 10/1/09 The pancake project earned \$3,000 plus!
- 12/28/09 Ron Faniro's year in review covered a typical Rotary "Service Above Self" period.
- 2/2/10 Roy Passarelli's Ohio Business Week students wowed the group with their report.
- 5/12/10 The Reverse Raffle earned \$20,000. After all that work, why does the Committee agree to do it again next year?
- 6/30/10 A "special" meeting was held at Henry Bertolini's bedside by Presidents Steve Kristan, Elayne Bozick, and Mary Womble to preserve Henry's 63rd year of Perfect Attendance.
- 12/20/10 \$25,000 presented to the OH WOW, The Roger & Gloria Jones Children's Center for Science & Technology to further their science projects.
- 12/28/10 A great time was had at the Mahoning Valley Historical Society's newest venue, the Tyler history center, and we celebrated our pledge to the Wick Neighbors project with a check for \$43,000.
- 3/21/11 Elayne Bozick led her Group Study Exchange team to the Philippines.
- 4/27/11 The Reverse Raffle profit was \$22,360!
- 5/3/11 We hosted Law Day at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.
- 11/29/11 Rand Becker is the winner of the first "Golden Pancake Award."
- 12/5/11 Our first Youngstown Holiday parade float.
- 12/20/11 The Pancake Breakfast serves 125 people and netted some \$4,000.
- 3/26/12 A special memorial service was held for Henry Bertolini.
- 4/20/12 Rotaract Club to be reactivated at YSU.
- 5/7/12 Profit from Reverse raffle is \$24,300+!
- 7/9/12 Linda Kostka takes over the 80th year of continuing existence of the "Clatter."
- 9/5/12 A field trip to Slippery Rock Pavilion in Mill Creek Park led by our own Ron Faniro and the Park's Bill Whitehouse.
- 9/23/12 First "Beers, Cheers and Gears" held at the Lemon Grove.
- 10/21/12 Start up of Operation Warm to furnish winter coats to needy children.
- 11/25/12 Rand Becker retired the awesome Rotary Pancake Award and proudly displays it on his desk.
- 12/2/12 We say goodbye to The Youngstown Club as our meeting place. 12/5/12 will be our last luncheon at The Youngstown Club.
- 2/12/13 Chris Yambar's art workshop was a huge success with both Rotarians and the Harding kids.
- 5/6/13 The first "Rockin' Race for Cancer" is set for May 22nd at The Rayen Stadium.
- 6/13/13 July 3rd will be Debbie Esbenshade's first Rotary meeting as District Governor! With us, of course.
- 6/18/13 The Reverse Raffle's net profit was an outstanding \$25,061.13!
- 6/25/13 Scott Schulick, Ron Faniro and John Slanina attended the Rotary International Convention in Lisbon. We have pictures to prove it.
- 7/1/13 Linda Kostka signs off as the "Clatter" editor and Heidi Daniel takes over the job.
- 7/8/13 Ron Faniro's excellent report on the Lisbon R.I. convention was both informative and entertaining.
- 8/13/13 Jackpot hits \$600.

- 9/3/13 The death of long-tome member, Edward Hulme, was observed by recalling his 57 years membership and sponsoring 50+ new members.
- 10/9/13 “Operation Warm” goal of \$10,000 is doubled! Coats were distributed at Harding, Boys & Girls Club, Betty’s Angels, St. Joseph the Provider and the Salvation Army.
- 11/20/13 Bernie Kosar Sr. presented a moving tribute to all veterans.
- 3/17/14 The new “cookie table” contest is set for the District Conference this year.
- 4/30/14 May’s schedule is as follows: 2nd Rotary’s District 6650 Conference, 16th annual Reverse Raffle, and 28th Put Kids First Rockin’ Race for Cancer.
- 5/2/14 Our club receives the following awards at the District Conference:
- RI Presidential Citation with Distinction
 - Ursuline Interact receives an RI Presidential Citation
 - Robert Manchester Award for Best Vocational Service Project: Rockin’ Race for Cancer
 - Roland Luhman Award for Best Community Service Project: Operation Warm
 - Runner-up awards for best club bulletin; best public relations and best literacy project.
- 5/11/14 Our bowling team won many honors this past season and contributed \$680 to the Foundation.
- 6/18/14 Kick-off to new community service project: “The Little Free Library.”

**PUT KIDS FIRST
2014 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Put Kids First (PKF) is to align the resources of the Rotary Club of Youngstown with the needs of the Youngstown City Schools.
(Program established May, 1996.)

ROTARY & ME is a mentoring component of PKF. Its mission is to provide one-on-one volunteer service to the students of Harding Elementary School through a mentoring program. We strive to develop positive impact in areas such as academics, behavior, self-image and a sense of belonging.
(Program established September, 2002 by Carol Sherman.)

MENTORING

MENTORING is a relationship over a prolonged period of time between two or more people where older, wiser, more experienced individuals provide constant, as needed support, guidance and concrete help to the younger persons as they go through life.

A MENTOR:

- Praises and encourages
- Tells the child good things about himself/herself
- Tries to understand how the child feels
- Commits to regular attendance
- Builds caring and supportive rapport
- Is considerate
- Shows respect for the child and his/her potential
- Provides opportunities for the child to be successful
- Has the child speak positively about his/her own efforts
- Maintains a professional attitude: respects confidentiality
- Makes a difference in a child's life.

EFFECTIVE WAYS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN

- Be warm and friendly – show interest in what they are doing and telling you. You are very important as a listener.
- Encourage them to do their own thinking. Give them plenty of time to answer. Silence often means they are thinking and organizing what they want to say.
- Use tact and positive comments. Seek something worthy to compliment especially when children are having difficulties.
- Accept each child as he/she is.
- If a child is upset, encourage him/her to talk the problem over with you. You need not solve the problem, but by listening you help the child feel you care.
- Respect a child's privacy. If a child reveals personal information, regard it as a confidence. (Safety issues should be brought to the school administration.)
- Keep your commitment. The children expect you and look forward to your visits.

PUT KIDS FIRST
Rotary & Me

GUIDELINES

QUALIFICATIONS:

MENTORS will be members of The Rotary Club of Youngtown or relatives and friends sponsored by a member of Rotary.

MENTEES will be students in grades 1-6 who have shown a need for additional adult support and guidance. The school staff will select student participants.

The school liaison, principal and program co-chairs will coordinate mentor/mentee matches.

SECURITY:

All mentors must have a fingerprint security check when they join the program.

Fingerprinting is done at the Youngstown Board of Education. Call the BOE to set up an appointment. (330) 744-6930/School-Community Relations.

Cost: \$60.00 (BCI: \$30 good for life; FBI: \$30, renewable every 5 years)

If mentors need financial assistance with this cost they should contact a program chairperson.

VISITATIONS:

- A ***minimum commitment*** of 1 day per month for 1 academic year is required.
- Preferred commitment periods: 1 day per week or 2 days per month.
- All visitations will take place at the school during lunch hour unless special provisions have been made.
1st Grade: 11:30 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.
2nd-6th Grade: 12:00 noon – 12:55 p.m.
- Members should sign in at the front desk in the main office in the black Rotary ATTENDANCE NOTEBOOK so we can keep track of volunteer hours. The notebook is located on the bookshelf to the right of the front desk.
- Members should pick up their mentees in the classrooms. Students will get their lunches in the cafeteria and you will eat lunch together in the art room, atrium or cafeteria. (Mentors bring their lunches.)
- Rotary members can be given a meeting attendance credit for each mentoring session.
- Please make your 55-minute visits “quality time.” Cell phones should be turned off during your visits unless you are expecting an emergency call.
- After lunch, mentors are free to visit other areas of the school with their mentees. Please feel free to visit the library or take a book out to the atrium. Computers will be available in the computer lab for your use. Each member should know his/her login information.
- Teachers may ask you to help with a homework assignment or enrichment activity. Please make every effort to be helpful.
- Please encourage your mentee to address you as Mr., Ms., or Mrs. and your last name.
- ***Mentors must abide by the confidentiality statement signed on the application during all visits. All concerns regarding your mentees should be reported to the***

principal or Kelly Bervish. Please do not take it upon yourself to help with a mentee's home problem.

- Any gifts given to a mentee for reward or incentive should be in good taste and of **moderate value**. Holiday gifts should be kept in the \$15.00 range.
- Necessary gifts of higher value (jacket, boots, etc.) may be given anonymously through the office.
- For the safety and physical well-being of all the children and volunteers, all work areas within the school are designated as SMOKE FREE.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- If a child is absent on a scheduled visitation day, you will be called after attendance is taken, approximately 10:00 a.m. Please be sure to keep your phone numbers and contact information updated on your application. If a cell phone number is the best way to reach you, please be sure to include that number of your application.
- In case of bad weather, it is the mentor's responsibility to listen to the radio for school closings. Staff will not be available to call you.
- Please park on the street during your visits. Parking lot spaces are limited and reserved for staff.
- Refer to the calendar for CLOSED days.

OFF CAMPUS FIELD TRIPS:

- All mentees will be brought to the YMCA or other venue as determined by Youngstown Board of Education buses. Transportation will be paid for by Youngstown Rotary PKF fund.
- Youngstown Rotary will pay for Mentees' lunches.
- Lunches for members who are *not* Rotary members will be paid for by Rotary.
- If a member is unable to attend lunch on a field trip day, he/she should notify the **PKF** chairs by 10:00 a.m. Their mentees will still attend lunch and be paired with another host/hostess for that day.
- On field trip days, mentors should arrive at lunch by **11:45 a.m.** to assure they are present when the children arrive.

A special "Thank You" to both Carol Sherman and Frank Kishel for their outstanding leadership.

In 1995 Youngstown School District was about to enter fiscal emergency. Marginal student performance, angry parents, divided board and a lot of bad press were among the top problems. Rotary Club of Youngstown president, Fred Owens, appointed an Education Review Committee to investigate how Rotary could positively affect Youngstown's whole public education system. Below is our timeline...

- Fall 1995 – Education Review Committee begins discussions.
- May 1996 – PUT KIDS FIRST established. **Mission:** The Put Kids First initiative of Rotary Club of Youngstown exists to lead in the reestablishment of a fully functional child-centered system of public education embodied in the Youngstown City Schools.
- May 1996 – Alarm Clock project at Hayes Middle School brought absenteeism

- down 27% and tardiness down 39%.
- March & June 1997 – Youngstown Rotary sponsored two public education forums at YSU.
 - April 1997 – Rotary signed a Resolution of Community Support and Action with Mayor Ungaro and other business leaders of the community.
 - May 1997 – Rotary created the PKF Report card. Communications tool for the families.
 - October 1997 – Rotary helped initiate STARS for YSD. (Senior Teaching and Reaching Students)
 - June 1997 – After an evaluation of the scope and cost of the PKF initiative to affect the entire public education system of YSD, it was decided to adopt one school, Harding Elementary School, as our primary focus.
 - August 1997 – Helped with Immunization Fair at Harding.
 - September 1997 – Spruce Up Harding Day – removed old trees, weeded and constructed flowerbeds.
 - February 2002 – Raised \$800 for clothing and shoes for children and \$200 for books for the gifted program.
 - April 2002 – Donated two bikes for a raffle at Harding’s first “Family Night.”
 - September 2002 –Established “Rotary & Me,” a formal mentoring program at Harding to make a positive influence on academics, behavior, self-image and sense of belonging.
 - January 2004 – Committed to build a new ADA playground (financial & physical support) at Harding as our Centennial Project.
 - October 2004 – Ribbon cutting ceremony of new playground.
 - 2002-2013 – sponsored annual picnics for mentees at local city pavilion and hosted children at several business meetings throughout the year. Age appropriate enrichment programs presented.
 - October 2006 – Provided “Leave at Home School Bags” for all the first graders at Harding.
 - November 2012 – Organized and sponsored “Great Ohio Planting Day” for mentees with local recycling organizations.
 - January 2013 – Took mentees to OH WOW – The Roger & Gloria Jones Children’s Center for Science & Technology.
 - January 2013 – Sponsored Cartoonist from SMARTS (Students Motivated by the ARTS) as creative motivation.
 - May 2013 – Organized “The Rockin’ Race for Cancer” for the entire school body. Funds collected benefited a local Breast Care Center.
 - October 2013- Conducted “Operation Warm” which raised money for each child at Harding School to receive a new coat and scarf. With the remaining funds, new coats were purchased for the children at The Boys and Girls Club of Youngstown and St. Joseph School.

A Brief History of the Youngstown Rotary Foundation Incorporated

On May 7, 1947 a contribution of \$10.00 per member was made to the Paul Harris Foundation of Rotary International. At that same meeting, a Youngstown Rotary Foundation was presented for discussion.

Records of contributions from its establishment to the present are as follows:

1947 to 1973

\$69,847	Boy Scouts Swimming Pool – Camp Stambaugh
400	Boy Scouts – Jamboree
7,000	Volunteer Instructors in Adult Education
2,034	Sing-Out-Youngstown
515	Youngstown Rotary Club – Youth Service and Student Exchange
40,000	Boy’s Club of Youngstown
2,400	Wm. McGuffey Historical Society
1,500	Wm. McGuffey Centre – Lockers
5,000	YMCA – Camp Fitch Maintenance Building
1,000	Children’s International Summer Village – Sponsor One Delegation
300	Rotary Club of Cochin (West) India – 1 Pucca House
240	Cheryl Ryan – Artificial Limb
2,925	Boy Scouts – Hydrochlorinator, Dining Tables, Tent Platforms
250	Rotary Club of De Vientien – Aid to Young War Refugees
2,000	Rotary International Foundation – Club Contribution
2,495	Crippled Children Activities
830	Lake to River Girl Scout Council – Orthopedic Handicapped Camp

1973

\$10,000	Presented to Boy’s Club of Youngstown
1,000	Children’s International Summer Village
1,000	Rotary International Foundation

1974

\$ 1,500	William H. McGuffey Centre
830	Lake to River Girl Scout Council

1975

\$16,700	Income from Youngstown Charity Horse Show
5,000	Bi-Centennial Commission of Mahoning County and Youngstown
1,500	Handicapped Children Activities
300	Lake to River Girl Scout Council
1,000	Rotary International Foundation

1976

\$ 5,800	Handicapped Children Activities
3,250	Mahoning Valley Boy Scouts of America
1,000	Rotary International Foundation

	1,150	Y.P.D. Juvenile Division (Flashing Stop Signs for School Crossing)
1977		
	\$ 2,000	Rotary International Foundation
	3,700	Youngstown Rescue Mission
	1,700	Salvation Army of Youngstown
	750	Easter Seal Society – Youngstown
	2,500	Catholic Charities
	1,800	Mahoning Valley Campfire Girls
	4,200	Junior Achievement of Youngstown
	2,800	Buckeye Elks Youth Development
	4,700	Youngstown YMCA
	1,500	Handicapped Children Activities
	5,000	Wm. H. McGuffey Historical Society
1978		
	\$33,200	Easter Seal Center – Robert A Manchester Therapeutic Playground
	1,750	Handicapped Children Activities
1979		
	\$11,800	Easter Seal Center – Robert A Manchester Therapeutic Playground
	2,500	Renovation of Marmion Avenue
1980		
	\$ 2,000	Handicapped Children Activities
1981		
	\$ 3,200	Handicapped Children Activities
1982		
	\$21,000	Income from Youngstown Charity Horse Show
	4,700	Handicapped Children Activities
	20,000	Mahoning County 4-H Show Ring at Canfield Fairgrounds
	15,000	Mahoning Valley Campfire Council
	1,800	Rotary International Foundation
	22,000	Youngstown Foundation Support Fund
	2,300	Youngstown YMCA for Handicap Access to Building & Facilities
	6,500	YMCA - Mini Health Clinic
1983		
	\$28,000	Income from Youngstown Charity Horse Show
	2,500	Handicapped Children Activities
	1,300	Rotary International Foundation
1984		
	\$18,000	Income from Rotary Raffle
	16,400	Handicapped Children Activities
	900	Library for C.A. Amedia Plaza
	2,500	Renovation of Buckeye Elks Youth Development Center
	8,100	Boy's Club Renovations
1985		
	\$14,500	Equipment Purchase for Youngstown Hearing & Speech Center
	6,900	Handicapped Children Activities
	1,000	Rotary International Foundation
	2,500	Ventilating System for Youngstown Area Jr. Achievement

1986	\$ 5,040	Handicapped Children Activities
	3,500	Repair of Swimming Pool at Camp Stambaugh
	2,700	Rotary International Foundation
1987	\$15,100	Project Daybreak – Family Service Agency
	11,600	Boy’s Club of Youngstown – Capital Improvements
	7,100	Jubilee Gardens – Purchase of Tractor and Tiller
	6,000	Handicapped Children Activities
	2,500	Rotary International Foundation
1988	\$10,000	Millcreek Park – Construction of Restrooms for Handicapped
	6,800	Handicapped Children Activities
	2,300	Jubilee Gardens – Purchase of Tractor and Plow
	700	Wm. H. McGuffey Society – Roofing Project
	500	Potential Development Program Geodesic Dome Climber
	5,600	Youngstown Rescue Ministries – Building Repairs
	6,000	Rotary International Foundation – Polio Plus
	1,100	Salvation Army – Truck Repairs to Emergency Canteen
1989	\$19,300	Boy’s Club of Youngstown – Purchase of Equipment for New Gym
	5,800	Handicapped Children Activities
	600	Audio Visual Equipment – Mahoning County Transitional Homes
	1,800	Youngstown Rescue Ministries – Carpet and Floor Repair
	1,000	Project Hugo – Rebuilding Materials for Hurricane Damage
1990	\$15,000	Eyes to India – Build a Clinic for Cataract Operations
	15,000	R.I. Foundation – Matching Grant
	7,500	The Clinic – Alcoholism and Drug Treatment
	633	Goodwill – Trailer
	2,500	Youngstown Connection
	10,000	R.I. Polio Plus
	4,000	Student Grants to YSU
1991	\$ 500	YMCA Piano
	2,500	Jubilee Gardens
	1,150	Salvation Army
	1,200	Kidney Foundation
	5,000	Polio Plus
	1,000	R.I. Foundation
	2,000	Eyes for India
	3,213	Handicapped to Sea World
	3,500	Handicapped Christmas Party
	2,177	Eyes for India
	1,000	Red Cross

	7,000	Handicapped Children
	19,094	Polio Plus
1992		
	\$ 543	Pegasus Farm for Handicapped
	6,000	Student Grants
	5,000	Stambaugh Auditorium
1993		
	\$ 4,500	Student Grants
1994		
	\$ 8,387	Handicapped Children
	2,047	Interfaith Home Maintenance
	700	Ohio Business Week Scholarship
	1,000	The Point – Homeless Shelter
	600	ACTS – Wick Park Project for Inner City Children
	5,000	Polio Plus
	4,200	Crippled Children
	1,000	Steel Museum
	1,390	Methodist Center (Pearl Street)
	500	Poorest of the Poor
	6,000	Boys and Girls Club
	5,000	YMCA
	1,000	Mill Creek Children’s Center
1995		
	\$ 3,000	Beatitude House
	500	Jr. Achievement
	2,000	Ohio Trees Project
1996		
	\$ 1,200	Rotary International Foundation
	1,226	Exchange Student 6650 Program
	4,500	Puts Kids First
	5,700	YSU Stadium Expansion
	1,000	Park Vista
	6,500	Easter Seals
	200	Youth Leadership Mahoning Valley
	1,500	Eyes for India
	2,000	Ohio Trees
	1,000	Youngstown Public Library
	1,000	Youngstown Business Incubator
	500	Jr. Achievement
	1,000	Big Brothers & Big Sisters
	1,000	Camp Stambaugh
	1,500	Boys & Girls Club
	1,000	Butler Institute of American Art Summer Art Camp
	1,000	Youngstown Arts Council
	1,000	Mill Creek Children’s Center
1997		
	\$ 1,000	Youngstown Business Incubator
	1,500	Youngstown Hearing & Speech Center
	1,500	Easter Seals

	1,000	Youngstown Playhouse
	1,500	Youngstown Goodwill
1997 (Cont.)		
	500	Jubilee Gardens
1999		
	\$ 2,685	Youngstown Hearing & Speech Center
	2,395	Easter Seals
	2,200	YMCA
	2,000	Youngstown Goodwill
	420	Jubilee Gardens
	500	Boy Scouts
	1,700	Butler Institute of American Art Summer Art Camp
	1,500	Ursuline High School – Auditorium Renovation
	1,000	Rayen High School
	1,000	Girl Scouts
	1,167	Disney Youth
	1,000	English Center
	500	Summer Day Camp
	1,259	Potential Development Center
2000		
	\$ 500	Parent Center
	5,400	Potters Wheel
	2,100	Ohio Business Week
	500	Rotary International Foundation
	500	Eyes for India
	500	Poorest of the Poor
	1,275	Butler Institute of American Art Summer Art Camp
	500	Sojourner House
	880	Summer Day Camp
	810	Potential Development
	2,500	Youngstown Connection
	2,000	Boy Scouts
	600	Project Nigeria
	5,402	Easter Seals
	1,500	English Center
	500	Streetscape
	250	Moscow Ballet
	1,500	Industrial Information Institute Science Day
	2,100	Ohio Business Week
	6,100	YMCA
2001		
	\$ 500	Poorest of the Poor
	500	Guatemala Project
	5,000	Fellows Riverside Gardens Visitor's Center Campaign
	500	YSU "SMARTS"
	500	American Red Cross
	1,000	Boy Scouts
	1,000	Youngstown Playhouse
	1,275	Butler Institute of American Art Summer Art Camp

2002		
	\$ 1,100	Harding Elementary School
	1,500	Butler Institute of American Art Summer Art Camp
	750	Boy Scouts
	750	Camp Fire
	1,250	Easter Seals
	750	Youngstown Senior Center
	800	Potential Development
	750	Beatitude House – Potter’s Wheel Program/Replacement of Steps
2003		
	\$ 800	Ohio Business Week
	500	Industrial Information Institute Science Day
	3,000	Butler Institute of American Art Summer Art Camp
	3,500	Harding Elementary School – STARS Program
	500	Poorest of the Poor
	500	American Cancer Society
	750	Beatitude House
	750	Boy Scouts
	3,000	Butler Institute of American Art
	750	Camp Fire
	1,250	Easter Seals
	400	Harding Elementary School
	500	Industrial Information Institute
	750	Mahoning County Senior Center
	800	Ohio Business Week
	800	Potential Development
	400	Youngstown Rotary Club
	4,500	YSU Scholarships
2004		
	\$ 400	Downtown Revitalization
	500	Junior Achievement
	3,500	Neil Kennedy Recovery Clinic
	500	Poorest of the Poor
	4,500	YSU Scholarships
2005		
	\$ 4,200	Youngstown Rotary Club Charitable Gifts
	1,850	Mahoning Valley Historical Society
	23,610	Harding Elementary School (Playground)
	1,000	Rotary International Foundation
	200	Harding Clothing Drive
	1,000	District 6650 Mexico Drive
	500	YSU Early College
	500	Youngstown Foundation
	500	Rotary El Salvador Project
	1,628	Mill Creek Childrens Center
	50	Spelling Bee
	387	Jr. Scholastic Awards

2006	\$16,500	YSU Scholarships
	50	Spelling Bee
	1,000	Jubilee Gardens
	1,500	Butler Institute of American Art
	1,200	Paula & Anthony Rich Center for Study and Treatment of Autism
	5,891	Easter Seals
	2,000	Boys & Girls Club
	220	Girard-Liberty Rotary (Poorest of Poor)
	6,537	Youngstown Rotary Club
	300	Junior Achievement
	2,000	Needles Eye
2007		
	\$ 400	Youngstown Cityscape
	2,200	Beatitude House
	500	Rotary International
	500	Kids Building Hope Project
	561	Educational Supplies
	661	Put Kids First
	4,260	Youngstown Rotary Charitable Programs
	4,779	Youngstown Rotary Charitable Programs
	354	Scholastic Awards
2008		
	\$ 900	Youngstown Cityscape
	825	RYLA
	225	Harding –Put Kids First
	429	Harding – Books
	378	Harding – Interact Project
	500	Poorest of Poor
	2,827	Boys & Girls Club
	50	Spelling Bee
	4,500	YSU Scholarships
2009		
	\$ 1,100	RYLA
	100	First Night Youngstown
	1,000	RI Foundation – Polio Plus
	1,000	RI Foundation – Rosa Peng
	450	Ohio Business Week
	1,000	Neil Kennedy Recovery Center
	1,500	Ballet Western Reserve
	2,500	Youngstown Playhouse-Youth Theatre
	500	Youngstown Cityscape
	3,500	YSU Scholarships
	3,208	Youth Exchange
	3,156	Put Kids First
	1,142	Scholastic Awards

2010		
	\$ 500	Kids Building Hope
	233	World Waterworks
	500	Ursuline High School Student Stewardship
	500	Paula & Anthony Rich Center
	525	Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County
	645	Ohio Business Week
	4,000	YSU Scholarships
	2,500	Youngstown Playhouse – Youth Program
	1,500	Easter Seals
	1,000	Y.W.C.A.
	475	RI Foundation – Polio Plus
	600	RYLA
	1,327	Put Kids First
	1,329	Scholastic Awards
	100	GSE
	575	Interact
	1,699	Youth Exchange
2011		
	\$ 5,000	OH WOW
	40,048	Wick Neighbors Inc.-Harrison Commons
	100	RI – Water Filtration Project/India
	500	Altruson Club
	300	RI – Literacy Kits
	500	Youngstown Cityscape
	4,500	YSU Scholarships
	1,000	American Red Cross
	1,000	Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County
	1,500	United Methodist Community Center
	2,000	Potential Development
	850	Ohio Business Week
	1,000	Y.W.C.A.
	590	Scholastic Awards
	2,549	Youth Exchange
	1,758	Put Kids First
	100	GSE
2012		
	\$ 5,000	OH WOW
	1,200	RYLA
	1,250	Paula & Anthony Rich Center
	1,250	Eastern Ohio Education Partnership
	1,650	Youngstown Playhouse – Youth Theatre
	850	Ohio Business Week
	500	Altrusa Club
	1,500	Ballet Western Reserve
	500	RI Foundation – Nepal Health Clinic
	500	RI Foundation – Phillipines Clean Water
	3,000	Easter Seals
	4,500	YSU Scholarships

	500	Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County
	2,000	Mahoning Valley Historical Society
	1,978	Youth Exchange
	2,138	Put Kids First
	804	Scholastic Awards
	125	Rotaract
2013		
	\$ 5,000	OH WOW
	1,000	Y.W.C.A.
	1,791	Paula & Anthony Rich Center
	375	First Night Youngstown
	1,000	Youngstown Playhouse – Youth Theatre
	850	Ohio Business Week
	500	Altrusa Club
	2,000	YSU SMARTS
	1,830	Operation Warm
	1,200	Potential Development
	2,000	Mill Creek Park Foundation
	4,500	YSU Scholarships
	1,000	Grow Youngstown
	976	Help Hotline Crisis Center
	1,000	United Methodist Community Center
	3,627	Put Kids First
	1,000	Youngstown Cityscape
2014 (thru June 30, 2014)		
	\$ 5,000	OH WOW
	10,000	Harwood Institute
	2,000	MVOC – TedX Youngstown
	750	First Night Youngstown
	1,646	Mahoning Valley Historical Society
	850	Ohio Business Week
	1,000	YSU Etruscan Press
	1,000	Youngstown Public Library
	17,777	Operation Warm
	1,500	Easter Seals
	350	First Tee Program
	4,500	YSU Scholarships
	100	Boy Scouts
	500	Rotary ACTS – Little Free Library
	1,500	RI Foundation – Polio Plus
	905	Put Kids First
	6,183	Put Kids First – Rockin’ Race

The total charitable contributions of The Youngstown Rotary Club for which we have records amounts to approximately \$1,355,179!!

Note: From 1988 to the present, the Student Grant in Aid has distributed about \$4,500 per year or a total of \$135,000.

Past Presidents' Reflections
*denotes deceased past president

Ralph P. White, Jr. 1954-1955*

My year as President was a wonderful year. At the time, we had some 325 members. We found it necessary to start other clubs in our area. Bob Manchester started the Canfield Rotary, while I started the Boardman Rotary and helped get the Hubbard Rotary started. Other clubs were started in Girard, Struthers, etc. – a job well done!

We followed up on the crippled children work, now Polio Plus, and many other programs of merit during my year. We traveled to Seattle, WA, for the Rotary International Conference and what a thrill it was for us. We still hear from Rotarians we met there. While we were there, we attended a cocktail party (invited by a lovely couple from Puerto Rico) and found ourselves in the midst of all Spanish-speaking Rotarians!

Now my daughter, Sally, is already a past-president of the Sarasota Keys Rotary Club, having been the first female president of the club and is keeping “Service Above Self” continuing for the third generation in our family. Some of the members of her club started the Florida Gift of Life program (Sally is the vice-president) which provides life saving heart operations for children from other countries and they are doing a fantastic job.

Herbert O. Zimmer 1967-1968*

My year had many memorable occasions as all of those who have served have experienced.

Mary Morsbach, our executive secretary, had to retire for health reasons, so the first thing was to hire her replacement. With the board's approval, I hired Ruth Crawford to take her place and what a wise choice that was.

The Club was just completing the swimming pool at the Boy Scout Camp. The Rotary Crippled Children's Home was no longer needed so it was being sold. Jim Beeghly and Frank Warren came to me and said they wanted to start a Boys Club on the south side. The board and the membership approved and by year's end, we had purchased the old abandoned church on Oak Hill, renovated it, selected a board of directors, hired a manager and staff, and I had agreed to serve as the first president. A new building has replaced the old church and the club now has well over 300 members, which serves both boys and girls.

Our major fundraiser was the Horse Show, a joint venture with the Mahoning Saddle and Bridle Club. My appointed chairman was transferred to Pittsburgh the week before the show so I was left to serve as our chairman and to host the main performer, Arthur Godfrey.

Edward J. Hulme 1968-1969*

We began to do our homework toward establishing a Boys (now Boys & Girls) Club of Youngstown. With the help of former president Frank Warren, we secured a former church building to use as the Club – 3 floors in the Church. Thousands of children have been members. Bill Russell and I are former presidents of the Club.

Our Club raised the funds and built a swimming pool at the Boy Scout Camp in Canfield.

There are other memories of Rotarians – I have been in the Club 47 years. Also, I have sponsored over 50 new members – several in the Club now.

John Weed Powers 1970-1971*

My favorite recollection as president of Rotary was the establishment of the Urban Action Committee in the early 1970's which spent one year meeting once or twice a month with various inner city agencies, ministers and area leaders, following the assassination of Martin Luther King. As I recall the program was the Youngstown Club's effort at "Building Bridges", which was International Rotary's theme for a least one of those years when racial tensions were peaking here and there.

We came up with a program designed to commit Youngstown Rotary to a pilot effort to "build bridges" with inner city residents. The effort received very favorable press and a good response from the membership as a whole but was not implemented.

Henry E. Bertolini 1973-1974*

My year was capped by a hugely successful raffle of a Cadillac and the resulting "Ban Lantawan" (Sunflower) project in Bangkok to provide food and medicine for children.

Robert E. Brooks 1976-1977

My year as President of Youngstown Rotary 1976-77 was unique in several ways: First, it was the National Bicentennial year; Second, and of greater significance to the Club, was the election of our member and Past President Bob Manchester to the Presidency of Rotary International. This resulted in an extremely large delegation of Youngstown Rotarians and wives at the International Convention in New Orleans, and a rousing start to the year. During the Convention, at the Club Presidents luncheon, I had the pleasure and duty to present to Bob Manchester a gift from our Club [an engraved sterling silver bicentennial Plate depicting the signing of the Declaration of Independence] honoring his selection a R.I. President.

At the Youngstown Bicentennial Parade on July 5, Youngstown Rotary sponsored a float [built in conjunction with Austintown Rotary in Chet Amedia's year] consisting primarily of a giant "Rotary Wheel." The wheel was later prominently displayed at every performance of the Youngstown Charity Horse Show [our fund raising project] and is still used annually by Canfield Rotary on their float in the Canfield 4th of July Parade.

At my first Board Meeting as President, a committee was appointed to search for a suitable project to memorialize for Youngstown Rotary, the community at large and the R.I. Presidency of Bob Manchester. The project ultimately chosen and approved by the entire membership was the Robert A. Manchester Commemorative Therapeutic Playground at the Easter Seal Center. It was dedicated, I think, the following year. Regrettably, I am not sure the Playground is still in use.

The second project was unique and stimulated great curiosity and fun with the Club. Trading on Bob Manchester's R.I. Presidency, we sent ten-dollar checks to 150 Rotary Clubs worldwide with my cover letter asking them to send a product or unusual item from the area suitable for auction. All items to be sold at Youngstown Rotary's Exotic International Auction honoring our member the R.I. President. I think the proceeds ended up in the Youngstown Rotary Foundation, but according to the "Clatter", were to be used for an International Project. Perhaps Ruth will remember. We received some really fascinating items and the action was a financial and social success. It was an exciting event – Rotarians, wives and guests – held at the Regency House.

John (Jack) Varley 1978-1979*

Our major activity was the completion and dedication of the Easter Seal Center playground. This state-of-the-art facility was constructed in memory of International Rotary president Robert Manchester.

Richard M. Barrett 1979-1980*

Twenty-three years sure do fly by in a hurry. It was a good Rotary Year. Mary Morsbach was our Secretary and Lillian Stambaugh our pianist. We had 212 members with attendance at meetings running around 115. During the year, we moved the office from the Ohio Hotel to the YMCA. The price of lunches was raised by \$.50 to \$2.50. Wow!

The year began with a kick-off for the 36th Annual Horse Show at the Colonial Inn at the Canfield Fairgrounds. Seventy-six Rotarians contributed 901 man-hours to raise \$15,955 for Rotary. In August, we took the handicapped children to Sea World, which was a big change from the Canfield Fair. We had two exchange students, one from Sweden and the other from New Zealand.

Thomas A. Kirk 1982-1983

My year as President, '82-'83, (my goodness, 20 plus years ago) has faded on the "completely" side. I do remember having a theme for the year to urge the members to bring in new members. The theme displayed on banners read something like "share Rotary with someone." As I remember 50 new members were introduced during the year and we lost 49 members to deaths and resignations for a net gain of one! Dick Organ won the prize for bringing in the most new members.

Our excursion to the '82 Canfield Fair with the disabled children was met with a "monsoon" record rainfall. Members and children took shelter wherever found. Lindy and I stood next the French fryer in a booth run by a Poland church group.

Dr. William J. Cleary, Jr. 1983-1984

In excess of twenty years, our Club sponsored the Annual Mahoning Charity Horse Show (held at Canfield Fairgrounds). However, during my term, we discontinued our relationship with this event. I appointed a select committee to recommend a new fund-raising project. Upon this recommendation, the general membership voted to have a lottery. It was extremely successful – raising \$18,000 (net).

Early in my year, I asked one of the Board members to take charge of arranging the Program for Secretary's Day to be held in May. Occasionally, I asked him how the arrangements were developing. He told me he had secured a speaker, but had never heard him. He was advised he spoke before family groups and that his program would be appropriate to our event. The speaker shocked everyone in attendance with the topic of his lecture – endless anecdotes about female anatomy. When I was about to stand up and terminate the Program, he spontaneously, in mid-sentence, hurriedly left the auditorium. Quickly, I apologized to our guests and members and adjourned the meeting.

Dr. Yau Too Chiu, Jr., 1984-1985

I had the honor to go to Columbus representing Youngstown rotary to receive an award given by Easter Seals Society. During that awards ceremony, the principle honoree was a man from Columbus. He had donated one day of air time for a telethon for the benefit of Easter Seals. After the meeting, he came up to me and asked whether I am from Youngstown Rotary. I told him yes, then he told me why he donated the air time for Easter Seals. He told me that as a child, he lived in Youngstown, he had contacted “Infantile Paralysis”, his legs were weak, he had to lay in bed during his recovery period. Days were very dull. At Christmas time, a Rotarian came to his house, went upstairs, picked him up from his bed and carried him down to his car, drove him to the Pick Ohio Hotel. Another Rotarian carried him up to the second floor ballroom for the “Cripple Children's Christmas Party.” It was beautifully decorated, there was caroling, Christmas presents from Santa Claus, etc. Afterward, another Rotarian took him downstairs. The Rotarian that picked him up before took him home and put him back in bed again. “Oh, I will always remember that.” And, again during Labor Day weekend, another Rotarian came to my house, picked me up, took me to the Canfield Fair. They put me in a wheel chair, took me on all the rides. Afterward, I was taken home and put to bed again. “What a day.”

It is because you Rotarians had done that for me during my disability that I am giving back. Go home and tell your club and say, “Thank you, Rotarians!”

His expression, the tone of his voice, I will never forget!

I had told this to the club several times before. Each time I told the story, I remember his face and his voice. It makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up and makes my voice quiver!

“Thank you, Rotarian!!!”

James Jarvis 1985-1986

We were proud to have the following article printed in the 9/86 Rotarian.

[PHOTO]

“Ohio, U.S.A. – Jim Jarvis, 1985-86 president of the Rotary Club of Youngstown (right), plays with children at the Robert A. Manchester Therapeutic Playground. The playground is at the Easter Seal Center, which is headed by Rotarian Andy Douglas (**see item**).

-
- The Rotarians of Youngstown, Ohio, U.S.A., have a special interest in assisting disabled children (**see photo**). The club’s work dates back to 1921, when Youngstown Rotarians joined other clubs to form the Ohio Society for Crippled Children. They also helped establish the Easter Seal Society. One of the club’s most notable projects is the Robert A. Manchester Therapeutic Playground, located at the Easter Seal Center. The therapeutic playground, dedicated in 1979, was one of the first of its kind in the U.S. It was named after the late 1976-77 R.I. president, a resident of Youngstown. Rotarians continue their focus on helping disabled children through their support of the Polio-Plus Program, which strives to immunize all children against polio.”

Donald R. Crane 1986-1987*

The student exchange program was the focus of this year. The Youngstown Club hosted a record-setting four (4) students from Finland, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden.

William A. Russell 1989-1990

My major goal was to select and organize a major fundraising project. We held a successful Walk On Wick in conjunction with Youngstown Area Arts Council May 26, 1990. 70 Club members participated as volunteers. The event kicked off on

Friday night with Easy Street Productions “Putting On The Ritz” at Uptown Theater.

In our Youth Exchange, we had as incoming students – Yu Shimokawa from Japan; Claudia Salami from Brazil; and Jennifer Bocage from Mallorca, Spain. Our outgoing student was Beth Dunlea of Ursuline High School to La Paz, Bolivia.

We had 20 new members that year. We developed and printed a new Youngstown Rotary Handbook to be used for orientation of new members – providing information on Youngstown Rotary’s history and Rotary International and in February 1990, the 75th Anniversary Celebration dinner was held at The Youngstown Club chaired by Henry Bertolini. 163 attended.

John N. Logue 1990-1991

I had the honor to serve as club president for the 1990-1991 year. I set seven (7) goals for our club year.

- 1st Eyes for India – We raised close to \$20,000 with help from our member, Raxit Shah. We received a matching grant from Rotary International. We opened an eye clinic in a remote area of India and the eye hospital continues to operate.
- 2nd Continue the “Walk on Wick” – This project was fun and helped the Arts Council.
- 3rd A goal of 200 members – This we did not achieve.
- 4th Achieve 80% club attendance – I believe we did get into the mid-70%.
- 5th Sponsor one Paul Harris Fellow – We easily achieved this goal.
- 6th Continue to meet our 5 year obligation to Polio Plus – We did achieve this.
- 7th Continue the tradition of Mega Bucks and “fines” to raise money for the club. In addition, I established “insurance” for \$5.00 that would cover the member fines for a year. We realized quite a bit of money from this and had some fun.

Jerold A. Haber 1992-1993

I served the Rotary Club of Youngstown as president during the 1992-1993 year, the year that our International President, Cliff Dochterman, selected for his theme: “Real Happiness is Helping Others.” As I accepted the presidency, I reminded the club that “Rotary is a participatory organization,” and that, through one of the four avenues of service – or through the foundation – there was ample opportunity to get, and stay, involved in service. Typically, the 1992-1993 Rotary year was characterized by great emotion.

I was also honored to serve Rotary District 6650 as Governor during the 1998-1999 Rotary year, one of three Youngstown Rotarians in our history to have done so. My Governorship reflected the goals and aspirations of my Presidency. R.I. President Jim Lacey’s theme asked us to “Follow Your Rotary Dream.” For me, Rotary has been, in many ways, a dream come true.

Rand D. Becker 1994-1995

The two outstanding events of my year were the first, never-to-be-forgotten, Air Show! What a great club-wide effort! Fifty-two (52) Rotarians worked extremely hard to pull off this great community service. Both the military and the airport personnel cooperated to produce a wonderful family oriented affordable show.

The second was the creation of ROTARY ACTS (Active Commitment to Service). This program, which continues to this day, permits Rotarians to involve up to ten (10) Rotarians in a community service project with our Youngstown Rotary Foundation contributing up to one thousand dollars. Dozens of worthwhile activities have been developed and funded due to this program.

Alfred W. Owens 1995-1996

We did some big things during my year. I don’t believe any Rotary club in the valley has ever done a project as big as and difficult as our airshow. (So big, in fact, that I’m thinking it happened twice – during September and then during the following spring, all in my year as President!) Craft shows and street fairs have their own quirks, of course, and a goof can really embarrass and perhaps cost money, but the air show involved coordination of the public, of sponsors, of flyers, of the promoters, of the airport staff and FAA, of the US Air Force – and of Rotarians.

We weren’t to be outdone by our airshow, though. Nope. Who in his right mind could have thought to invite all the District 6650 inbound exchange students to town, to move them into a nice, new dormitory at YSU and to turn them loose for a week?! But we

did it. And, nobody got hurt, arrested or pregnant – that we know. In fact, the whole experience was as positive for the Rotarians as it was for the kids.

And, of course, we launched Puts Kids First, our club's effort to help facilitate systemic improvements in the Youngstown City Schools.

What stays with me over the years, and helps Rotary to stand out for me as something special in our lives, is our willingness to try something big and bold – like building a swimming pool, or starting a Boys and Girls Club, or sponsoring an airshow or fixing a school system. Good service projects need to produce value, of course, but for them to inspire a club they need to be dangerous, too. If there's no danger, then we aren't called on to lead – only to manage, and the project doesn't stir the soul. And that's what I think Rotary can do – for itself and for its community: we can lead. We can stir souls.

Lawrence Weiss 1996-1997

First was the club's accomplishment in winning the District 6650 Robert Manchester award for the Outstanding Community Avenue project, which was our "Put Kids First" initiative. The fact that we had strong member participation in "PKF" combined with winning an award named for our own most famous Rotarian made the District Conference something I will never forget. Other accomplishments of note for the year include our adoption of a stretch of Interstate 680 for the "Adopt a Highway" program and the reception of our first ever "Rotary meeting" signs on the major roadways leading into Youngstown.

Charles C. Petzinger 1998-1999

Well, let's say that my tenure as president was one filled with excitement. Our newsletter not only won the district award for best publication but also managed to spark enough controversy to ensure that each and every member read The Clatter to see what our editor was up to each week. Plus, our fellow Rotarians in Boardman seemed to take interest in what we were up to!

The 1998-1999 year was also the year that Youngstown was the host club for the district conference. The entire Club assisted in this project and everyone agreed that the event was one of the best in recent memory.

C. Reid Schmutz 2000-2001

During the 2000-2001 Rotary year, we decided to concentrate on existing programs and do them well. Put Kids First was our main thrust as we beautified the school (Harding), put on a neighborhood fair, provided volunteers for various functions including Junior Achievement in the fourth grade classes and gave each child a book at Christmas. We cleaned the highway and rang the Salvation Army bell at Christmas.

The social events were well attended and enjoyed by all, most memorable, the bell was rung loudly.

Deborah A. Esbenshade 2001-2002 District Governor 2013-2014

My year as Youngstown Rotary's first female President was an exciting and rewarding experience, one that I will never forget!

We had very exciting programs that included Billy Martin and the purchase of the armored vest for the Youngstown Police Department, our Veteran's Day Salute with the Boardman High School Chorus and our Holiday Family Day Program with Master Park and some of his students. Community Service Projects included ringing the bell for Salvation Army (and winning the challenge with Boardman Rotary), a collection drive for Sojourner House, a food drive for Second Harvest Food Bank, Halloween Cards to the children in NY affected by the 9/11 tragedy and our continuing Put Kids First initiative at Harding Elementary.

I was able to represent our club at the RI Convention in San Antonio, TX and again at RI Headquarters in Rockford, IL for a meeting of larger US clubs. Our club won numerous district awards including the prestigious Distinguished Rotary Club Award (one of only 3 in the district), as well as an RI Presidential Citation.

Fast forward eleven years and I was honored to represent Youngstown Rotary Club as District Governor! It was a challenge to be sure, but I'm not sorry! Getting out and meeting all of the clubs far exceeded my expectations and made all of the countless meetings, trainings and hours spent away from home (and work) worth it! I believe I would do it again.....but only if I were retired!

Once again, Youngstown Rotarians supported me and had a banner year winning several District Awards and put on a spectacular District Conference! I was never so proud to be a Youngstown Rotarian!

Scott R. Schulick 2003-2004; 2013-14

Having served as club president twice, ten years apart, I was able to observe many changes in our club. However, one thing remains the same, and that is our members' commitment to "Service Above Self" in our Youngstown community. There's something about Rotary that attracts the highest quality people to join our organization, and to create new ways to enhance the quality of life for our community.

I was fortunate to serve as club president in the last year of Rotary International's first century during 2003-04. Our international theme was "Lend A Hand," and we did our best to do just that with our existing and new projects throughout the year. We established a "Family of Rotary" Committee as encouraged by RI President, Jonathan Magiyagbe. We sponsored a Community Crime Summit and established an Interact Club at Ursuline High School. By year's end, we began a strategic planning process, made preparations to celebrate the club and RI's milestone anniversaries, and planned for the construction of a playground at the new Harding Elementary School. Our Put Kids First Initiative, that I am proud to have once chaired, was recognized at the District 6650 Conference as Outstanding Vocational Avenue of Service Project, receiving the Robert A. Manchester Award. The award recognized our "Rotary & Me" mentoring program at Harding Elementary School. Additionally, we received an RI Presidential Citation for completion of our club and international goals.

During my second presidency, 2013-14, RI President Ron Burton challenged us with the international theme "Engage Rotary, Change Lives," which was a call to action in all avenues of our service. We spent the year planning for our upcoming centennial celebration and completing a new club strategic plan. We participated in Operation Warm co-sponsored by local Rotary Clubs and outfitted all 500 students at Harding Elementary with a new winter coat, raising over \$20,000 and distributing more than 900 coats in total. Our second annual Rockin' Race for Cancer held at Harding Elementary raised over \$2,800 for Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center at St. Elizabeth Hospital. We kicked off the Little Free Library Project and sold lapel crocuses to create awareness for End Polio Now.

Our biggest project was hosting the District Conference while our member, Debbie Esbenshade served as District Governor. Over 250 Rotarians from District 6650 attended the conference held in various venues in downtown Youngstown. The club won many awards receiving an RI Presidential Citation with Distinction, while Ursuline Interact Club received an RI Presidential Citation. We were recognized for our commitment and multi-year pledge to End

Polio Now Campaign. We were awarded the Robert Manchester Award for Best Vocational Project in the District for the Rockin' Race for Cancer and the Roland Luhman Award for Best Community Project in the District for Operation Warm. Most notably the club was bestowed the prestigious Rotary International Significant Achievement Award for our "Put Kids First" Initiative, now in its 18th year.

As we celebrate our club's centennial, we can be very proud of our accomplishments. Serving as club president is a wonderful experience and it is an honor and privilege to be counted among the many great members of our community who have held the position. During our very own, Atty. Robert A. Manchester's year as President of Rotary International, the theme was "I Believe in Rotary." I surely believe in Rotary, and more importantly, "I Believe in Youngstown Rotary."

Elayne M.S. Bozick 2004 – 2005

The Rotary theme that year was "Celebrate Rotary" and that is what we did. Our Club was in its 90th anniversary year while RI was celebrating its first centennial year. While RI had set its sights globally, the Rotary Club of Youngstown had been doing its share by participated in founding or supporting nearly all of the Mahoning Valley's cultural, educational, and charitable facilities.

My "initiation" took place in Osaka, Japan, as "centennial presidents" witnessed the passing of the torch from RI President Jonathon Majiyabe of Nigeria, to RI Centennial President Glenn Estess, USA and culminated at the international conference in Rotary's birthplace – Chicago.

Throughout the year, we focused on six goals:

To activate a **Strategic Plan** that would guide our Club's leadership for the next 3-5 years: We recognized the corporate profile reflected in our membership varied greatly from that of 1915 when our club was first chartered. The goal of the plan was to assure continued growth and civic involvement. That plan earned our club the District's highest recognition in the Club Avenue (of Service).

In conjunction with our Plan, we formed a committee of Past Presidents to structure, maintain, and extend **leadership training** through the opportunities of "Service above Self."

We rededicated ourselves to the eradication of Polio and encouraged “**Every Rotarian Every Year**” to remember and support the work of the Rotary International Foundation

We built a playground for Harding Elementary School as our **Rotary International Centennial Project**. Having completed two playgrounds, the RCY was recognized with a second place award in the Community Avenue (of Service).

We partnered with the 2010 initiative, Wick Neighbors, and Streetscape to strengthen our commitment to improvements within the city of Youngstown and publicly announced our support of revitalization while inviting other civic-minded organizations also participate in and contribute to projects such as **Harrison Field in Smoky Hollow**.

And finally, **literacy programs for children and adults** – some of our members and family partners completed the formal training required to instruct adults in our community to improve their literacy skills while our Put Kids First team continued to mentor at-risk children at Harding Elementary School. The first adult literacy mentoring partnership began with Besty Jones and a member of her church on June 1st, 2005.

The quote that was with me throughout the year -- the words of past RI President Jonathon Majiyabe, “*Rotary acts as a mini United Nations in many ways. Rotarians are constantly attacking weapons of mass destruction: polio, poverty, illiteracy, hunger, and lack of health care. All these things bring despair to those who are the most vulnerable to the rhetoric of war.*”

The take a-ways for me – Paul Harris’s simple desire for fellowship matured into Rotary International’s principle mission and became a vital tool for peace through understanding. Without doubt, the best way to guarantee the rewards of membership in Rotary is to serve.

Carlton Sears, 2006-2007

People and relationships are what I recall most fondly and most vividly as I recall my term as President of the Rotary Club of Youngstown. The fellow officers at the time, especially Past President Eric Caspary, President Elect Kevin Chiu, and District Governor Geoff Goll were always there for me to lean on, with humor and keen perspective. But there was something else about

that year that was just as meaningful. At the time I was still relatively new to the community. Going through the chairs on the way to being Club President allowed me to see the community through a different lens. Through various club endeavors I was able to better understand the daily struggles endured by so many people in the Youngstown community as well as the scope of organizations and services that strive to make a difference in people's lives. The willingness of already busy club members to step up and take on responsibilities when asked has stayed with me. I don't recall anyone who said no when asked for help. This confirmed much of what I already had come to understand about the generosity of the nature of the people that live here. The experience and opportunity left me honored to play a part in the community and club's evolving history.

Mary Womble, 2009-2010

My year as president came after a previous year's leadership opportunity as GSE team leader to Brazil. The following year, during my presidency our club partnered with the Rotary Club of Avare, Sao Paulo, Brazil, through a TRF Matching Grant for \$25,000 to provide new equipment for the emergency room and intensive care unit of the local hospital. I was also very proud of our club's involvement with our youth exchange student from Austria, Gerald Rosenkrantz. After his year in Youngstown, Gerald would go on to win the under 17 World Championship downhill unicycle competition and in 2014, win a bronze medal in World Championship in Montreal, Canada.

We dedicated the arbor at Harrison Commons at the entrance to the Smokey Hollow neighborhood revitalization project during my year as president.

I am grateful and proud of the many opportunities for "Service Above Self" that I had as president of the Youngstown Rotary Club.

Suzanne Fleming, 2011-2012

I was honored to represent the club at the RI Conference in New Orleans. Prior to the start of the year, all members were contacted about, and agreed to become engaged in, committee service that year. In addition to standing committee work, we created opportunities to help plan the 2014 District Conference in Youngstown and the 2015 Centennial Celebrations for our club. We initiated the Vocational Minute at meetings where we called upon a member to answer questions about their business/occupation. We included member profiles in many Clatter issues and we rotated

board meetings to the companies/organizations where our board members worked. We revived the Public Safety Awards and updated the Strategic Plan.

Ronald Cornell Faniro 2012-2013

As I picked up the gavel for the first time as President in July 2012, I came prepared with my long list of “to do’s” for the year in hand ready to inform those present of how I was going to lead our Club during 2012/2013. As I looked up and stared out over the Members in attendance, the reality set in that my fellow Rotarians were viewing me in a different light, that as their leader. At that very moment, I realized how irrelevant my to do list was.

As I folded the list and put it aside, I informed the Membership that my job as their 2012/2013 Club President was to inspire and advance the initiatives that the Membership felt were crucial and important to our future. In general terms, I spoke of changing the culture of the Club and also spoke about cultivating a “new breed of Rotarian”. I shared with them two sobering statistics...we were about to slip below 70 members and that according to Rotary International’s database, the average age of our Club Members was 64.3 years old. I encouraged them to think about our Club’s long term sustainability in these contexts and asked them to go to work. I rang the bell to close my first meeting and did little but watch for the next 52 weeks.

I watched:

- The Membership Committee redefine itself by making membership retention and cross generational involvement as equally important focal points as membership growth.
- The Membership Committee develop an “alternative Rotary” in the form of Cheers Beers and Gears socials which bundled member retention, recruitment, intergenerational fellowship and cultural change into one neat package.
- The Membership Committee set the “audacious” goal of “a Club of 100 by our 100th year” and then watched membership grow by nearly 20%.
- The “new breed of Rotarian” enter the picture and step up to the Service Above Self plate.
- The incoming District Governor from our Club shepherd the pilot of the Operation Warm Program in our Club.
- The kids’ faces as they put on their warm new coat on a chilly November day. I watched knowing that this was not a pilot but a future signature project for our Club.
- The Co-Chairs of Put Kids First Co-Chairs, mentors and volunteers orchestrate the first Rockin’ Race for Breast Cancer.
- The faces of every pupil, teacher and classroom assistant

at Harding Elementary as they knew they were contributing to our community's advancement and quality of life by their participation in the Race . Simultaneously, I watched our hallmark program grow a new set of legs right before my eyes.

With only days left in my term and along with the 2013/2014 incoming Club President and Membership Chair, I watched in awe at the 2013 Rotary International Convention closing ceremony in the Arena in Lisbon Portugal, and I asked myself "What is leadership?"

I thank the Membership of our Club for affording me the privilege of watching your leadership during my year as 2012/2013 Club President.

“Rotary Moments” by Club Members

I don't know if I should officially go on record and say this, but other than the crazy years with my sponsor, the esteemed Mr. Petzinger, (and those WERE fun years), Ms. Bozick, has done more to make me feel like I belong to Rotary than any other person. And for that I thank you Elayne! (Ya just never know how you touch other people's lives...) There's nothing quite like gratitude, is there??!

So this past RR with you and Samantha was my moment, and amazingly, this was after 18 years of membership! Nothing makes you feel more like you're part of something then jumping in and contributing your time and service. It wasn't till I got back in the saddle and involved with a project that I felt 'connected', and felt that I was part of something -- part of a good, worthy, organization, and doing my part to make this a better community. That is always fulfilling.

Don Foley

I have 2 Rotary moments to share:

My Rotary Moment came at the RI Centennial Conference in Chicago. I attended as a relatively new member of the club to help with the ROYCO booth and really got an education on the scale and scope of Rotary. The visual impact of 50,000 Rotarians speaking different languages and wearing different native garb was so impressive. I was proud to see that our ROYCO products were clearly better than most at the conference and I really enjoyed working with members of our club at this historic event.

The second was our recent hosting of the District Conference where I was so proud of the warm welcome provided by our club and our community to the many visiting Rotarians of our region.

Suzanne Fleming

I have been fortunate to have been able to participate in Youngstown Rotary's mentoring of students at Harding Elementary School for many years. I worked with one boy for four years. Before he started school he had sustained severe brain injury as a result of a car accident. He had a marked reduction of IQ, but had what appeared to be a happy and very pleasant personality. However, I never knew what he thought of the mentoring program and me.

One day during January of our last year together, we met and he appeared very upset. He caimed that he was told that that day would be the last day we would be together. I assured him that I would continue seeing him the remainder of the school year. Then on our last day together in May, we had our usual get-together. At the end of the meeting, and without any prompting or speaking, he came to me and gave me a big hug. He turned and walked away. At that moment I clearly understood how and why our mentoring program is a great community project.

William J. Cleary MD

My Rotary moment is when I realized that with concerted effort we can accomplish anything. Whether it was eyes for India or refurbishing schools in Mexico. Just recently coats for kids. But the biggest is how close we are to eradicating Polio when the world Health Organization said it wasn't possible!

Eric J. Caspary

The one that always stands out is when I was maybe 16 or 17 years old. At that time, Youngstown Rotary took the kids from Easter Seals on a day trip to Sea World in Aurora, Ohio. My dad, Y.T. Chiu, "volunteered" me to come along and help out.

We met at the Easter Seals facility and loaded everyone onto a charter bus. I was "in charge" of a young man who was the poster child that year for cerebral palsy. He was in very bad shape and wheelchair bound. We went to all of the shows and all over the park and I helped get him in and out of the shows, helped to feed him and so on. When we returned to Youngstown that evening and he was safely back with his family, dad and I headed home. I said something to the effect of "Boy, I'm tired, what a day". Y.T.'s reply was "You're tired? Imagine what it must be like for his family and for him, they live this all day, every day." It really made a lasting impression on me how fortunate I was and how glad I was to assist someone else out that could use the help.

Kevin Chiu

It took me a few years to experience my first Rotary moment and there have been many since. The most visceral "ah ha" moment was the 2013 Rockin' Race for the Cure. I was standing out on the track saying hello to kids from my neighborhood. Not only were they excited to be out of class, sitting in the sun and participating in something that made a difference in the lives of others, but they were excited to see me! Our hand waves and smiles of recognition gave us each an opportunity to see ourselves as part of a larger world. In that moment, I realized that this is the essence of what Rotary does: provides us with opportunities to build relationships and deepen existing relationships is what Rotary does best.

Elsa Higby

I can't say that there was one singular "Rotary Moment" when I thought wow, now I really feel like a Rotarian! One might think it was when I received my round badge or some other traditional Rotarian rite of passage. On the contrary, it's been a series of small things over many years: late summer evenings spent at the Steak Fry, and the hospitality of YT & Marilyn Chiu; working the greeting table and welcoming members and guests; selling 50/50 tickets at the Reverse Raffle, and being proud to announce that the jackpot for that particular year was the biggest yet; Beers, Cheers and Gears; bringing in a new member and being excited to share all that is Rotary with them; and of course, playing

Vixen in the annual downtown Holiday Parade! There are many more little things, I'm sure, but you get where I'm going with this.

The collective small moments add up as time goes on, and little by little, Rotary has become a part of me, a part of my identity and who I am. I've found that I actually get annoyed when a work meeting gets scheduled for Wednesday noon and I have to miss Rotary. Or that I'm going to be out of town for the next Beers, Cheers and Gears. I miss the fellowship and the energy those connections with other Rotarians bring.

If there was a defining moment of all things Rotary, it was just the other day at the Raymond John Wean Foundation's annual Non-profit Summit. Our keynote speaker, a nationally-known author, convener, and president of a large private foundation was speaking about the process of bringing people together to make our communities the best they can be. An audience member asked how they could connect to make this happen. The first thing she said was JOIN ROTARY. All of the Rotarians in the audience cheered, and others looked around to see who was making all the racket. We smiled. We were proud--it was us.

Linda Kostka

Rotary moments build relationships and relationships are what Rotary is all about for me. I cannot select "THE Moment" that is special but perhaps you can after hearing my response.

Perhaps "THE Moment" was at my very first Rotary Club social, a tailgating party at YSU, where I introduced myself to Scott Schulick and he let me know that his parents are about my age. That was an auspicious beginning to a great friendship, son!

Perhaps "THE Moment" was when one of my Harding School mentors told me I should bring the red peppers for a treat instead of green peppers because the red ones were sweeter. Before this time, she had never eaten a fresh pepper. Or, was it when she told me I should tell Mr. Sherman not to eat the yogurt covered raisins because they were a nutritious snack and I had to bring them to her because she needed the nutrition. Smart kid! Or, was it when Bob Lenga's mentee told Bob that when he grows up he is going to join the Rodeo, just like him.

Perhaps "THE Moment" was at the first day of our playground build at Harding School. This was the Jewish holiday so I came to the site after temple and I was dressed in a suit and heels. Frank Kishel came running over to me, followed by a young boy who had been shadowing him all morning, and he began to fill me in about how many volunteers showed up and how great everything was going. The young boy tapped Frank on the leg and said, "Hey mister! Is this your boss-lady?" Frank has referred to me as his "boss-lady" ever since. I can't think of a nicer, more generous man I have ever had the pleasure to boss. We have had a great ride as PKF co-chairs.

Perhaps "THE Moment" was in Chicago at the International Convention when Bill Russell, Scott Schulick and I walked out onto the balcony of the conference center exhibit hall and realized that our two skids of Royco product had been delivered and placed "inside" our booth. This meant that the over 300 boxes of product had to be

broken down and moved “outside” the booth so we could set up our exhibit. Or, it might have been the next day when we watched Scott give a 10 minute sales pitch about the attributes of our Royco product to a very pretty young woman on the convention floor. When he was done, she smiled up at him and responded, “No speak English!”

Perhaps “THE Moment” was when I was given the opportunity to accept the Robert Manchester Award at two District Conferences on behalf of Youngstown Rotary and our Put Kids First initiative. Or, was it after spending over thirty hours of wading through boxes of documents and pictures to organize and document a PKF scrapbook detailing 18 years of service to the students of our community; and finding out at this year’s installation that we won a National Service Award for this program. Or, was it being honored by our club along with my co-chair, Frank Kishel, with the Paul Harris Award because of our PKF efforts.

Perhaps “THE Moment” was working at the United Way Day of Caring on behalf of Youngstown Rotary and taking the students from Potential Development on a picnic to Boardman Park. It was that day that I saw how absolutely wonderful the staff of Potential worked with the special needs students and how very fortunate I am to have four extremely healthy and happy grandchildren who can lean in a traditional classroom.

Perhaps “THE Moment” was at Salvation Army when I worked with the Interact Students from Ursuline and Mooney and we broke all our can openers. We had to resort to carving knives we borrowed from the kitchen to open the Rockin’ Race canisters and get the money out. Imagine, a room of 15 & 16 year olds handling big butcher knives. Good thing no one lost a finger.

Perhaps “THE Moment” was when Bette Bannon told me she really liked the readings I brought to Rotary for reflection. Or, was it when Debbie Esbshade asked for a copy of one of my readings so she could use it at Easter Seals, Or, was it when Monsieur Siffrin showed enough confidence in me to ask me to fill in for him on a number of occasions when he had to be absent. Where else could you find a Jewish Layperson pinch hitting for a Catholic Clergy?

Perhaps “THE Moment” was working with Bill Russell at the Operation Warm Project and seeing the beautiful smiling faces of all the children as they tried on their new coats.

Perhaps “The Moment” was the morning of a Pancake Breakfast or the Rockin Race when 30 plus Rotarians showed up and said, “I’m Here. Where do you want me? How can I help?”

Perhaps “The Moment” was back in 2001 when my sponsor, Walter DeBald, affectionately known as “Cousin Walter”, asked me to join The Rotary Club of Youngstown. Because, without this “ask” none of the other moments would have ever existed.

Carol Sherman

I have had many, many Rotary moments in the 20 years that I’ve belonged to Rotary! The first was just being accepted as a member of the Rotary Club of Youngstown!

I guess my first “WOW” rotary moment was during the year I was president of the club I joined a group of Div. 1a Rotarians on a mission trip to Mexico to help refurbish an orphanage and provide each child with their own little storage drawer with a desk top. We stayed in New Mexico and drove over the border each day into Mexico—a very intimidating process with armed border guards! We painted, grouted bathrooms, assembled/painted and decorated the little cabinets and fell in love with the kids! They were so poor but were always smiling! They were overjoyed with their new desk/cabinet--sad this was, many had nothing of their own to store. We partnered with a local Rotary club who threw a big fiesta before we left. My whole outlook on life, and Rotary, changed during that trip!

And finally, in December 2013, I was one of 546 District Governors Elect that attended the RI International Assembly for our final week of training to be District Governors! What an overwhelming and inspiring week sitting with Rotarians from all over the world sharing a common purpose---to do good in the world and make a difference!

Deborah A. Esbshade, 2001/2002, Past District Governor - 2013/2014

I recall, as a child, young people in my town being struck down by polio. My mother was terrified for her children. She cancelled a planned family vacation due to fear that we might be exposed to this crippling disease.

When I joined Rotary and learned that a major international project was the eradication of polio, those memories came back to me. I knew that I wanted to be part of this organization that had an important beneficial impact not only on the local community but also upon people of the world.

Tess Trucksis

“My Rotary Moment occurred in 1969 when I volunteered to be a host Rotarian for a crippled child at the annual Christmas party that Rotary had each year for the crippled children of Youngstown, many who attended the Easter Center or Bennett School. The Rotary club organized this party that was held at the Pick Ohio Hotel. The Rotarians picked up the child at their school or at home for the party and then drove the child back to their school or home.

Many of the children were in wheel chairs or had steel braces. At the hotel were the safety forces of Youngstown the police who stopped traffic and firemen who help transport the children to the second floor ball room that festive holiday decorations. The children had a special lunch, the Rotarians and Rotary Anns were standing by to assist the children. There was music, and clowns and balloons and my sponsor Bob Fithian was a jovial Santa Claus who handed out brightly wrapped gifts to all the children. All of the parents of the children were most appreciative of this Rotary Christmas Party.

It was difficult to know who had a better time, the children or the Rotarians and Rotary Anns who had the pleasure of seeing the happiness on the faces of these young boys and girls.

This was my aha Rotary moment. I was very impressed that the Rotarians and Rotary Anns, very busy and successful people, took the time and personal interest to have this party for these children ... and also to serve other less fortunate in the community.

Charlie McCrudden

When I was assistant principal at Kennedy High School I became acquainted with Rotary and became a member in Warren. I had been impressed with Youth Exchange and the Polio Plus fundraising. Due to a change in assignments it was difficult to be involved in the club. Several members of the Youngstown Club invited me to consider joining the Youngstown Club in the spring of 1992.

Immediately on joining the Youngstown Rotary many invitation for involvement were offered. Work with Youth Exchange and membership on the board of directors provided an in depth understanding of the club and beyond to district, region and international levels of Rotary. The early friendships that developed and the work of the club convinced me of the mission and purpose of Rotary. I find it interesting when Rotarians gather for socials that we can so easily recount stories about past members, several who come to mind include: Henry Bertolini, Bob Hackman, Ed Hulme, Ruth Crawford, Mollie Kessler to name but a few.

During the years of serving as an officer and as club president, I was always impressed by the readiness of many members to help. I don't remember a single time that someone said no to my request for help or advice. As President, there were always those helpful members who could be counted on for advice and support. I could always count on Rand Becker for wise counsel.

Some of the most memorable moments of the past twenty two years were the Youth Exchange overnight at the YMCA, the many district assemblies of 6650 and the International Convention in Glasgow, Scotland. More recently, the ninetieth anniversary was a great prelude of the hundredth. I look forward to our hundredth anniversary, it will be a great time to give God thanks for the many positive works of Youngstown Rotary, to cherish the memories of past members and to strengthen the bonds of friendship and good will with current and prospective members.

Monsignor Robert J. Siffrin

I had the honor to go to Columbus representing Youngstown rotary to receive an award given by Easter Seals Society. During that awards ceremony, the principle honoree was a man from Columbus. He had donated one day of air time for a telethon for the benefit of Easter Seals. After the meeting, he came up to me and asked whether I am from Youngstown Rotary. I told him yes, then he told me why he donated the air time for Easter Seals. He told me that as a child, he lived in Youngstown, he had contacted "Infantile Paralysis", his legs were week, he had to lay in bed during his recovery period. Days were very dull. At Christmas time, a Rotarian came to his house, went upstairs, picked him up from his bed and carried him down to his car, drove him to

the Pick Ohio Hotel. Another Rotarian carried him up to the second floor ballroom for the “Cripple Children’s Chistrmas Party.” It was beautifully decorated, there was caroling, Christmas presents from Santa Claus, etc. Afterward, another Rotarian took him downstairs. The Rotarian that picked him up before took him home and put him back in bed again. “Oh, I will always remember that.” And, again during Labor Day weekend, another Rotarian came to my house, picked me up, took me to the Canfield Fair. They put me in a wheel chair, took me on all the rides. Afterward, I was taken home and put to bed again. “What a day.”

It is because you Rotarians had done that for me during my disability that I am giving back. Go home and tell your club and say, “Thank you, Rotarians!”

His expression, the tone of his voice, I will never forget!

I had told this to the club several times before. Each time I told the story, I remember his face and his voice. It makes the hair on the back of my neck standup and makes my voice quiver!

“Thank you, Rotarian!!!”

Y. T. Chiu

From the program of the 1922 Youngstown Rotary Minstrel Show fundraiser program.

THE CRIPPLED CHILDREN MOVEMENT

By GEORGE R. CLEGG

President Youngstown Rotary Club 1922-1923

There are certain obligations or duties to which as individuals or as a whole community we should and must give careful thought and formulate well defined plans to fulfil.

In the case of the crippled child, if for none other than economic reasons, he should not be permitted to become a crippled adult provided his case is one of possible improvement or permanent correction. Regardless as to whether the child's condition is traceable to some form of sickness, some peculiar working of nature, an accident, or any other cause, we have the child presentable to society and we must use every reasonable means to make him so.

Credit for the origin and present progress of the work no doubt is due to Edgar F. Allen of Elyria, Ohio, a member of the Elyria Rotary Club, President of the Ohio Society for Crippled Children, founder of a Crippled Children's Hospital, and head of the International Society for Crippled Children, who in the face of many obstacles had the courage of his convictions to "keep on keeping on" appealing for the assistance of some organization that proper progress in the work might be accomplished. The appeal was heard and taken up by the Rotary Clubs of Ohio and a plan worked out whereby on a basis of co-operation the work is being pushed forward as rapidly as conditions will permit.

The Youngstown Rotary Club, a little over a year ago, made a survey of crippled children in this locality and in the latter part of October, 1921, had the first patients admitted to the hospital for treatment, and from that date to the present time, records show 23 children admitted to, operated, and discharged from the hospital but still under observation, 11 bed patients at present receiving care at the hospital and 85 regular "Our [sic] Patient" cases going to and from the clinic for treatment; these are all children ranging up to sixteen years of age.

Through the co-operation of the local Board of Education, it has been made possible to establish a school in the hospital which is in charge of a capable teacher, and in this way the child is able to maintain his school standing and therefore does not lose interest in school work.

In our efforts to accomplish the most good for the crippled child and to permit hospital treatment to the greatest number, our greatest need is a convalescent home to which the child may be taken after the major hospital work is accomplished and cared for under proper observation until in such condition as justifies the return to his or her own home. Maintenance costs in a convalescent home are much less than in a hospital and the saving effected in this way will permit further progress of the work in general.

From the 1923 Youngstown Rotary Minstrel show fundraiser program.

ROTARY!

“Every man passes his life in search of friendship”

- Emerson

By LEONARD T. SKEGGS

President of the Youngstown Rotary Club 1923-1924

From whence sprang Rotary? What was its potent inspiration?
What the genius of its growth? What its destiny?

On the evening of February twenty-third, nineteen hundred and five, just eighteen years ago, in the city of Chicago, four men sat down together and gave to the world “Rotary”. One of them, their leader, was an attorney returned after years of wandering to find in his native city only loneliness. A second was a mining engineer and operator; a third was a merchant tailor; a fourth a fuel dealer. How little, indeed, did they dream of the possibilities of their creation.

Today in twenty-six different nations, fifteen hundred Rotary Clubs bring the message of friendly good cheer, of comraderie [sic], of high ethical principles, above all of unselfish service to others. From Burbank, California to Portland, Maine, from Buenos Aires to Moose Jan Sashahwan, from old Madrid to older Shanghai, from our own Youngstown, Ohio to Melbourne and Sydney, Australia, the golden chain of Rotary and Rotary service extends.

Having its beginnings in the hearts of lonely men, the genius of Rotary has and always will be Friendship. Rotary is gathering together in the fifteen hundred most important cities of the world, one man from each walk of life, from each line of business endeavor, from each profession, to discuss together mutual problems, to raise the ethical standards of each man’s calling, to consider each man’s business a sacred trust to his community, to strive for civic, national, and international welfare – is Rotary’s program. Rotary friendships are genuine friendships, not based on expectancy of material gain, but on an everlasting conviction that such a friendship is as potent and necessary to the growth of the individual as is the food he eats, the air he breathes, the books he reads.

And so, Youngstown Rotary, committed to crippled children work as one of its major responsibilities, hoping thereby to bring light to those who sit in darkness, to straighten little bodies not now stright [sic], to overcome what would otherwise be permanent and unjust handicaps, expresses its deep gratitude to all who have shown such great interest in making “The 1923 Rotary Review” a success.

“HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST”