



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

October 1, 2020

September 10 Meeting



At our September 10 monthly club meeting, held at 7:00 PM, we enjoyed a wonderful presentation by **Deb Lamb** on the 50th Anniversary of Lehigh Valley Children's Centers. Deb has worked at LVCC since 1998, and is currently their VP for Development. After a moment of silence for the victims of 9/11, as well as those who have perished during the current pandemic, President Tom introduced Deb. She created a PowerPoint history of LVCC that thankfully she and Peg Harp were able to incorporate into our Zoom meeting. LVCC serves children from birth to 12 years of age. They currently serve 1,350 children at 30 locations with a staff of over 200 employees. 494 children are enrolled in the "Pre-K Counts" program. Deb's presentation highlighted several key years in the history of LVCC including:

- 1965 – Judith Chase, founder of LVCC started the first Head Start program in the Lehigh Valley.
- 1970 – Lehigh Valley Child Care was started by Judy Chase.
- 1971 – The Allentown Infant Center was started, the first in the state.
- 1973 – LVCC became a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
- 1980 – LVCC's South Mountain Center was their first building. It was donated by AT&T.

- 1981 – The LVCC nursery at William Allen HS was the first in Pennsylvania for teen parents of infants.
- 1983 – Opened employer-sponsored centers at St. Luke’s Hospital and the Allentown State Hospital.
- 1988 – LVCC Scholarship Fund began. It has provided funding for over 3,000 children in the amount of \$2.7 million in financial aid.
- 1990 – LVCC grew to 19 locations.
- 1991 – Became a Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) regional sponsor.
- 1998 – Started a Program Enrichment Fund. This money has been used for field trips, “Mad Science” demonstrations and other enriched programs.
- 2001 – Local philanthropist Linny Fowler started the Fowler Education Fund at LVCC.
- 2003 – Founder and CEO Judith Chase retires. She was succeeded as CEO by Susan Williams and more recently Charles Dinofrio.
- 2007 – Pennsylvania “Pre-K Counts” program is established. LVCC is approved for 100 sponsored children.
- 2008 – LVCC is the largest CACFP sponsor in the state serving several counties in our area.
- 2009 – Name is officially changed to Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers.
- 2015 – The LVCC “Pre-K Counts” program is expanded to six local elementary schools.
- 2017 – LVCC celebrates over 25 years of support from the Kiwanis Club of Allentown.
- Since 2017, LVCC has opened new centers in Easton, Palmerton, Whitehall and Neffs.

Our club treasures its relationship with LVCC. Every year we look forward to hosting a picnic for four of their centers, and a Christmas Party for three centers. We support their children in many other ways through grants and service projects such as the Mother’s Day flower pot activity. We cannot wait until we can personally visit the centers again, and work with the LVCC children.

Congratulations, LVCC in providing 50 years of high-quality pre-school education and child care services to families in the Lehigh Valley!

Rose Sale Ends

We would like to thank everyone who supported our annual **Rose Sale!** We sold **47 dozen roses**, just shy of our goal of 50. Since we had to order in quantities of ten, we still have three dozen roses available for purchase. So if you missed the deadline and still want a dozen or so roses, let us know. We would especially like to thank **Alison Norton** for once again coordinating the Rose Sale this year. She did a fabulous job! The roses will be delivered to Tom & Peg Harp’s house at 1024 N. Kearney Street, Allentown, early in the morning on **Thursday, October 22**. If you bought roses, you can pick them up there any time after 6 AM, or arrange for them to be delivered to your house or business by a fellow member. We are confident that you will be satisfied with the quality of the roses. Enjoy!

Buddy Walk Fundraiser



There is still time for you to show support for the Annual Eastern Pennsylvania Down Syndrome Buddy Walk by joining the Kiwanis Club of Allentown team, and donating to this worthwhile cause. To join our team, visit <https://www.classy.org/event/21st-annual-lehigh-valley-virtual-buddy-walk-r/e268004>. Click on "Register", then "Join a Team" and scroll down to find our team. So far, our team has raised \$183 towards a goal of \$500. So, we could use more donations! Saturday, October 10 is the official Buddy Walk date. There will be a drive-through event on the campus of Cedar Crest College beginning at 9:00 AM. Tom Harp plans to enter his car in the parade, and decorate it our club banner and other Kiwanis signage to show our support for this cause. Many children with Down Syndrome and their families will benefit from the fundraiser. So, if you have not as yet joined our team, please do so any time during the month of October. Thanks!

Judith Chase Memorial Bench

Several months ago, our Foundation purchased an outdoor bench commemorating former Allentown Kiwanis member and founder of the Lehigh Valley Children's Centers, **Judith Chase**. The customized bench arrived at the LVCC South Mountain Center weeks ago. It needs to be assembled, and plans were for several of our members to put it together once LVCC arranged for a concrete slab to be installed in front of the building. Now, however, LVCC will assemble the bench ahead of time, and we will assist in putting it in place as our monthly community service project. We are also planning a dedication ceremony, tentatively for Saturday, October 24. We will be inviting Judy Chase's family, our members, and LVCC staff to the event. Details to follow!

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – October 1920

Twenty-two club members and wives attended the Pennsylvania District Convention held in Harrisburg. Attendees include Elwood Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kline, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Ritter, Mr. and Mrs. Orrin Boyle, Dr. and Mrs. C.A. Herwig, Mr. and Mrs. P.W. Leisenring, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Lawfer, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Traylor, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Himelwright, Ralph Miller, and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Stauffer.

The Club held a Ladies' Night at the Hotel Allen with a Halloween Party and fashion show presented by the Heinz Store. Prior to the festivities at the Hotel, the Kiwanians and their wives attended the first performance at the new Colonial Theater.

75 Years Ago – October 1945

Dr. James Edgar Swain, head of Muhlenberg College's Department of Social Studies, gave his 14th annual address to the Club at the Allen Hotel. He discussed three significant differences between the current attempt to establish a world organization after World War II (which later became the current United Nations) and the effort following World War I with the failed League of Nations.

50 Years Ago – October 1970

The Club sponsored a tour of four local businesses by 25 students from Lehigh County Community College. The businesses include Hess's, Merchants National Bank, Lehigh Portland Cement, and Pennsylvania Power & Light Company. The tours were conducted over a two-day period.

25 Years Ago – October 1995

Club member Suzanne Kresge received the Division 18 Kiwanian of the Year Award. She won the award over 8 other candidates from Allentown Northeast, West Allentown, Emmaus, Lehigh Valley Industrial Park, Riegelsville, Trexlertown, Upper Perkiomen, and Whitehall. She served as Club President in 1995-96 and was the owner of Uniforce Services, a temporary staffing business.

- **Enos Martin**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

SERVICE PROJECT – Installation of Judith Chase Memorial Bench at LVCC South Mountain Center. Date TBA. Dedication ceremony to follow.

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, October 8, 12:00 PM (Noon), Doug Hemmig of C-SPAN. Zoom Meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, October 28, 5 PM. Zoom Video Conference.



October Birthdays



7 – Vic Mazziotti

10 – Bob Krupka

