



Front: *Rotarian District Governor Dave Haradon, Louise Burroughs, Club President Warren Sell, County Councilman Mike Culp, Assistant District Governor Francy Cross, Jessica Hoopes, Art Sybrandy and Andre Dixon*

Back row: *Eric Bayne, Edith Hilton, District Governor Elect, Dawn DeFuria, County Council Vice Chair Colleen Morrone, Council Chairman Mario Civera Jr., Councilman John McBlain, Councilman Dave White, Charles O'Hala and Thomas Moore.*

SERVING HUMANITY 100 years

Rotary Serving Humanity is the Rotary International Theme for this year and I think that it is a most appropriate theme that we Rotarians embody all the time and not just this year. SERVING HUMANITY.

The Rotary Club of Chester, PA was chartered on June 1, 1917. The Club was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Philadelphia under the guidance of E. Wallace Chadwick, an attorney and later a Delaware County judge. Chester became the second club in the District, only twelve years after Rotary itself was founded in 1905. Remember that World War I was going on in Europe since 1915 and the United States formally entered the war on April 6, 1917. The Rotary Club of Chester is the oldest service club/organization in the City of Chester.

In 1921, the Chester Club sponsored the Rotary Club of West Chester and 20 years after its chartering, the Chester Club again sponsored another club, the Rotary Club of Swarthmore.

1937 saw the creation of the Coulter-Eynon Fund for medical and education needs. This fund provides some financial support for individuals who need assistance in meeting medical expenses.

In 1939, the Vocational Committee started a plan to have Chester High School boys observe the vocation in which they were interested, impressed by this plan for the boys, the Business and Professional Women's Club of Chester sponsored a similar project for girls.

Sounds very much like the WorkReady Program that currently is going on in the City of Chester during the summer.

1969 saw the formation of the Rotary Club of Chichester, the third club sponsored by the Chester Club.

A Chester/Widener University Scholarship program was established in 1973 continuing a long relationship with the Chester Club and Widener University.

In 1987 Rotary International, after a Supreme Court decision, removed the gender requirement from its requirements for club charters. Barbara Hurst was the first woman admitted to the Rotary Club of Chester.

The Rotaract Club at Widener University was founded in 1991. Club members Joseph Cirilli and Edith Hilton were instrumental in the formation of this Rotaract club which celebrated its 25th anniversary last year.

In 1992, our club was instrumental in helping to raise funds to build a swimming pool for the Chester Boys Club.

Edith Hilton was the first woman elected as President of the Club in 1997.

1997 also saw the Chester Club launching and funding of a Women and Infants' Clinic in Nigeria under the leadership of Dr. Dada.

Rotary International recognized the Rotary Club of Chester's Metro Medical Center in Nigeria as the third best project of the century in 2004. Out of all of the Rotary Clubs in the world, only 5 received this "Best project of the Century" award!

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, in 2005, our club raised funds, installed and gave a town clock to the City of Chester located at the corner of 4th and Avenue of the States, just across from the Chester City Hall.

In 2011, the Chester Club first participated in Pennsylvania's One Book, Every Young Child initiative under the leadership of Franci Cross and has continued this project for the past 7 years. The Chester Club has had the help of several other local Rotary Clubs in the project. (To date, we, along with our fellow club partners, have distributed over 10,340 books to pre-school children.) For our participation in this project, we received awards from the Delaware County Intermediate Unit and a Literacy Service Excellence award at the RI International Convention in Lisbon, Portugal (Award received by club member Joy Jones).

In 2013 we participated in a WorkReady Chester Global Grant written by the Swarthmore Rotary Club. This \$40,000+ Global grant included 11 U.S. clubs and 7 international clubs. Funding of this WorkReady program aided in the development and implementation of a summer internship program for the City of Chester's youth.

2016 saw our club participate in PROJECT C.U.R.E. Thanks to the efforts of club member Aubrey Proud we were able to work with the Keystone-Crozer Health System to pack and move excess medical equipment from the Community Hospital and Crozer North Campus. Members of our club along with Widener University Rotaractors and the Widener University Future Nurses Association we packed over 85 boxes of medical supplies, moved 72 hospital beds and other medical equipment. In February, 2017, 44 of the beds were packed into a container and shipped to a hospital in Tunisia.

The Club has and is currently supporting and participating in the "Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army", the End Polio Now Rotary International Foundation emphasis, Christmas in July for the Salvation Army, On-going support to the Rotaplast program and participating and supporting the "Stop Hunger Now" food packing program.

For the past 2 years it has been my honor to be the President and to work with the dedicated members of the club in serving the needs of the Chester Community and the world. Where will the club be 100 years from now when it celebrates its 200th Anniversary I don't know, I only know that as long as there is a need for groups such as Rotary International to meet the humanitarian needs in the community and the world, this club will continue to help meet those needs.