



ABOUT THE ELYRIA ROTARY CLUB

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, was formed in 1905. The name "Rotary" derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices. As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving the professional and social interests of club members. Rotarians began contributing their talents and resources to serve communities in need. The organization's dedication to this ideal is expressed in its principal motto: "Service Above Self." More than 1.2 million Rotarians belong to over 45,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide.

The Rotary Club of Elyria was chartered in April 1918, as the 382nd club of Rotary International with 20 initial members. Elyria Rotary is best known as the founding organization of the Ohio Society for Crippled Children which later became Easter Seals. Our annual holiday party for children with disabilities and substantial contributions to their needs continue to be a highlight. Other commitments have included time, talent, and funds for many community improvements, including University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center, Elyria High School, Cascade Park, the Ely Square Fountain, and the new downtown branch of the Elyria Public Library. The club has co-sponsored international service projects in Central America, Africa, and India. Youth oriented programs include sponsoring foreign exchange students and weekly student guests from four area high schools.

The Elyria Rotary Club Scholarship Fund has awarded more than \$600,000 to deserving students in Lorain County. Many of the Club's efforts have been directed toward benefiting students with both educational and recreational opportunities. Elyria Rotary Club Scholarships help students attain a bachelor's degree at a college or university of the student's choice. In providing these scholarships, the Elyria Rotary Club not only furthers its mission of community service but also rewards and fosters the community service efforts of the successful applicant.