



ABOUT 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 34,558 Rotary Clubs in almost every country.

The Rotary Club of Elyria was chartered April 1, 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 and the resulting Easter Seals. The annual holiday party for children with disabilities and substantial contributions to their needs continue to be highlights. Other commitments have included time, talent, and funds for many community improvements, including University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center, YWCA, Cascade Park, Salvation Army, a substantial scholarship program at LCCC, and the Elyria Rotary Club Scholarship Fund. Our club has awarded more than \$250,000 in scholarships to deserving students in the past 12 years. The club has cosponsored international service projects in Central America, Africa, and India. Youth oriented programs include sponsoring foreign exchange students, weekly student guests from four area high schools, and an annual student recognition luncheon. Today, the Club's 120 members continue to focus on Service Above Self.

Many of the Club's efforts have been directed toward benefiting the youth of Lorain County with both educational and recreational opportunities. The Elyria Rotary Club Scholarship is one such effort, by which the Club will help one worthy student attain a bachelor's degree at a college or university of the student's choice. In providing this scholarship, 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.