



### **SBCHC 75th Anniversary Series “Health Care in Our Local Schools”**

*By Marsha Swails and Joanie Neumayer  
Board Members*

When World War II ended in 1945, families built their lives in the South Bay with hopes for a bright future. However, many families struggled to get quality health care for their children. As concerned community members understood the need, they conceived and promoted the South Bay Children’s Health Center aiming to improve health conditions for elementary children in Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, and Redondo Beach. Records showed deplorable conditions for many with the average of twenty cavities per child.



The Redondo Union High School Campus housed the very first dental clinic in 1947. The South Bay Council of the PTA, concerned parents, and school personnel became advocates for services to help families needing financial assistance. Later, space was provided rent free at 312 El Camino. Local service organizations raised funds to renovate that building and purchase needed equipment totaling \$3,500. A hearing clinic was added with clinics held every two months. Redondo High school nurse, Nancy Proudfoot, coordinated screenings for hundreds of students. Shortly after that, an eye clinic and screening was added.

Patricia Dreizler, also known as the “First Lady of Redondo Beach,” was an early board member of SBCHC, and worked for the City of Redondo Beach. Pat, alongside Claudia and Al Lukes (from the Woman’s Club & Gas Co.), remember these early days of raising money. “We’d have a bake sale, potluck, or a rummage sale.” Pat’s involvement with SBCHC garnered support from women to unite around this important need. The Woman’s Club of Redondo and many others worked tirelessly to help get the new clinic on sound footing.



In 1956, SBCHC built its own building at 410 Camino Real, now the site of its administrative offices. The city of Redondo Beach leased the lot where the building sits for \$1 a month through the year 2070.

As decades passed and with our expansion into mental health care, we now serve more than 20 cities in the South Bay. Our founders would be in awe of the thousands of children receiving services throughout the South Bay for 75 years.