STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Between January 1 and December 31 2009, Children’s Speech & Reading Center (CSRC) provided free screens, individual and group speech, language and reading intervention, and assessment services to 342 children and Hanen-More Than Words® training to four families, in Northern Colorado. Of this number, 242 received direct therapy services (104 received screen or evaluation only). Through the generosity and support of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado and other area organizations, sliding scale fee services were offered to 90% of the families served by CSRC. Scottish Rite funding provided services for 154 children in 2009. The decrease in number of children seen compared to 2008 is due to less number of children seen at CSRC’s satellite early literacy programs at Thompson Valley Preschool (TVP) in Loveland and United Day Care (UDC) during the fall of 2009, as well as increased need for individual therapy. Additional children will be seen at UDC (renamed “Teaching Tree”) beginning January 2010.

As shown in the table below, the average cost per child varied depending on the service provided. For children who received center-based individual or group therapy, the average cost per child was $2,026. For children enrolled in pre-school literacy programs, the average cost per child was $391.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>#of Children</th>
<th>Scottish Rite Foundation Contribution</th>
<th>Average Cost per Child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-based individual or group therapy</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>$97,239</td>
<td>$2,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TVP or UDC early literacy programs</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>$41,430</td>
<td>$391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>$138,669</td>
<td>$900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have spent $138,669 of our allotted budget of $140,000, under-spending our grant by $1,331. We had a much higher than usual cancellation rate in October and November due to two snow days and illness, specifically swine flu, which lead to the $1,331 short fall in spending. Without those cancellations (approximately 30 sessions for SRF funding clients), we most likely would have exceeded our grant.

Free Speech / Language and Reading screens continue to be offered on an ongoing basis. Our families come from the communities of Fort Collins, Loveland, Greeley, Estes Park, Johnstown, Berthoud, Windsor, and Wellington. CSRC provided 153 free screens in 2009.
A $4,000 matching grant from the Scottish Rite Foundation allowed four families to participate in the Hanen – More Than Words® program for parents/caregivers of young children with autism.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF) support continues to enable CSRC to provide a variety of individual and small group programs for early childhood communication and reading readiness. We continue to provide weekly language and literacy groups at Thompson Valley Preschool and United Day Care Centers. One-hundred, thirty-eight children were served at these sites in 2009 and 106 of them received funding assistance from the Scottish Rite Foundation. We also provide individual and group speech-language and reading therapy throughout the year, treating children with a variety of communication disorders, including; articulation delays, phonological process disorders, childhood apraxia of speech, expressive and receptive language delays associated with developmental delays, Down Syndrome, hearing impairment, and pragmatic language difficulties associated with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Asperger’s Syndrome, among others. The SRF provided funding for 48 of the 104 children seen at CSRC for individual and small group therapy.

In response to our community’s need, we added social skills groups for children four to six years old, diagnosed with autism. We began with two groups in the summer and fall, and have recently expanded to four groups. Our “Making Friends” group addresses turn-taking through playing games, initiating play, playing beside and joining in physical play with other children, and asking and answering questions within a group. “Super Friends” addresses verbally initiating play with one peer and a group of peers, asking and answering questions with peers, expanding length of conversational turns with peers, repairing communication breakdowns, and increasing complexity of pretend play with peers.

CSRC ran its first Hanen – More Than Words® program for parents of young children with autism this year. This program helps children communicate by providing intensive training for their parents or caregivers, since they spend the greatest amount of time with their children and have the greatest opportunity to help their children communicate. Given information and strategies, parents/caregivers have many more opportunities to improve their children’s social communication skills than are possible through individual therapy delivered directly to the child. “More Than Words”® empowers parents to be their child’s best therapist and advocate.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Children’s Speech & Reading Center continues to participate in the statewide Scottish Rite Foundation accountability project by administering the Child Development Inventory (CDI). This “parent report” inventory provides information on the family’s perception of their child’s performance in the home environment.
This information is shared in a statewide survey to evidence the success of early intervention programs. Regular collaboration with teachers, childhood professionals and families is a part of all therapy programs. Keeping information relevant and coordinating efforts for maximum benefit are a vital part of our Guidelines for Ethical Practice (American Speech-Language and Hearing Association).

All therapists are certified by our national organization. We also participate in community forums designed to identify and problem-solve the needs of area families and children.

In keeping with our mission, we continually measure how our services are impacting the community and respond to needs with development of innovative programs and funding. At the individual level, each child’s baseline skills are assessed and used to set short- / long-term goals for the therapy program. Six-month treatment plans are developed and monitored in accordance with the child’s progress toward goals. Assessment is conducted at these intervals with specific measurement of success toward goals. Progress is measured by both functional gains and standardized measures. The family is included in development of individualized goal setting.

Every six months, families respond to a Satisfaction Survey by answering questions about quality of service and child’s progress. Once again, this year, families have given the Center a 95% approval rating. Regular interaction with parents reveals that children have increased confidence and desire to participate in communication and reading activities at home and in school.

**LEADERSHIP**

The Scottish Rite Appraisal Committee for Northern Colorado meets monthly to review applications for funding at Children’s Speech & Reading Center and the University of Northern Colorado. Bob Gregory and Wayne Davis currently represent the Scottish Rite Foundation on our Northern Colorado Appraisal Committee.

A continued focus this year has been on increasing collaboration with other community service providers to strengthen resources for area families. Attendance and involvement with various groups of youth-related service providers, including Healthier Communities Coalition, Caring and Sharing, Shared Alliance for Youth, and Parent Education Network, has helped bridge the gap in services experienced by many families in Northern Colorado. We also coordinate a local pediatric professional network group, which includes SLPs, OT’s, an Educational Psychologist, Social Worker, Reading Specialist, Optometrist, Psychiatrist, and Clinical Psychologist.

Children's Speech & Reading Center has presented at 10 community events, including parent groups, childcare provider association meetings, Early Childhood Council of Larimer County, Autism Society of Larimer County, a local radio show, and local service clubs, regarding speech and language
development from birth to age five, signs of delay, what the CSRC is doing to help serve the communities in Northern Colorado, and how the SRF helps support our mission. We had the opportunity to host two live workshops and two teleconferences this year, making continuing education easily accessible to speech-language pathologists in Northern Colorado.

We hosted a two-day workshop on autism, presented by Dr. Rydell from the Rocky Mountain Autism Center, and Hanen – More Than Words®. We were also able to use Poudre Valley Hospital to tele-link to two conferences presented live from The Children’s Hospital – Denver.

CSRC is fortunate to have an experienced, committed staff of five speech-language pathologists, a full-time office assistant, a part-time bookkeeper, and a dedicated Board of Directors. Our SLPs bring many years of experience from their diverse backgrounds in a variety of settings. They have participated in workshops and conferences this year to increase skills in the areas of reading disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Asperger’s Syndrome, neuroscience, parent training (Hanen – More Than Words®), augmentative communication, and childhood apraxia of speech, cultural competency, and grant writing.

Elise Kormas, MA, CCC-SLP has served as Director since February, 2007. She graduated from the University of Buffalo in 1995, and has 15 years of experience in pediatric speech-language pathology, with special interest in early childhood development, literacy, and program development. She is a certified facilitator for the “It Takes Two To Talk”® Hanen Program and is trained in the Lindamood Phoneme Sequences program. Current duties include preparation of funding proposals, program development planning and organizing annual fund raising events community education, coordinating the SRF programs, therapy services, and managing staffing, budget and operations of the Center.

Karen Nystrom, MS, CCC-SLP brings a strong background in program development, public relations and childhood language / reading development to CSRC. She is active in the International Dyslexia Association and provides individual therapy to children with speech, language, and reading difficulties. Ms. Nystrom has been practicing since 1998.

Monica Weber, MA, CCC-SLP comes to us with a background in autism spectrum disorders, literacy, Down syndrome, language-learning disabilities, and cochlear implants. She has extensive experience in both public school and private settings and has worked on multi-disciplinary teams. She has extensive training in Sequential Oral Sensory Feeding Therapy. Ms. Weber received her Master’s degree from the George Washington University in 2000.

LeAnn Sipple, MS, CCC-SLP comes to us with a strong background in pediatric feeding disorders, motor speech disorders, articulation and phonological disorders and language processing disorders. Her experience with augmentative-alternative communication evaluations and training is valuable in developing programs to support the high needs of some of the children we serve. She has advance
training in PROMPT and Sequential Oral Sensory Feeding Therapy. Ms. Sipple received her Master’s degree from the University of Oregon in 1998.

**Jessica Davis, MA, CCC-SLP** provides screens, assessment and therapy for a wide variety of speech and language disorders. She also conducts early literacy groups at several preschools in our area. Ms. Davis graduated with a Master’s degree from Indiana University in May of 2008.

**Jessica Smith** provides administrative support and coordinates client scheduling. She assists with fundraising efforts, program development, client intake, public relations, grant preparation, documentation, record keeping, and technology support.

**Suzette Hettinger** is CSRC’s bookkeeper. She brings an accounting background to CSRC, with 18 years of previous accounting experience with a major oil company. She provides the Director with the necessary information to ensure viability of CSRC. Suzette provides budget analysis, documentation, payroll, and billing services. She assists the Director in grant preparation, financial record keeping, and program cost analysis.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The state of Colorado is extremely fortunate to have RiteCare centers in their communities. The Scottish Rite Foundation’s financial support has made a tremendous difference for our families, who otherwise would not have been able to afford therapy services. SRF Executive Secretary, Vernon Ingraham and Dr. Deborah Hayes have been a great support in coordinating the Foundation’s goals with communities around our state. We appreciate their strong commitment to Colorado’s programs and their ongoing guidance for our community-based services in Northern Colorado. The Foundation has an amazing impact on children and families across our state and the nation!

Community awareness and education have been an ongoing focus for CSRC. Children’s Speech & Reading Center participated in a total of 10 events in 2009. These events helped inform the local communities about speech and language disorders, the Scottish Rite Foundation’s philanthropy, and the work being done by the CSRC to address the challenges faced by children with communication disorders.

In 2009, CSRC sent four newsletters to over 250 families, supporters, physicians and friends of the Center. The newsletters highlight CSRC’s programs and give us a chance to continually recognize our supporters.
Goals for 2010:

1. Complete at least one Hanen – More Than Words parent education program.
2. Complete 175 free screens.
3. Provide individual and group speech, language, and literacy therapy services to 250 children.
4. Expand services to children on the Autism spectrum; establish a social skills group for school-aged children.

We are very grateful to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado for their annual support and matching funds; we couldn’t do what we do without your help! We appreciate the Foundation’s commitment to the families and children of Northern Colorado and look forward to this continuing partnership.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Tobler, MA, CCC-SLP
Scottish Rite Program Director