



Orient of Colorado



Our Promise to Care

by **Illustrious, Most Worshipful,
The Honorable Stephen M. Munsinger, 33°, SGIG in Colorado**
President, Board of Trustees, Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado

In 1953 Colorado Scottish Rite Masons made a *Promise to Care* by creating a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado (RiteCare Colorado). More than 61 years and 18,000 children later, we continue fulfilling this promise ~ not only in the traditional clinic setting but also in ways not then envisioned at the incorporation.

RiteCare Colorado's mission is to enhance the quality of life for Colorado's children and their families by supporting high quality, collaborative programs for the prevention and treatment of childhood language disorders. We are focused on the estimated 10 percent of all children who are at risk for language disorders. Our vision is to ensure that all Colorado children with language disorders have the opportunity to receive treatment and care.

I cannot emphasize enough the impact Colorado Scottish Rite Masons have made during our more than half century of service to children and their families throughout the state. The creation of the Foundation in 1953 was the first time in the history of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in Colorado that we stepped outside the walls of the Fraternity in helping the general public, especially young children. At the present time in continuing to make Masonic history, we are privileged not only to witness a great and lasting accomplishment but also to enhance our work in seeking to fully realize our vision.

In fulfilling our *Promise to Care* we have launched a fundraising campaign by that name. The campaign's objective is to raise at least \$1 million to support four distinct RiteCare programs. These four programs are offered outside the traditional brick and mortar structure of the typical therapy clinic ~ programs conducted "beyond clinic walls" and are highlighted below.





Telepractice: the internet-based delivery of speech therapy for children and families in rural or underserved communities in Colorado.

Camp Programs: the delivery of speech therapy and instruction in a natural environment which motivates the development of long-lasting learning.

Treasure Chest Program: the advancement of early childhood learning and language skills serving children and families in low income and underserved communities.

Graduate Scholarships: the awarding of second-year graduate scholarships to Master's Degree scholars in speech-language pathology, the degree required for speech-language pathologist certification.

The following explanation highlights the therapeutic, educational, and related benefits of these programs ~ benefits accruing to thousands of children and their families in Colorado.

Telepractice was initiated in Colorado in 2012 under the lead-

ership of Dr. Deborah Hayes at Children's Hospital Colorado ~ our flagship RiteCare partner. This requires hardware and software including computers and cameras which meet certain specifications for secure video communication.

By enabling the internet-based delivery of speech therapy with on-line interaction between child and speech therapist, children can receive therapy in Colorado communities distant from clinic sites. Since 2012 eleven such communities have been served.



With financial support targeted at \$300,000, telepractice can be expanded to serve additional children and families in these Colorado communities.

Currently two **Camp Programs** are offered by Children's Hospital Colorado with substantial financial support from RiteCare Colorado: Talking with Technology (TWT) and First Steps. TWT is a week-long camping and educational experience for young people held at an accessibly equipped camp in the mountains near Denver. Children served use computerized communication

devices ("talking" computers now typically on a tablet computer platform).

Since program inception in 1988, through a partnership between RiteCare Colorado and Children's Hospital Colorado, more than 750 children have been served at a total cost of \$1.2 million.

The other camp, First Steps, is a weekend learning experience for families considering assistive communication technology for their young child.

With additional financial support targeted at \$300,000, not only will the cost of these important and highly effective programs be supported but also funds will be available for other therapeutic and constructive approaches to speech and related therapies in the natural environment.

The **Treasure Chest Program** provides theme-based reading and learning materials as well as parental instruction for in-home use by families. Our partners delivering the current program are The Piñon Project (an early childhood learning center) in southwest Colorado and Head Start in western Colorado.



Since the beginning of the Treasure Chest Program in 2000, more than 2,150 children and their families have been served.

A proven approach in early childhood education, with additional financial support targeted at \$200,000, more children and Colorado communities may be served.

In 2003 RiteCare Colorado began awarding **Graduate Scholarships**. Since then, 46 students have each been awarded a one-time \$5,000 scholarship with grants totaling \$230,000.

This program supports students at the two Colorado universities providing Master's level degree programs in speech-language pathology: the University of Colorado – Boulder and the University of Northern Colorado.

With additional financial support targeted at \$200,000, we will enable more students to be offered this highly valued scholarship which is important in helping defray the increasing cost of higher

education for students embarking on a speech-language therapy career path.

Please join with us in our continuing *Promise to Care*. Our united and collective effort will enable us to realize the vision that all Colorado children with language disorders will have the opportunity to receive treatment and care.

Our annual fundraising appeal in November will seek your support in this mission of service to children. If you would like to make a gift sooner, please see our website home page.

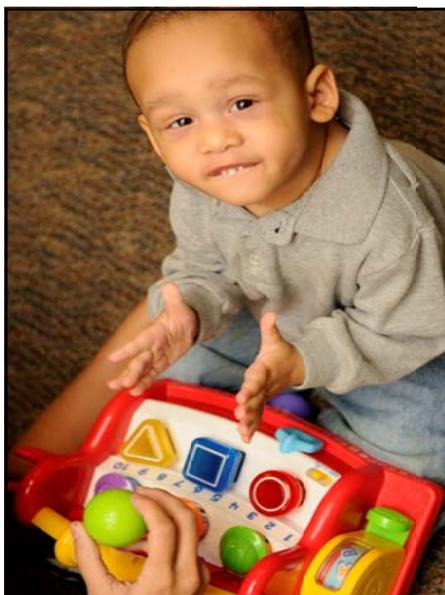


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OUR WEBSITE

www.scottishritefoundation.org

This site contains additional explanation and information about making a gift or a gift pledge as well as estate planning. Thank you for giving *Promise to Care* your caring consideration.

OUR EMAIL ADDRESS

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Our Work Through Mid-2014

Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado

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RiteCare Service Profile

- ▶ \$35 million spent on speech-language services since 1953
- ▶ 20 Colorado communities served by 10 RiteCare partners in traditional brick and mortar clinics
- ▶ Telepractice opening pathways to therapy in 11 distant Colorado communities since 2012
- ▶ More than 18,000 children served through the summer of 2014
- ▶ 46 graduate scholarships awarded since 2003 totaling \$230,000, a scholarship inspired by Illustrious and Most Worshipful Dwight A. Hamilton (1928-2005)



Children Served Through 2013

17,586

Valley of Denver
12,201 children

Valley of Colorado Springs/Pueblo
1,416 children

Valley of Grand Junction
3,969 children

Overhead Rate of 3.6% in 2013
(calculated after audit by independent CPA)

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado is a 501(c)(3) public charity, managed by a 7-member Board of Trustees. The Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Colorado ~ the Honorable Stephen M. Munsinger ~ serves as its president and chief executive officer.