

RITEVIEW

Summer



Kristin Uhler, Ph.D.
Kelley Family/Schlessman
Family Scottish Rite Masons
Chair in Childhood
Language Disorders

Looking Back: The power of reflection

This has been an exciting summer for the Scottish Rite Foundation and RiteCare, highlighted by the following:

- Selecting the 2024-2025 Dwight A. Hamilton Scholarship recipients
- Visiting our RiteCare Partners and events
- Summer Camp

In June, the Scottish Rite Foundation received applications from graduate students in speech-language pathology at the University of Colorado—Boulder, University of Northern Colorado and Metropolitan State University for the merit-based scholarship. The committee carefully reviewed the applicants' extraordinary achievements and selected six students to receive scholarships of \$5,000 each. To date, this scholarship has supported 106 scholars for a total of \$530,000. Once again, these scholarships demonstrate how committed Colorado Masons are to caring for the children and families we serve both today and in the future.

We enjoyed a lovely trip to the Western slope. John Groves and I had a wonderful time at the Ice Cream Social with Patti Anderson at Montrose Regional Health. It was fun to see the children served by the Scottish Rite Foundation and the work their team does to serve these children and their community. Next, we visited St. Mary's in Grand Junction to learn about the exciting summer programs they have implemented. These visits are an excellent time to observe and reflect on the support the Scottish Rite Foundation and the Scottish Rite Masons of Colorado have done and continue to do for children and their families on the Western Slope.

It is with great joy that we reflect on the camp program we have been able to support: the "Talking with Technology (TWT)" camp for children who use augmentative/alternative communication. This year, TWT was back to full capacity and served 26 children. It has been wonderful to hear from clinicians, graduate students, and campers about their experiences at these camps. We are thrilled to share camp updates in this edition of RiteView.

I have greatly enjoyed reading and hearing about the outstanding care provided to families by all our speech-language pathologists and learning specialists across all 14 sites. I am often awestruck by the dedication, support, and opportunities the Scottish Rite Masons provide for children and their families with speech and language learning challenges. Please continue sharing your successes with the Masons in your community.

Table of Contents

Chair Holder Update	1
Scottish Rite Foundation....	2 & 3

Program Updates

University Northern Colorado...	4
Children's Hospital - TWT..	5 & 6
St. Mary's Hospital.....	7
Centro.....	7
Montrose Regional Hlth.....	8
In the Spotlight.....	9
Children's Speech & Reading.	10
Program Directory	11

Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado
Presenting the 2024 Dwight A. Hamilton Graduate Scholarship
in Speech-Language Pathology Winners

Dr Uhler, Ellis Miller 32°, and I are excited to introduce you to the 2024 Dwight A. Hamilton Graduate Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology Winners. This year's candidates reflect the continued focus of the Foundation, looking for opportunities to support children in rural areas. We will be hosting the Scholars at the Scottish Rite Communication on September 16th, 2024.

Cassidy Wilson
Metropolitan State University



Cassidy is second year graduate student at Metropolitan State University of Denver. She previously graduated from MSU Denver with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Pre-healthcare in 2021. She has extensive experience working with children ranging in age from infancy through elementary school. She currently works as an Early Childhood Educator at The Goddard School. Cassidy has researched Traumatic Brain Injuries and experiential learning opportunities to increase graduate student confidence and empathy.

This research was presented at the 2024 International Cognitive Communication Conference and will be presented at the upcoming 2024 ASHA convention. Additionally, this research was recently accepted for publication in the American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology.

Lauren Galbreath
University of Northern Colorado



Lauren grew up in Centennial, CO, and attended the University of Northern Colorado, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Audiology and Speech-Language Sciences. Following her undergraduate studies, she supported patients, families, and providers as an Audiology Assistant at Children's Hospital Colorado for six years. This hands-on experience inspired Lauren to pursue further education in communication disorders, specifically focusing on the speech and language implications for children with hearing loss. In 2023, Lauren was accepted into the Speech-Language Pathology Master of Arts graduate program at the University of Northern Colorado and has just begun her second year.

In addition to serving children with language disorders secondary to hearing loss, Lauren has a passion for treating various childhood language disorders, particularly in underserved communities of Colorado. Lauren's ultimate goal is to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Colorado's youth by bridging equity gaps, promoting equal opportunity, and making communication accessible to children with language disorders

Emma Kurtz
University of Northern Colorado



Emma was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. She struggled with speech and language throughout her childhood, and as a result, saw at least four different speech-language pathologists during a nine-year span. After graduating high school, she attended the University of Northern Colorado and earned a Bachelor's degree in Audiology and Speech Language Sciences with a minor in Special Education. Emma was accepted into the Master's Speech-Language Pathology program at the University of Northern Colorado in 2023, and is currently in her second year of the program.

After finishing her Master's program, Emma wants to work in underserved schools with children who have difficulties with language. She desires to create a safe, inclusive space for children to foster language skills, just like her speech-language pathologists did for her.

Michaela Croteau
University of Northern Colorado



Michaela grew up in Severance, Colorado, a small town just outside of Windsor, where she attended high school. After graduating, she pursued a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Reading at the University of Northern Colorado. Following her graduation, Michaela accepted a position at a Therapeutic Learning Center in central California, working with students with emotional disorders. During her two years there, she learned the significance of understanding communication styles and their impact on regulating emotions. She then took a job as a first-grade teacher in the rural town of Van Horn, Texas. In this role, she collaborated with the speech-language pathologist to support her students' speech and language acquisition.

Observing her students' progress highlighted the critical importance of communication skills and their direct influence on academic success. This experience inspired Michaela to transition from teaching to a career in speech-language pathology, aiming to provide essential services in underserved areas. She has a passion for serving children with language disorders through early intervention. Her experiences have solidified her passions and commitment to supporting children's language development and acquisition in rural, underserved areas of Colorado.

Kaley Ruark
University of Colorado – Boulder



Kaley is currently in her second year of study at University of Colorado Boulder's M.A.-SLP Program as a nontraditional student and is expected to graduate in December of 2025. She is originally from the Western Slope of Colorado – Edwards, Colorado to be precise, where she attended K-12. She is a current resident of Eagle, CO (when not living in Boulder to attend class and clinic) and plans to practice as an SLP on the Western Slope after graduation. Her SLP career interests include working as a pediatric SLP in a school-based or clinic-based setting. She would love to provide therapy for high-needs populations on the Western Slope that include children with hearing differences, children who stutter, and children who are bilingual.

Richy Hayes
University of Colorado – Boulder



Richy Hayes is a US Air Force veteran and a second-year MA SLP student at the University of Colorado Boulder. He's interested in speech and language disorders in school-age children and captivated by the beautiful outdoors that Colorado has to offer. He plans to combine the two by searching for jobs in mountain town school districts after he graduates. In the future, he hopes to continue his education in the SLHS PhD program at his alma mater, CU, specifically studying bilingualism.

Submitted by: L. Bryant Harris, 32° Knight Commander of the Court of Honor
Executive Secretary, Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado



University of Northern Colorado Treasure Chest Update

The UNC Treasure Chest program continues to grow each semester. We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve the Greeley community through this program thanks to the generous support of the Scottish Rite Foundation. We just welcomed a new cohort of 26 speech-language pathology graduate students who will each complete a semester in the Treasure Chest program. We are also excited to pilot an early language program in Sterling, CO this Fall thanks to additional support from the Foundation. For this program, we will host two 3-hour workshops for families and other care providers in Sterling, CO. Speech-language pathology graduate students and their clinical supervisors will conduct the workshops, with lecture style and hands on components (including parent coaching). All families will receive a Treasure Chest bag with toys and books as well as access to short training and demonstration videos covering the early language strategies discussed in the training. We are excited to learn from this pilot program and look forward to expanding it to serve more families in the future!

**Submitted by: Caitlin Raaz, RiteCare Program
Director, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley**



Children's Hospital Colorado Talking with Technology Camp

Due to the unwavering generosity of the Scottish Rite Foundation, we just wrapped up our 36th year of Talking with Technology (TWT) Camp! TWT Camp is a week-long camp for children ages 6-21 that use a speech generating device to support their ability to communicate. The camp is a collaboration between Children's Hospital (AAC Team, ARCH Program), Easter Seals, Regis Nursing Students, as well as several local SLP graduate programs (CU, UNC, Metro).

TWT camp has a lasting impact on countless individuals, that play many different roles, throughout the week of camp:

- First and foremost, *the campers!* Camp provides an opportunity for children that rely on a speech generating device to be surrounded by 25 other children that also communicate in a similar way. It is an opportunity to improve their motivation and ability to communicate through peer interaction, but also an opportunity for children to experience the joys of summer camp (e.g., swimming, zip line, climbing wall, arts and crafts, petting zoo, fishing, campfires, dance, camp songs/jokes, etc.).

"This camp was amazing! Our son uses his device more and he's expanded the words he's used. We see growth and hope to continue seeing growth with his communication." – Parent

"The daily pictures seeing how much fun my son was having was incredible! My son is already asking to come back. Such a great experience for him to spend a week with other kids that need talkers to communicate, and he LOVED the dance!!!" – Parent

- *Siblings* are also able to participate in camp. This allows siblings the opportunity to not only see their brother or sister thrive in a camp environment, but also the opportunity to bond with other individuals who may be going through similar experiences in having a sibling with a disability.

"It was a good for all of my children to see kids and adults with all kinds of abilities." – Parent

"The daily pictures seeing how much fun my son was having was incredible! My son is already asking to come back. Such a great experience for him to spend a week with other kids that need talkers to communicate, and he LOVED the dance!!!" – Parent

- *Siblings* are also able to participate in camp. This allows siblings the opportunity to not only see their brother or sister thrive in a camp environment, but also the opportunity to bond with other individuals who may be going through similar experiences in having a sibling with a disability.

"It was a good for all of my children to see kids and adults with all kinds of abilities." – Parent

- Another key component of camp are *mentors*. Mentors are young adults who rely on a speech generating device. They participate in all activities as role models for the campers. In addition, the mentors provide high quality presentations to the professionals at camp to educate us all on how to best support children who rely on a speech generating device. Mentors have a lasting impact on both professionals and campers. In addition, being a mentor is an opportunity to build their resume which supports future employment opportunities.

"I think AAC camps need mentors because kids need to see adults who use AAC. They need to meet people who use AAC who are happy and successful and doing the things they love. I love being a mentor at camp because I love spending time with kids and because I know that attending an AAC camp and meeting MY first mentors changed my life. It made me feel confident and comfortable with who I am."

"I had so much fun at TWT camp! I loved talking to the campers and motivating them to use their devices! I think it is important to have mentors at camp like these because they can inspire the campers to use their devices."

Talking with Technology Camp cont.

- We would be unable to run camp without the participation of our “trainers.” Trainers are comprised of graduate students and various professionals (Speech Language Pathologists, paraprofessionals, teachers, etc). Trainers were asked to complete 13 hours of continuing education classes prior to camp to provide them with the knowledge and ability to support campers in their communication journey. In addition, several presentations and hands on feedback occurred throughout the week of camp to further their comfort level and skills in supporting individuals who rely on a speech generating device. The experience of TWT camp empowers trainers to go back to their respective communities with the confidence and expertise to support children in their communication journey.

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” – Chinese Proverb

It is a primary goal of TWT Camp to educate professionals to then return to their communities with the knowledge and ability to have a positive impact on the lives of the children they see.

“I LOVED the opportunities to learn while also having a lot of opportunities to apply that knowledge directly in such a fun, indoor/outdoor environment. There was so many great opportunities for collaboration and support in a beautiful place.”
Trainer

“I truly loved the opportunity to fully immerse myself both in camp life and in treatment implementation. Working around other campers and trainers working on similar goals and trouble shooting similar challenges was both helpful and motivating.” – Trainer

“I loved having the opportunity to support the communication of an AAC user in a camp setting. Allowing for more interaction with peers and providing the opportunity for friendship. I learned so much at this camp and am eternally grateful for the opportunity!” – Trainer

- What can't be forgotten is the impact that TWT Camp can have on parents. It is an opportunity to see their kids communicate with peers and thrive in a camp environment. It is also a much-needed week of respite!!

“This was the first time my husband and I were home without our kids (our older girls happened to be at camp the same week) and it was a lovely few days just the two of us.” – Parent

Thanks to the generosity of the Scottish Rite Foundation, TWT Camp has been able to impact the lives of countless individuals!!



Submitted by: Makenzie Hull, Administrative Services Coordinator
Children's Hospital Colorado, AAC Camp Programs

St. Mary's Hospital Rite Care Speech and Language Program

The summer of 2024 has been a remarkably busy time for the St. Mary's Rite Care Speech and Language program. We not only continued our individual therapy programs we offered 20 different group therapy programs this summer. These groups focused on social pragmatics, articulation /phonology, language, and/or literacy. The groups were developed for all ages from toddlers to school-aged children. Thanks to the Scottish Rite program the summer groups are accessible to all the children who are interested in attending and not have financial barriers for their attendance.

This spring we began hosting the Residents completing their medical training at St. Mary's Family Practice Residency Program to observe and participate in our pediatric therapy sessions. The feedback we have received from each of the residents is that the interactions with the therapists, children and their families have been an extremely valuable experience and have provided them with an excellent education. Many have expressed that they feel better equipped to manage children's and family health care and developmental needs since they have experienced the actual pediatric therapy process. Not only has it been a learning experience for the Residents, but our pediatric therapy team has also benefited from their insights and medical expertise. We are excited that this will be an ongoing opportunity for our therapists and our future family practice physicians.

As always, pediatric therapists are continually seeking educational opportunities to enhance our patient care skills. After a yearlong training, one of our speech therapists received an Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health through the Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health. We are

Thank you for all you do to support our community by supporting our children.

**Submitted by: Amy Brophy-Neilsen, Rite Care Program
Director St. Mary's Hospital Grand Junction**



Treasure Chest Update

This summer, we expanded our treasure chest program to include more of our Migrant/Seasonal program and so far it has been a huge success. Parents love getting activities and books in their home language to keep their culture alive while they are traveling from place to place working in the fields. With the help of Treasure Chest, we have seen a huge growth in the children's speech as parents are learning how to play with their children in ways that promote language and literacy. One parent stated they had no clue how much they could talk about while hiking outside with their children before receiving Treasure Chest materials one month ago. As they pointed out the colors and shapes they saw, their child then started repeating words back to them. One of our other parents had a speech concern at the beginning of the season, however, after being supported in Treasure Chest, felt like she was able to offer needed support to her child. We watched as she gained confidence, and her child started talking enough where the concern wasn't there anymore.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year in our Region 8 Head Start classrooms, we find that more children are coming to us with speech concerns. We are excited to start offering the program to new families, as well as see the returning families get excited about what the new school year will look like for Treasure Chest. Families who were not able to be served last year are already asking how to be included in the program, so we hope that this year will be our best yet. Thank you so much to the Scottish Rite Foundation for their continued support in the lives of so many children with speech and language concerns.

**Submitted by: Lisa Morgan,
Treasure Chest Program
Coordinator, Grand Junction**



MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH

As summer comes to an end and school begins, we would like to look back at some pictures from our annual summer ice cream social that the RiteCare program sponsors. We had a great number of children and families this year. There was an unexpected and very appreciated addition of a water bounce-house this year. Between that and Annette, the face painter, the party was a success. We were pleased that Dr. Uhler had scheduled our site visit for that day, so she was able to join in the festivities. Thank you to our Appraisal Committee members and John Groves who served up the ice cream and toppings.



Submitted by: Patti Anderson, RiteCare Program Director, Montrose Regional Health, Mountain View Therapy

In the Spotlight at Children's Hospital Colorado

Sarah Waldorf, M.A., CCC-SLP

Interviewed by Lisa Powers



Lisa Powers: Tell me a little about yourself.

Sarah: I grew up in Denver for most of my life, after my family moved from Massachusetts. I enjoy many outdoors activities and continue to do so. I love traveling, listening to music, and gardening! Very important people in my life include my husband John, my brother, and other family and friends.

Lisa Powers: How did you become interested in speech-language pathology as a profession?

Sarah: I was always interested in the idea of working with children and also the field of medicine. I went to the University of Denver and was in the business school and ventured over to the speech pathology department because the coursework seemed interesting. I met with an advisor and transferred to that program. I continued to pursue my Master's degree at the University of Denver. The Children's Hospital (name of the hospital at that time) was recommended by my advisor as a clinical fellowship. I applied and was hired. I stayed on after my clinical fellowship and have been here ever since.

Lisa: How has your role at CHCO evolved over the years?

Sarah: I was happy to pursue the many aspects of the field at CHCO because they offered so much. That began with a language preschool program and then moved on to rehabilitation therapy. I also worked with swallow clinic, cleft palate clinic, literacy intervention, adolescent and child psychology floors, language learning evaluations, and the special care nursery. Most recently, I've been at the outpatient therapy clinics in Littleton and Highlands Ranch

Lisa: If my child was to have you as a therapist, what could I expect?

Sarah: Lots of toys (play), patience, parent involvement, and helping children move ahead in small steps to improve communication.

Lisa: What is your most memorable therapy moment?

Sarah: One that comes to mind is a child who had been discharged from rehabilitative services, and the family was stressed trying to get into outpatient therapy. The family came in feeling very stressed about the appointment system along with concerns for the child's status. We played a simple game of color Go Fish, and I sensed it was the first time in a long time that they had fun together. It was great to be a part of that moment.

Lisa: What do you most enjoy about your work?

Sarah: The children and their families. I enjoy helping children communicate and express themselves. And working with other caring professionals is huge.

Lisa: With 47 years of experience, what advice do you have for therapists on how to stay energized in this profession?

Sarah: Taking on new things, learning new skills, and pacing oneself. Staying cognizant that you are making a difference. Also, realizing that the world, including the workplace, is in constant change.

Lisa: How has the Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF) impacted the care you provide?

Sarah: Children that would not otherwise be able to receive services are able to receive services because of the financial support. Historically, that has kept me here at Children's as I've really appreciated the support SRF provides for the families I work with.

Lisa Powers: What would you like the SRF Masons to know?

Sarah: They are appreciated! Their support of language, speech, learning, and literacy is very helpful and greatly appreciated both by families and staff. Their support has also helped to advance many of our programs in unique ways, such as playboxes for telehealth services.

**Submitted by: Lisa Powers, Associate Clinical Manager
Children's Hospital Colorado**



Children's Speech and Reading Center Early Literacy Program

Children's Speech and Reading Center (CSRC) has been providing pre-literacy programs for over 14 years at multiple preschools in the Fort Collins and Loveland communities. Thanks to the Scottish Rite Foundation for funding this program so that there is no cost to. SRF is making it possible for countless children who are at risk of reading challenges to get a head start at an early age. For the 2023-2024 academic year, CSRC therapists worked with 73 four-year-olds who were identified using the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening for Preschool (PALS-PreK). The PALS-PreK measures young children's knowledge of important emerging speech-language and literacy factors shown by research to predict later communication and reading success.

The early literacy program served children from October through May and included 20+ weekly sessions. All the children who participated in this past cohort began below the developmental standards that predict early reading success and exhibited significant progress in each area.

Thank you again to the Scottish Rite Foundation for your continued support of this important program to build a foundation for children's learning and reading success.

Submitted by: Cheryl Campbell, RiteCare Program Director Children's Speech and Reading Center, Ft. Collins/Loveland



Children's Hospital Colorado Audiology, Speech Pathology and Learning Services 13123 E. 16th Avenue, B030 Aurora, CO 80045 Telephone: 720-777-6424 Fax: 720-777-7169 Kristin Uhler Kelley Family/Schlessman Family Scottish Rite Masons Chair in Childhood Language Disorders Email: Kristin.Uhler@childrenscolorado.org	Children's Colorado Therapy Care at Telstar 2375 Telstar Dr., Suite 160 Colorado Springs, CO 80920 Telephone: 719-305-8146 Clinic: 719-305-8900 Fax: 719-305-7974 RiteCare Director: Matt Holmberg Email: Matthew.Holmberg@childrenscolorado.org
Children's Colorado Therapy Care, Pueblo Clinic: 719-305-8300 Fax: 719-305-9723 RiteCare Program Director: Stephanie Coe Email: stephanie.coe@childrenscolorado.org	St. Mary's Life Center Language Development Clinic 1100 Patterson Road Grand Junction, CO 81506 Telephone: 970-298-6158 Fax: 970-298-4642 RiteCare Program Director: Amy Neilsen Email: Amy.Brophy-Neilsen@imail.org
Gunnison Valley Hospital Pediatric Rehabilitation 711 N. Taylor Street Gunnison, CO 81230 Telephone: 970-641-7248 Fax: 970-641-7216 RiteCare Program Director: Jen Moore Email: JKitchen@gvh-colorado.org	Montrose Regional Health Mountain View Therapy 800 South Third Street Montrose, CO 81401 Telephone: 970-252-2819 Fax: 970-252-2776 RiteCare Program Director: Patti Anderson Email: PAnderson@montrosehealth.com
Children's Speech and Reading Center 1330 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80524 Telephone: 970-419-0486 Fax: 970-221-5751 Executive Director RiteCare Program Director: Cheryl Campbell Email: Cheryl@csrckids.org	University of Colorado – Boulder Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences 2501 Kittredge Loop Road-Campus Box 409 Boulder, CO 80309-0409 Telephone: 303-492-3068 Fax: 303-492-3274 RiteCare Program Director: Holly Kleiber – Therapy clinic Email: Holly.Kleiber@colorado.edu
University of Northern Colorado Audiology and Speech Language Sciences Gunter Hall, Campus Box 140 Greeley, CO 80639-0486 Telephone: 970-351-1084 Fax: 970-351-2974 RiteCare Program Director: Caitlin Raaz Email: Caitlin.Raaz@unco.edu	The Piñon Project Treasure Chest Program 300 N. Elm Street (PO BOX 1510) Cortez, CO 81321 Telephone: 970-564-1195 Fax: 970-564-9011 Treasure Chest Coordinator: Ramona Kennedy Email: Rkennedy@pinonproject.org
Centro Colorado Treasure Chest Program 685 W. Gunnison Ave, Ste. 111 Grand Junction, CO 81501 Telephone: 385-441-0692 Treasure Chest Coordinator: Lisa Morgan Email: L.Morgan@cdfs.org	Memorial Regional Health Rehab Center 750 Hospital Loop Craig, CO 81625 Telephone: 970-826-8211 Fax: 970-824-5994 RiteCare Program Director: Ericka Lucas Email: Ericka.Lucas@memorialRH.org
Metro State University of Denver Speech-Language, Hearing Sciences 890 Auraria Pkwy Denver, CO 80204 Telephone: 303-605-7609 Fax: RiteCare Program Director: Ilana Oliff Email: ioliff@msudenver.edu	Yuma RiteCare Clinic Speech-Language Pathology Services Address: 910 S. Main St. Yuma, CO Phone: 303-360-7537 ex: 102 RiteCare Program Director: Jennifer Seedorf Email: RiteCare_Yuma@scottishritefoundation.onmicrosoft.com