



RITEVIEW SPECIAL EDITION - MAY 2008

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

Together We Can Increase Awareness!

Many years ago, I had the privilege of meeting with some of the original organizers of the national “May is Better Hearing and Speech Month” program in Washington, D.C. The effort grew out of a collaboration of several professional groups such as the American Auditory Society, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Better Hearing Institute and others. Each year, a Steering Committee was tasked with identifying a suitable spokesperson (you may recall that Loren Green, aka “Ben Cartwright,” Richard Thomas, aka “John-Boy Walton,” and Nanette Fabry were among the celebrities who accepted this role) and with obtaining funding support from member organizations (usually the more difficult task than finding a spokesperson). I don’t know if such a collaborative effort still exists. It is gratifying, however, to see that the event lives on through our collective efforts to raise awareness in our communities.

I was inspired by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s vision statement associated with their new strategic plan; *Making effective communication, a human right, accessible and achievable for all*. Making communication a human right is a powerful concept that elevates the importance of our work, especially with young children, to a whole new level. I believe that the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado is one of the first organizations to believe in communication as a human right; their fifty-plus year support helping children communicate speaks volumes about their values, beliefs, and commitment. We are indeed fortunate that the Foundation has entrusted us with carrying out this mission.

We are hopeful that Supreme Council’s RiteCare website, <http://scottishrite.org/what/phil/ritecare.html> will contain information pertinent to the Biennial RiteCare Conference in Washington D.C., August 28 – 30. I hope a representative from each program will be able to attend; I know I plan to be there!

Deborah Hayes, Ph.D.,
Kelley Family/Schlessman Family
Scottish Rite Masons
Chair in Childhood Language Disorders
Audiology, Speech Pathology and Learning Services
The Children's Hospital - Denver

RiteView is a publication of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado Clinical Programs. For more information, please contact: hernandez.valerie@tchden.org Valerie Hernandez, Scottish Rite Foundation Program Assistant at The Children’s Hospital, 720-777-5801.

2008 RiteCare Conference in Washington, D.C.
Unlock the Mind in speech, language, hearing, and literacy:
Evidence-Based Practice

Labor Day Weekend!
 August 28-30, 2008

Make your hotel reservations now!
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**(Request the group rate - Mention the Supreme Council
 of the 33rd of the Scottish Rite.)**



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The Children's Hospital

In the department of **Audiology, Speech Pathology and Learning Services** at The Children's Hospital, we conducted a brief questionnaire with some of our staff for **May is Better Hearing and Speech Month**.



Jennifer Kolb, M.Ed., CCC-A

Cochlear Implant Program Specialist/Audiologist

Q: Why is Newborn Hearing Screening so important?

A: *It makes a huge difference in outcomes! This can be especially true for children who have been identified with hearing loss and are fit with amplification early. It is tremendously rewarding to see what a difference early identification and intervention can make.*

Q: What do you value most working in the pediatric profession?

A: *It is inspiring to see the care and love that their families have for them and the mountains they will cross in order to do the best for their child. No matter what, children never fail to make me smile!*

Tracy Kovach, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Program Specialist for Camps and Outreach Programs

Q: What do you love about the work you do?

A: *I am humbled daily by the knowledge that "communication is the essence of human life" and what I so often take for granted. To see a parent whose child has just said "I love you" for the first time makes the hours of work more than worthwhile. I have come to realize that communication is not just a "gift" but the "right" for all children.*

Q: What does Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF) funding mean to children with speech-language disorders?

A: *For more than 20 years, the SRF has been the ONLY reason that camp and outreach programs have been possible. Through the SRF support, Talking With Technology Camp has become internationally known as a model for several other camps nationwide.*



Jeannie O'Neil

Business Operations Coordinator

Q: How long have you been with The Children's Hospital and what do you love about the work you do?

A: *I have worked in the department for 21 years and I manage a great team of dedicated and hard working individuals who are here to help children and families.*

Q: How important is Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF) support for the department?

A: *Many children and families have benefited with the scholarship assistance from SRF. I have experienced over the years the growth of our department and the decline of insurance benefits from insurance companies. With the continued donor support, our department continues to expand into the communities and offer more specialized therapy programs.*



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Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing- Rollo May

(http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat_communication.html)

Mary Lou B. Johnson, M.S.,
Speech-Language Pathologist

Q: Why did you choose to work with children in your profession?

A: After nearly 33 years working for The Children's Hospital, I experience joy every day! Children are fun, sweet and charming. Children are also eager learners who deserve to acquire speech-language skills to prepare them for education, work and life.

Q: What does the support of the Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF) mean to our program?

A: SRF scholarships have made the difference between children receiving needed treatment and not receiving needed treatment. In our setting at The Children's Hospital, we have a distinct advantage of working directly with the parents to maximize the benefit of therapy services provided to a child.



Lisa Rider, M.S., CCC-A
Audiologist

Q: Screening a child's hearing is important because...

A: Hearing is vital to a child's potential success in speech, language and learning as well as psycho-social development. The earlier we can diagnose hearing loss and provide intervention, the better outcome a child will have.

Q: What do donors represent to our program and services?

A: With the funding from our philanthropic supporters, clinicians can provide the most comprehensive treatment for as many children as possible, regardless of the family's ability to pay. Families and clinicians alike are very grateful for these scholarship opportunities.

Lisa Powers, M.S., CCC-SLP
Clinical Coordinator for Speech-Language Pathology Services – Littleton

Q: Why did you choose to become a speech-language pathologist?

A: As a child, I had severe hearing loss due to chronic ear infections. From age three to seven I received speech therapy. I feel becoming a speech-language pathologist has given me the chance to give back to a profession that I received benefit from.

Q: How do Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF) scholarships benefit our programs?

A: SRF means the world to our program. With many insurance policies, speech-language therapy is not a covered benefit. With SRF scholarships, children are still able to receive the therapy they need. Clinicians are also able to provide services to a wider range of children in Colorado.





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Montrose Memorial Hospital

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month here at *Montrose Memorial Hospital* we celebrated by holding an open house on Wednesday May 14th. We invited members of the community including the Masons, physicians, hospital board members, school district, community center board, preschool directors, Montrose County Health and Human services, and families.

We also have information about the services provided by speech-language pathologists on each table in the *Lobby Grill* (the hospital dining area). In addition; we held a luncheon and planning session on **May 19th** for our Scottish Rite Appraisal Committee and our speech-language pathologists.

Submitted by: **Jeneine Stevenson, Scottish Rite Program Director**



During the month of May, ***Pediatric Rehabilitation Services*** at ***Memorial Hospital for Children*** offered free speech and hearing screenings to the Colorado Springs community. Screenings were offered to the public, on May 9th from 9-11 am. The screenings are designed to help parents within the Colorado Springs community determine if their child's speech, language and hearing skills are on target or if they are in need of further testing. Audiologists and Speech Pathologists teamed up to conduct the screenings during this time. Scottish Rite Foundation Masons supported us by providing fingerprinting for the children who are screened.

We are excited and happy to serve the community of Colorado Springs with the assistance of the Scottish Rite Foundation!



Several of the friendly faces of the speech pathologists that participated in the speech and hearing screenings.

From left to right: Jennifer Cupples, Sharon Rueter, Suzanne Maestas, Vania Falen, Kristine Strayer, and Moni Dewan.



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Colorado RiteCare Programs

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