



**Fall 2009**

**RITEVIEW**



RiteView is a publication of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado Clinical Partner Programs. For more information, please contact: [hernandez.valerie@tchden.org](mailto:hernandez.valerie@tchden.org) Valerie Hernandez, Scottish Rite Foundation Program Assistant at The Children's Hospital - Colorado.

# 2009 RiteCare Program Visits

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**Deborah Hayes, Ph.D.,  
Kelley Family/Schlessman Family  
Scottish Rite Masons Chair in Childhood Language Disorders**

I have just returned from New Zealand, where staff from The Children's Hospital and I had the privilege of presenting a series of seminars at the University of Auckland and Canterbury University (Christchurch). Aside from the beauty of the country, which is unrivaled on earth, we were struck by the warmth of our audiology, speech-language pathology, and early intervention colleagues in that country. These professionals were impressed by the support, quality, and options for early intervention that Colorado families enjoy. Reflecting on the experience on the *looong* plane ride home, I appreciated even more the contribution of the Scottish Rite Foundation to our early intervention efforts!

Valerie Hernandez and I enjoyed immensely our summer "pilgrimage," a journey to a place of special significance ~ your clinics! Fortuitously scheduled around moments of agricultural importance (e.g., peaches in Grand Junction, Olathe corn in Montrose, Rocky Ford cantaloupe in Pueblo and La Junta, and sugar beets (!?! in Sterling), we were impressed with dedication of all RiteCare Clinics to continue best-practice service in these difficult economic times. We appreciate the creativity shown by all RiteCare Program Directors in meeting the needs of their communities. It is especially encouraging to see RiteCare Clinics and Treasure Chest Programs receiving community recognition in the form of grants and awards. So far this year, the Scottish Rite Foundation has provided matching grant funds to University of Colorado – Boulder, Children's Speech and Reading – Fort Collins, University of Northern Colorado, and Rocky Mountain SER Treasure Chest Programs - Grand Junction. Please submit to me any outstanding grant awards that you believe might be eligible for a match as soon as possible.

Thank you for responding so enthusiastically to our request for photos of beautiful children for the Scottish Rite Foundation calendar project. Vern Ingraham served as "judge" for the cover photo; he studied the photos long and hard before making a final decision. His selection, and the recipient of the \$1,000.00 contribution from the *Kelley Family/Schlessman Family Scottish Rite Masons Chair in Childhood Language Disorders* at The Children's Hospital will be announced at the Program Directors Meeting on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**I look forward to meeting with you all then!**





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The Children's Hospital

## "My Little Girlfriend"

Names in the story may have been changed to protect the privacy of the child and family.



Dear Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF),

I just wanted to say, thank you very much and share my story of "My *Little Girlfriend*".

"Hi, I Shannon", is how she now introduces herself to anyone who will listen. She is very special to us and the staff at *The Children's Hospital and the Colorado RiteCare Program*.

Back in April, 2007 Shannon turned 2 years old. She still wasn't talking, not even a hello. Most of all she couldn't even say Mom or Dad yet. Not even "jibber jabber" was coming out. I couldn't wait so I started to make some phone calls and looking up different websites for assistance. It started with a recommendation from my doctor to have a hearing test done. The hearing test came out negative, her hearing was great! Thank goodness because I think I would have felt guilty forever knowing I had to put her in day care for the first 10 months of her life while I worked.

So the next step was "Child Find"...It was a lot of scheduling, phone calls, several meetings and long waitlists, but by August it all came together. During that summer, I taught her the basics in sign language which helped so much. She could finally communicate with us without Shannon getting more frustrated and us playing the "guessing game". She started using sign and by August, we started working on her vowels. By Christmas she was using small words to communicate along with her signing.



My biggest moment after she began therapy was on *December 2, 2007* – she said "Mama" for the first time. Loud and clear!! I will remember this date for the rest of my life. That was huge, just huge! I did the family "dance of joy" and my daughter just laughed at me – I think she thinks moms a little on the goofy side!

We are very fortunate that Shannon will be able to overcome most of this. Shannon would have never learned to talk on her own without therapy. In the year and half of therapy, she has come a very long way and is doing great! We still have much work ahead of us, but it is getting shorter every day and my "*Little Girlfriend*" is giving it her all and improving daily. I am so proud of her and I know that I am very fortunate to stay home with her to help her through this until she starts 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The SRF program and our family will have built her self-esteem and language skills enough that her speech should not be an issue.

We thank you all at the SRF for the support and help throughout the past year and half. This program is wonderful and *The Children's Hospital and RiteCare Program* has been fantastic all the way. I can't express in words our gratitude. She has learned so much and taught Mom and Dad a lot too (patience, for one). Now that is her favorite word (patience) when Mom gets frustrated. I so needed that! Your SRF program has been a huge blessing in our family and we wouldn't be where she is today without it.

Another monumental moment in our household; I went to pick her up from class and they told me that she had gotten into a little conflict at school that day – but they worked it out. When I asked what it was they told me; "She wouldn't stop talking with the other kids when the teacher was talking". I laughed to myself. When I picked up my daughter, I couldn't help but give her the biggest hug I could give. As a tear rolled down my face, I whispered in her ear, "**You can get in trouble for talking ANYTIME!**" That day on the way home we went for ice-cream!

Words just can't express our gratitude. Your program is fabulous and it is a tremendous gift you offer to families. Thank you and God Bless you all for bringing us together for this short time that will affect us for the rest of our lives.

**Best Regards, Joan, Kevin and Shannon**



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## "A Special Visit"



## Early Literacy Program Outcomes:



Photo left to right: Paul Whannel, Deborah Hayes, Gail Ramsberger, Valerie Hernandez and Vernon Ingraham

**Colorado University in Boulder** RiteCare Partnership Program, was honored to host a visit to the Speech Language and Hearing Science Department and Child Learning Center Programs in mid-September. Those in attendance were Paul Whannel, a Boulder Scottish Rite Mason and Appraisal Committee Member at The Children's Hospital, Vernon Ingraham, Executive Secretary, Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado as well as Deborah Hayes, Ph.D., Kelley Family/Schlessman Family Scottish Rite Masons Chair in Childhood Language Disorders and Valerie Hernandez from The Children's Hospital.

These visitors toured research labs, classrooms, and service programs in the Center and spent time observing the inclusive toddler group program serving children from 18 months to 3 years, many of whom are appreciative scholarship recipients from the RiteCare Partnership Program. Dr. Gail Ramsberger hosted the groups viewing of an SLHS video that explains the departments current role in research, teaching, and service to children and adults with communication challenges in the state of Colorado.

**Submitted by: Susan Moore, RiteCare Program Director, Colorado University - Boulder**

### Pre- and Post- Program Measure Yield Great Results!

**373 hours** of pre-literacy instruction were delivered to 102 children at United Day Care Center (Loveland and Fort Collins sites) and Thompson Valley Preschool. Each child received between 24 and 32 (depending on attendance and site schedule) 30 minute group sessions, from October 2008 to May 2009. Sessions focused on improving phonemic awareness (rhyming, beginning sounds in words, syllabication), sound/letter correspondence, print awareness, comprehension, and sequencing, which are all critical skills for a strong foundation in reading.

Approximately 80% of children who participated improved their ability to recognize words that rhyme, complete a sentence with a rhyming word, or generate rhyming words, identify and/or label letters, write/spell their name, or recognize letters in their name, identify the first sound in a word, and improved their knowledge of syllabication. Over 50% improved their knowledge of specific letter/sound correspondence. 100% of the children who participated improved print awareness.

Informal observations during the sessions indicated that the children who participated, who did not have suspected language delays, also made gains in comprehension and sequencing. Those with suspected language delays were referred for further evaluation.

Upon pre-testing and post-testing, we discovered that many children had limited or no knowledge of nursery rhymes. Because of the we modified our initial plans to incorporate more rhyming activities and opportunities into our lessons. We also sent information home to families discussing the importance of this skill, and several common nursery rhymes with activities, to encourage rhyming games at home. This fall, we are going to try to organize an in-service for daycare staff to discuss the importance of nursery rhymes and encourage them to do a rhyme a week.

We are currently completing pre-program early literacy screens in anticipation of providing this program again for the 2009/2010 school year.

**Submitted by: Elise Tobler, RiteCare Program Director, Children's Speech and Reading Center - Ft. Collins**



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## Recognition

I would like to share some recognition items in this issue as well as to let you know about the work I am doing to inform the graduate students at Greeley and Boulder about your work in Colorado and how the Scottish Rite Foundation continues to support this work.

This June, Deborah, Valeric, Steve Munsinger, and I traveled to Cortez to honor Virginia Howey by presenting her with the Foundation's Distinguished Service Award. Virginia's vision and planning led to implementation of the highly successful Treasure Chest Program. As you know, Virginia has left The Piñon Project and is now Program Director for the Family Resource Center Association, Inc. in Denver.

Later in September the Foundation's scholarship program was held at Denver Consistory. We were delighted to honor the four 2009 scholarship recipients – two each from the Colorado University-Boulder (CU-Boulder) and the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley (UNC). This scholarship is a one-time \$5,000 award given to a second year graduate student in speech-language pathology. Two scholarships are awarded by the Scottish Rite Foundation and two by the *Colorado Masons' Benevolent Fund Association*, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization incorporated by the Masonic Grand Lodge of Colorado. Through 2009 these organizations have awarded a total of \$120,000 to 24 graduate students!



**Vernon Ingraham, 33°,**  
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*The Dwight A. Hamilton Scottish Rite Foundation Graduate Student Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology* was awarded to Meghan Fitzgerald and Kim Turner, both second year graduate students at the CU-Boulder. *The Colorado Masons' Benevolent Association Graduate Student Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology* was awarded to Kristin Michie and Alyssa Winbourn, both second year graduate students at the UNC.

During the program held at the Denver Consistory, each student was presented a framed certificate and each was asked to make comments to the assemblage of 150 Masons and their wives. Also participating in the program were three professors: from UNC Dr. Kathleen Fahey and from CU-Boulder Dr. Gail Ramsberger and Susan Moore.

In early September, I made an on-campus presentation to about 30 speech-language pathology graduate students at the UNC. I'll do likewise in October for the speech-language pathology graduate students at the CU-Boulder. The purpose of these visits is twofold: first, to help the students better understand the Foundation's and our partners' work throughout Colorado and secondly, to help the first year students understand the scholarship application process.

In closing, the scholarship program is one of the important ways by which the Foundation supports the speech-language pathology profession. It is especially meaningful because, through it, we endeavor to encourage the students to remain and work in Colorado. I know some of you have had the privilege of working with these individuals, either as a student or a graduate, and can testify to the merits of this important program. As always, I look forward to seeing and working with each of you in the future.

*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."  
 Eleanor Roosevelt*



*Above: The Dwight A. Hamilton Scottish Rite Foundation Graduate Student Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology was awarded to Meghan Fitzgerald and Kim Turner*



*Above: The Colorado Masons' Benevolent Association Graduate Student Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology was awarded to Kristin Michie and Alyssa Winbourn*



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## Jayda's Treasure



**The Piñon Project - Treasure Chest Program** in Cortez provides children and their families with pre-literacy tools and a program they can utilize in their home. Very special themed tubs, which may include; storybooks, toys, games and projects are provided to families who are enrolled with the early childhood programs in Montezuma and Dolores Counties. Additionally, families may access the Treasure Chest Program

through five preschools and four infant/toddler programs. Recently adding the Cortez Library as another location now makes the program available to the entire community.

A mom, who unexpectedly has custody of 4 extra very young children; Jayda being one of them, shares her comments, "Jayda has really been enjoying the treasure chest program. She loves to sit and pretend to cook. My favorite part is watching her mix the different kinds of food to make an imaginary recipe. She can play with the set for hours. Her older sister and younger brother enjoy playing with her. We were reading one of the books in the tub and found some food that we had never heard of. Now she can go through it and name almost all of the different fruits and vegetables. I would like to try the different kinds of tubs and activities, and I'm sure Jayda would too!"

"Mom is not in the picture because she is taking it!", says Kathi Sutton, Treasure Chest Coordinator with The Piñon Project in Cortez, "I hear from Jayda's mom that the "Treasure Chests" are easing transition and providing support for bonding and consistency for this unexpected family."

**Submitted by: Kathi Sutton, Treasure Chest Coordinator  
The Piñon Project - Cortez**

## ZOO DAY



The Children's Hospital

**Care by The Children's Hospital - Pueblo**

The Fourth Annual Scottish Rite Foundation Zoo Day on September 20, 2009 in Pueblo was a huge success! On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, 215 people gathered at the Pueblo Zoo to enjoy a picnic lunch and walk through the zoo.



Left: A RiteCare child enjoys lunch and a treat at the Zoo!

Below: A child enjoys cotton candy!

Terry and Ramona Kershaw once again prepared a delicious lunch. They were assisted this year by their daughter Brittany and her friend Nick. Other special volunteers were; Jim and Rosa Eaches, Ben and Barbara Crossno, Al and Leah Pettigrew, Merv and Glenda Terrill, as well as, Jim and Cindy Stivers.

The children particularly enjoyed the cotton candy and piñata.



**Thank you Scottish Rite Masons for providing this fun, family-centered outing!**

**Submitted by: Martha Drake, Manager of Speech-Language Services,  
Care by The Children's Hospital - Pueblo, RiteCare Program Director**

### Support to Colorado RiteCare Partners

The Children's Hospital, department of Audiology, Speech Pathology and Learning Services continues to offer a wide range of expertise and support to the RiteCare clinical partners in the state. To learn more about the outreach, professional training or Telehealth opportunities available to you and your community, please contact the office of Deborah Hayes via e-mail to Valerie Hernandez at: [hernandez.valerie@tchden.org](mailto:hernandez.valerie@tchden.org)





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### Honors of the Foundation

#### Ben M. Crossno, 33°

Presented: September 2, 2009 at Southern Colorado Consistory

Re-presented: September 21, 2009 at Denver Consistory

The Honors of the Foundation is the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado's highest award. It is bestowed annually or less frequently in recognition of work which has significantly enhanced the Foundation's performance over a period of time.

The 2009 Honors of the Foundation Award is bestowed upon Most Worshipful and Illustrious Ben M. Crossno, 33°.



Left to right (back row): Gerald Ford, Vernon Ingraham, Deborah Hayes and Steve Munsinger (front row) Barbara and Ben Crossno at the Denver Consistory

As a devoted supporter of the Colorado RiteCare Childhood Language Program, Ben has contributed immeasurably to the Foundation's success. He has always been diligent in supporting and promoting the Foundation's work throughout the Orient, always being focused on sharing knowledge and information about this great Masonic charity.

Of special note, in Southern Colorado he and his Masonic colleagues invited Lola Spradley, then-Speaker of the Colorado State House of Representatives, to participate in a special celebration at the Colorado Springs Masonic Center.

His chairmanship in 2002 and 2003 of the Foundation's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Committee had its culmination with the Orient-wide program featuring Illustrious Brother Mel Tillis and attended by more than 1,000 people. As committee chair, Ben played a key role in making this event a huge success and without any cost to the Foundation.

Ben has always been an ardent supporter of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado and is richly deserving of the highest recognition bestowed by the Board of Trustees!

## Briargate

### Pediatric Rehabilitation Clinic— Memorial Hospital

Providing Speech/Language Services Northeast Colorado Springs



In May 2009, Memorial Hospital opened the Briargate Pediatric Rehabilitation Clinic beside Memorial Hospital North. In June 2009, Briargate started their **first** *Scottish Rite Summer Speech and Language Group*. The group consisted of six children and two speech-language pathologists. The summer program was held for eight weeks.

Each session consisted of an opening circle time, reading time, a movement break with oral motor activities, an art project, and a closing circle time. Children were also provided with home programming activities. All of the children who participated demonstrated progress over the course of the group.

Benjamin was one of the children who participated. His mother reported that he enjoyed going to group and made noticeable progress over the eight weeks. She further stated that the progress he made gave her hope that he would meet his long term goal of age appropriate speech and language skills.

**Submitted by: Deb Blythe,  
RiteCare Program Co-Director,  
Memorial Hospital - Colorado Springs**





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## Colorado RiteCare Program Directory

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<p><b>Care by The Children's Hospital – Pueblo</b> 704 Fortino Blvd. Ste. A Pueblo, CO 81008 Telephone: (719) 595-0829 Fax: (719) 595-0832 Program Director: Martha Drake E-mail: <a href="mailto:drake.martha@tchden.org">drake.martha@tchden.org</a></p>	<p><b>Memorial Hospital</b> Pediatric Rehabilitation Services 175 South Union Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80910 Telephone: (719) 365-5422 Fax: (719) 365-6841 Program Co-Director: Deb Blythe E-mail: <a href="mailto:debra.blythe@memorialhealthsystem.com">debra.blythe@memorialhealthsystem.com</a> Program Co-Director: Cara Hofeldt E-mail: <a href="mailto:cara.hofeldt@memorialhealthsystem.com">cara.hofeldt@memorialhealthsystem.com</a></p>
<p><b>Children's Speech and Reading Center</b> 1247 Riverside Ave. Ste. 4 Fort Collins, CO 80524 Telephone: (970) 419-0486 Fax: (970) 221-5751 Program Director: Elise Tobler E-mail: <a href="mailto:elise@csrckids.org">elise@csrckids.org</a></p>	<p><b>St. Mary's Life Center</b> Language Development Clinic 1100 Patterson Road Grand Junction, CO 81506 Telephone: (970) 244-6158 Fax: (970) 248-4642 Program Director: Amy Neilsen E-mail: <a href="mailto:Amy.Neilsen@stmarygi.org">Amy.Neilsen@stmarygi.org</a></p>
<p><b>University of Northern Colorado</b> Audiology and Speech Language Sciences Gunter Hall Campus Box 140 Greeley, CO 80639-0486 Telephone: (970) 351-1587 Fax: (970) 351-2974 Program Director: Kathleen Fahey E-mail: <a href="mailto:kathy.fahey@unco.edu">kathy.fahey@unco.edu</a></p>	<p><b>University of Colorado – Boulder</b> Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences 2501 Kittredge Loop Road - Campus Box 409 Boulder, CO 80309-0409 Telephone: (303) 492-5375 Fax: (303) 492-3274 Program Director: Susan Moore E-mail: <a href="mailto:susan.moore@colorado.edu">susan.moore@colorado.edu</a></p>
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<p><b>Rocky Mountain SER Western Slope Head Start</b> Treasure Chest Program 835 N. 26<sup>th</sup> St. PO Box 1117 Grand Junction, CO 81502 Telephone: (970) 242-9318 Fax: (970) 243-9322 Treasure Chest Coordinator: Carmen Marsh E-mail: <a href="mailto:carmen_marsh@hotmail.com">carmen_marsh@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>The Pinon Project</b> Treasure Chest Program 300 N. Elm St. PO Box 1510 Cortez, CO 81321 Telephone: (970) 564-1195 Fax: (970) 564-9011 Treasure Chest Coordinator: Kathi Sutton E-mail: <a href="mailto:egtcpinon@yahoo.com">egtcpinon@yahoo.com</a></p>