

RiteView is a publication of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado Clinical Partner Programs. For more information, please contact: valerie.hernandez@childrenscolorado.org
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A New Year Ahead

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

As we welcome the New Year, I am hopeful that we will see some economic recovery in 2012 and brighter futures for our children and families. I am encouraged by Vern Ingraham's report on 2011 fundraising by the Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF).

I am especially grateful for the grand efforts by Vern and the SRF Board of Trustees in stewardship of the Foundation's funds through the rough waters of the last few years. Through their guidance, the Foundation has been a steadfast support for our families in need.

The January 6 headline in the Denver Post reminded me of the apparent paradox in our clinical SRF scholarship spending over the past few years.

The headline read, "**State Medicaid rolls are 'mushrooming'**" and the article* explained that the 614,146 Coloradoans enrolled in Medicaid in November represented a 57.7 percent increase over January 2007. (*see the full article at the following link: http://www.denverpost.com/legislature/ci_19677476#.TwdvklkwaGs.email)

During this same period of time, our RiteCare Programs have consistently under spent the generous scholarship budget available from the Scottish Rite Foundation. Given this dire economic time, a decrease in SRF funding seemed improbable. However, as I analyzed the source of reimbursement for services at Children's Hospital Colorado, it became apparent that we were serving many more children on Medicaid and many fewer with private insurance or SRF scholarships. The good news is that children can continue to access services despite family financial hardship. The bad news is that Medicaid reimbursement is inadequate to sustain our services. As each RiteCare program analyzes their specific financial circumstance, understanding the complex relationship between scholarship need, economic conditions, and state entitlement programs is critical.

On a positive note, this issue of the *RiteView* is chock-full of delightful articles highlighting the meaningful work that each Center conducts throughout the year. Thank you for the wonderful care you provided in 2011. I am confident that 2012 will be our best year yet!

Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado Programs 2012 Calendar Cover Photo



Congratulations to the Rocky Mountain SER Western Slope Head Start – Treasure Chest Program in Grand Junction! Their photo was selected as the cover for the 2012 Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado Program Calendar! Thank you to all of the RiteCare and Treasure Chest programs for submitting such wonderful photos this year.

Enjoy!

The Gift of the Treasure Chest Program

**Rocky Mountain SER Western Slope Head Start,
 Treasure Chest Program, Grand Junction**

Submitted by: Carmen Marsh, Treasure Chest Coordinator

Katie and her children (photo right with youngest), have participated in the *Treasure Chest Program* for the past two years. She was honored when her children were selected for the cover of the 2012 Scottish Rite Foundation Program calendar.

She is a single mother of three young children, who has dedicated her time to be with them at the Head Start program. She has volunteered numerous hours in her children's classroom. Katie is always available and the first one to say "I can do it."

Watching her two older children grow and overcome their language delays has been rewarding. With all Katie does, I know she is the reason her children are making such great gains. I have learned so much from watching her and she is truly an inspiration to my life, and a wonderful role model for this program.



Happy 2012 from the Treasure Chest Program in Cortez!

There is so much to be grateful for and we are excited as we begin the second semester of the 2011-2012 school year! Last semester, we introduced a new parent education program to a group of kindergarten parents. The program uses the treasure chests to help create a nightly bathing/bedtime routine. This program, "*Bath, Book, Bed*" was designed in response to the school faculty request to meet the needs of children entering kindergarten. The program was held one evening per week for five-weeks at the local elementary school. We received a positive response from the parents who participated.

The Treasure Chest Program has begun to work with parents of infants and toddlers on a more intensive basis. This is happening due to an increased number of families who are enrolling in *Even Start* and *Parents as Teachers*. I have added home visits to provide a more individualized training session with the families in their natural setting. This opportunity allows me to personally engage families and promote the importance of literacy.

With the recent donation from our local Kiwanis Club of Mesa Verde and the matching grant from the Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF), we are able to purchase some wonderful books and materials for infants and toddlers. I am looking forward to introducing the new and expanded theme chests this spring. We are so grateful to the SRF for their continued generosity and support for the Treasure Chest Program and all the other RiteCare programs across the state.

Thanks Scottish Rite Foundation for all you do! Karen Winchester, Treasure Chest Coordinator, The Piñon Project/Cortez

SRF Scholarship Recipient Works with Child Using an iPad

Submitted by: Joan Larsen

Interim RiteCare Program Director, Children's Speech and Reading Center

As a new staff at the Children's Speech & Reading Center (CSRC) in Fort Collins, *Jennifer Wiedmeier, speech-language pathologist (SLP)*, sees the opportunity to serve children who receive Scottish Rite Foundation support as a way to show her gratitude to the Foundation. She was granted the *Colorado Masons' Benevolent Fund Association Graduate Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology* in 2008. Jennifer graduated in 2009 from the *University of Northern Colorado (UNC)*, with her masters in speech-language pathology.

Prior to attending UNC, Jennifer was a special education teacher for five years working with students who presented a wide variety of learning challenges. She knows that this background experience has enriched her abilities as a SLP. She recognizes that a child's development of strong language and communication skills underlies all learning and success throughout life. Jennifer's professional interests in augmentative-alternative communication led her to continue her training after graduate school, and she earned certification in advanced assistive technology through the University of Colorado Assistive Technology Partners.



(Jennifer is pictured above with *Trust* as they use one of the new iPads during a therapy session.)

CSRC's services to children with complex communication needs will be enhanced through Jennifer's knowledge about the various options available with today's technology resources. One of the simpler uses of new technology approaches building children's speech, language and reading skills is through the use of the iPad and related Applications (Apps).

The devices are easy to use and adapt for communication development purposes. OtterBox, a Fort Collins company that produces protective cases for smart phones and other handheld technology like tablets and e-readers, recently donated three iPads, Otterbox cases and additional funding for purchasing Apps, to CSRC.

In the context of a speech-language treatment session, the device does not replace person-to-person interaction, but becomes a tool to engage and motivate children to participate as communicators. Jennifer looks forward to applying her knowledge and expertise with children in the Northern Colorado area.

The *Mountain View Therapy Pediatric* program at Montrose Memorial Hospital held a successful "Breakfast with Santa" in December. Our appraisal committee cooked sausage and pancakes for over 120 children and families. Each family spent some special time with Santa. We want to give a big "thank you" to the *Kelley Family/Schlessman Family Scottish Rite Masons Chair in Childhood Language Disorders* for the books that were provided for the children. Our families enjoyed the opportunity to visit with the Appraisal Committee members and other families that attended. This year there were several other Masons in attendance who were happy to lend a helping hand.



(Above) Santa visits with two RiteCare children at Montrose Memorial

As we begin a new year, we reflect upon the past year and thank the Scottish Rite Foundation and our program directors for their contributions and support to our success!

- Million dollar mark celebration
- Successful summer programs in Montrose and Delta
- Fun-filled day at the pumpkin patch
- We shared the joy of the season with many children, families and masons at our "Breakfast with Santa"

We look ahead to 2012 and the challenges with opportunities to continue with this most rewarding road we are on. Thanks so much to the Foundation and all the Masons that help to make this possible.

Visit the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado website: www.scottishritefoundation.org



**Vernon B. Ingraham, 33rd, Grand Cross
 Executive Secretary
 Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado**

I wish each of you a joyous Season's Greetings and a Happy 2012. My first RiteView article of the year traditionally focuses on financial matters and I am delighted to share the good news of our fundraising success during the recently completed year.

First, in 2011 the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado received well over \$800,000 in donations and gifts.

Second, we will shortly complete our annual fund raising campaign with more than \$81,000 received from more than 450 donors throughout Colorado as of January 4, 2012. Scottish Rite Masons and friends of the Foundation responded very positively and so generously to our appeal. This outpouring of support indicates the growing level of dedication to the work you are doing in helping children communicate.

Third, we are well on the way to successfully completing the \$1.0 million Architects of Care fundraising campaign. We have now received more than \$750,000.

Fourth, we continue to seek support from other Foundations and non-profits. In 2011 we received financial support from five non-Masonic foundations and are presently awaiting decisions from three additional foundations which are considering our 2011 funding requests. More requests will be submitted to foundations and organizations in 2012.

On a personal note, as I enter my twelfth year with the Foundation, I have the greatest appreciation and regard for the professions of speech-language pathology, audiology, and learning services. I enjoy and receive much personal satisfaction in working with you on the journey of helping children with communication challenges and their families. A 35-year speech-language pathologist recently told us in a thank you note to the Board of Trustees, "In such a priceless gift, many thank you's on behalf of myself and the many children you have served." I couldn't say it better.

Thank You for your dedication and Best Wishes for a successful 2012 for each of you and the children you serve.

2011 Matching Grant Incentive Program – Success!

We are pleased to report that six of twelve, Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF) of Colorado locations, received matching grant funds in 2011; *Children's Hospital Colorado, University of Colorado at Boulder, Children's Speech and Reading Center, University of Northern Colorado – Greeley, and both Treasure Chest Programs, Rocky Mountain SER Western Slope Head Start* in Grand Junction and, *The Piñon Project* in Cortez.

The matching incentive is offered by the SRF to the Colorado partner programs. The incentive gives RiteCare and Treasure Chest programs the opportunity to receive additional funding support from SRF when they solicit and receive a donation from another organization to their program. This also provides a chance for program directors and coordinators to increase community awareness about the SRF, childhood language disorders, and the importance of early literacy.

Congratulations to all Colorado SRF programs for continuing to strengthen the knowledge within your communities about the good work being done!

Submitted by: Valerie Hernandez, Scottish Rite Program Assistant



Children's Hospital Colorado

**Submitted by: Martha Drake, Manager
 RiteCare Therapy Program Director
 Children's Hospital Colorado Therapy Center, Pueblo**

"Pay It Forward"

Can a twelve year old be called a humanitarian? Does a twelve year old have the maturity to turn a bad situation into a positive experience for those less fortunate than himself?



Five years ago Michael Martinez of Pueblo had an unfortunate experience at a local pet store. A dog bit him in his face and no one in the store offered to help him. Michael required plastic surgery immediately after the bite and needs further surgery to remove scar tissue. Rather than hold a grudge, Michael has spent his time since his injury making holiday cards. He delivered 108 holiday cards to the staff and children at Children's Hospital Colorado Therapy Care, Pueblo. Thousands of his cards have been given to soldiers in Afghanistan, nursing home patients, veterans, firemen, policemen and cancer patients. In 2011 alone, Michael made 4612 cards.

Michael's motto is "pay it forward." He knows what it's like to be hurt and wants to let people know that he cares. He can be contacted at PayItForwardMM@gmail.com. Thank you, Michael for making this world a better place.

Save the Date! April 27, 2012 Children's Hospital Colorado

Annual Conference on Language and Learning *Executive Function Skills in Children and Adolescents*

Audience: This conference is designed for speech-language pathologists, learning specialists, special educators, psychologists and teachers.

Speaker: Sarah Ward, M.S., CCC-SLP, Co-Director, Cognitive Connections at The Center for Executive Function Skill Development in Lincoln, MA will be our guest speaker.

Focus: Topics will focus on practical strategies for teaching children and adolescents how to develop the executive function skills necessary for success in school and life.

Credit: ASHA credit and Adam's State College credit

More information will be coming soon regarding registration and video-conference locations.

For additional information, please e-mail the Committee:
LanguageLearningASL@childrenscolorado.org

2012 RiteCare Conference Announcement Posted at The Supreme Council, 33° Website

<http://scottishrite.org/about/philanthropy-scholarships/ritecare/>

"The Biennial RiteCare Conference will be held September 13-15, 2012 in Dallas, Texas, hosted by the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. More details available soon."

Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

The University of Colorado at Boulder

Submitted by: Anne Hyde-Smith, M.A., ECSE
CLC Director and Preschool Teacher



Child Learning Center

The Child Learning Center (CLC) at the University of Colorado at Boulder is an integral aspect of the Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences Center. Our mission is to:

- ✓ Provide a nurturing, high-quality developmentally appropriate educational program for young children with communication, cognitive, social, and/or motor challenges and their typically developing peers in the classroom.
- ✓ Foster an environment where families are supported and valued as the primary decision makers for their child's education.
- ✓ Create an early childhood practicum experience for graduate and undergraduate students in speech and language pathology, early childhood special education, and other professionals in training, as we believe that excellence in education preparation is only accomplished through exposure to exemplary practices.
- ✓ Serve as a valuable resource of research, observation, and community outreach.



A parent of a child with Down syndrome who attends the Child Learning Center recently wrote a letter stating that:

My son, Raphael, is a delightful two-year old boy who is making great developmental strides in part because he participates in the Child Learning Center. He is able to attend the program thanks to scholarship support from the Scottish Rite Foundation.

He was born with Down syndrome and an array of medical problems. We began intervention in speech and language development very early with him. He has a large sign language vocabulary and is increasing his vocalizations and word approximations with a lot of enthusiasm. It is wonderful to be able to communicate so clearly with him and for him to express himself to others.

The Child Learning Center has made a dramatic difference for him in socialization, identifying objects, and participation in toddler activities. It has been a great opportunity for him to acquire language and for me to learn how to support his further development. When he started the program, he would not let me leave his side. Now he is happily involved in the classroom, selects what he wants to play with, and interacts with the other adults and children.

With deepest appreciation,

Elizabeth

This family is just one of our Child Learning Center families who receive scholarship assistance from the Scottish Rite Foundation. We would like to thank all of you who help make this experience possible for our CLC families through your financial assistance.

Holiday Celebrations

Memorial Pediatric Rehab was excited to host its annual holiday celebrations again this year, providing patients and their families an opportunity to participate in fun activities with their favorite therapists!



In late October, children and their families dressed in costume to get their picture taken with spooky spider webs, decorate fall cookies, participate in a candy walk, make their way through an obstacle course in the sensory gym, and take part in a variety of other games and activities.



In December, patients were excited to meet with Saint Nick himself, receive a children's book (generously donated by the *Kelley Family/Schlessman Family Scottish Rite Masons Chair in Childhood Language Disorders*), and take home a holiday art project. A huge thanks to Mr. Jim Stivers and the Scottish Rite Foundation for their continued support of this fun holiday celebration!

Memorial Hospital Pediatric Rehabilitation Services

Submitted by: Deborah Camp, RiteCare Program Co-Director

A Parent's Heartfelt Gratitude to the Scottish Rite Foundation

So many families of Memorial Pediatric Rehab's patients have benefited from the generosity of the Scottish Rite Foundation! We are pleased to share this heartfelt thank-you letter from one such parent:

"To all involved with Scottish Rite Foundation,

I wanted to express my deepest gratitude to each of you for helping my child get the help that he needs. I had been trying for almost a year to get Alexander (Sandy) speech therapy. I was at the end of my hope when your organization stepped in and decided to help.

I know that Sandy will grow greatly with the loving help from his speech therapist, which you have kindly paid for her services. Thank you, so very much, for sponsoring my child. I have faith that Sandy will develop as close to normal as possible.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Holly

Memorial Continues to Expand its Feeding Program

Memorial Pediatric Rehab continues to expand its feeding program to attempt to meet the ever-growing needs of our patients and the community. Currently, Memorial's team of feeding therapists includes a developmental pediatrician, dietitians, occupational therapists, and speech language pathologists.

Memorial offers both individual sessions and group sessions for patients with oral motor delays, sensory aversions, gastrostomy tube feedings, and a variety of other feeding issues and diagnoses.



Our group sessions are based on Dr. Kay Toomey's program using the feeding allergies to help expand their food repertoire. We are grateful to have such a strong hierarchy.

We are currently running a group for children with an increased team of therapists to be able to help such a wide array of children!



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Colorado RiteCare Program Directory

<p>Children's Hospital Colorado Audiology, Speech Pathology and Learning Services 13123 E. 16th Avenue, B030 Aurora, CO 80045 Telephone: 720-777-6800 Fax: 720-777-7169 Deborah Hayes, Ph.D., Kelley Family/Schlessman Family Scottish Rite Masons Chair in Childhood Language Disorders Email: deborah.hayes@childrenscolorado.org</p>	<p>Montrose Memorial Hospital Mountain View Therapy 800 South Third Street Montrose, CO 81401 Telephone: 970-240-7369 Fax: 970-240-7306 Program Co-Director: Jeneine Stevenson Email: jstevenson@montrosehospital.com Program Co-Director: Patti Anderson Email: panderson@montrosehospital.com</p>
<p>Children's Hospital Colorado Therapy Center, Pueblo 704 Fortino Blvd. Suite A Pueblo, CO 81008 Telephone: 719-595-0829 Fax: 719-595-0832 Program Director: Martha Drake Email: martha.drake@childrenscolorado.org</p>	<p>Memorial Hospital Pediatric Rehabilitation Services 175 South Union Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80910 Telephone: 719-365-5422 Fax: 719-365-6841 Program Co-Director: Ericka Wendorf Email: Ericka.Wendorf@memorialhealthsystem.com Program Co-Director: Deborah Camp Email: Deborah.Camp@memorialhealthsystem.com</p>
<p>Children's Speech and Reading Center 1247 Riverside Ave. Ste. 4 Fort Collins, CO 80524 Telephone: 970-419-0486 Fax: 970-351-2974 Interim Program Director: Joan Larsen Email: Jolarsen5@gmail.com</p>	<p>St. Mary's Life Center Language Development Clinic 1100 Patterson Road Grand Junction, CO 81506 Telephone: 970-298-6158 Fax: 970-298-4642 Program Director: Amy Neilsen Email: Amy.Neilsen@stmarygj.org</p>
<p>Sterling Regional MedCenter Rehabilitation Services 615 Fairhurst St. Sterling, CO 80751 Telephone: 970-526-4818 Fax: 970-521-5301 Program Director: Meryl Stern Email: Meryl.stern@bannerhealth.com</p>	<p>Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center Rehabilitation Services 1100 Carson Ave. La Junta, CO 81050 Telephone: 719-383-6456 Fax: 719-383-6544 Program Director: Carol McEntyre Email: khight@avrmc.org</p>
<p>University of Northern Colorado 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 Email: kathy.fahey@unco.edu</p>	<p>University of Colorado – Boulder 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 Email: susan.moore@colorado.edu</p>
<p>Rocky Mountain SER Western Slope HeadStart Treasure Chest Program 235 N. 7th Street, Ste. A Grand Junction, CO 81591 Telephone: 970-243-9318 Fax: 970-243-9322 Treasure Chest Coordinator: Carmen Marsh Email: carmenm@rmser.org</p>	<p>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: Karen Winchester Email: egtcpinon@yahoo.com</p>