

# RITEVIEW

Fall 2018



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

## Fall Updates Letter from Chairholder

It has been an enjoyable and productive summer. In June, the Scottish Rite Foundation received applications from graduate students in speech-language pathology at the University of Colorado-Boulder and the University of Northern Colorado for the merit-based scholarship. The committee carefully reviewed the extraordinary achievements of the applicants and selected six students to receive scholarships of \$5,000 each. To date, this scholarship has provided support to 70 scholars for a total of \$350,000. Once again, these scholarships

demonstrate how committed Colorado Masons are to caring for children and families we serve both today and in the future.

This June, a new camp program was initiated, *Colorado Speaks:*

*A Camp for Teens Who Stutter.* This one-of-a-kind camp in Colorado was born out of the successfully executed Community Benefit Grant in 2017. Vern and I were pleased to visit the camp and met some extraordinary families and campers who shared their gratitude with us for such incredible learning opportunities and experiences. In addition, our talented Children’s Hospital Colorado team conducted a “Talking with Technology (TWT)” camp for children who are using augmentative/alternative communication. It has been wonderful to hear from clinicians, graduate students, and campers about their experiences. Several other successful Community Benefit Grants were also implemented and/or continued this summer, including Space Camp for children with autism at the University of Colorado, Boulder; University of Northern Colorado’s Treasure Chest Program; and several highly valued parent education programs.

The Community Benefit Grants program is a significant and highly valued program by all of us as well as the Scottish Rite Foundation Board of Trustees. The Board has approved a temporary pause in the program for 2019 to allow a programmatic timing adjustment. When implemented, this will allow more time for the development and review of the proposals. The next call for grant applications will be made in August 2019 for grants to be approved for 2020.

I enjoyed visiting our partners on the Western slope and learning more about these programs and how they have evolved. While I was in Montrose, Mountain View Therapy celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> year of RiteCare Service. It is magnificent to hear about all the care provided to families by all our speech-language pathologists and learning specialists across all 11 sites. I am so impressed by the dedication, support, and opportunities that the Scottish Rite Masons provide for children and their families with speech and language learning challenges. I encourage each program to continue sharing your successes with the Masons in your community.

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## Scottish Rite Foundation Scholarship Recipients University of Colorado-Boulder



**Amanda Castañuela** is a Colorado native and received a BA in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences at CU-Boulder. She has worked with three diagnostic teams gaining intervention experience pertaining to concussion, dyslexia, and autism spectrum disorder. Amanda plans to work in Colorado with a focus on children including the underrepresented populations.



**Tatum Gomez** is a Colorado native and received a Bachelor of Arts in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences at CU-Boulder. She has served as a speech-language pathology intern at the CLC Preschool, the Head Start Preschool, and Audiological Rehabilitation. With her bilingual skills, she plans to work with students in Colorado.



**Kelsey Wade** is from Illinois and received a BA in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences at CU-Boulder. She has worked with children in both Spanish and English. Prior to graduate school she was a Speech Language Pathology Assistant serving families including English, Spanish, and English-Spanish speakers. She plans to remain in Colorado and would like to work in either a school or home health setting.

## University of Northern Colorado



**Rebecca Autrey** is from California and has BA in Communication Sciences and Disorders from California State University at Chico. She has served as a graduate assistant and participated in the UNC Treasure Chest Program. Rebecca plans to work with children as a school-based speech-language pathologist in Colorado.



**Shyanne Heise** was raised in Colorado Springs and received a BS in Audiology and Speech-Language Sciences from UNC. She has served as a graduate assistant, volunteered at the Talking with Technology Camp, and participated in the UNC Treasure Chest Program. Shyanne plans to serve children in Colorado and eventually pursue a clinical doctorate.



**Leslee Smith** is a Colorado native and received a BS in Human Development and Family Studies from CSU and a Bachelor of Sciences in Audiology and Speech-Language Sciences at UNC. She has served as a graduate assistant and participated in the UNC Treasure Chest Program. Leslee plans on working with children in medical and educational settings in Colorado mountain towns.



# Colorado Speaks!: A Camp for Teens Who Stutter

## University of Colorado – Boulder Speech, Language and Hearing Services

On June 11-16, the second annual Colorado SPEAKS! camp for teens who stutter was held on the CU Boulder campus. This was made possible by a grant from the Scottish Rite Foundation. Fourteen young people, ages 11-17, attended the camp. It was developed in partnership with Children’s Hospital Colorado and led by Dr. Ryan Pollard, a CU-Boulder professor who stutters – an outstanding role model for the camp participants.

Stuttering, for many, is a life-long challenge. Because only 1% of the population stutters, it is not uncommon for a child who stutters to have never met another child who stutters. The camp gave these teens an opportunity to connect with other teens who stutter. It also provided their parents with a connection to other parents of children who stutter. The participants learned how to self-advocate for themselves, i.e., teach others about stuttering and dispel commonly held myths about stuttering. They also learned ways to manage their stuttered speech and build on the positive communication skills they already have. Noted changes in the teens, as self-reported at the end of camp, included an increase in overall confidence as well as a decrease on the impact stuttering had on their family and their own lives.

A few comments from parents and their teens:

### What was most helpful?

- “Just knowing it’s okay to stutter, and we aren’t alone.”
- “Feeling included, having a forum to be heard and valued.”
- “Being with other kids who stutter.”

### What else would you like us to know?

- “His confidence has improved this week, thank you!”
- “I was very impressed with the camp and the positive influence it had on my nephew!”
- “He had an amazing time and he hopes to attend the camp again next year.”



Submitted by: Dr. Ryan Pollard, CU Boulder & Stacey Bernal RiteCare Program Director, Children’s Colorado Pueblo

# Space Camp: A Social Communications Intervention Group for Children on the Autism Spectrum

University of Colorado – Boulder  
Speech, Language and Hearing Services

In June, the Scottish Rite Foundation again sponsored a camp on the CU Boulder campus for children on the autism spectrum. This camp is a social communication intervention group serving children with ASD ages 8-12 and their typically developing peers.

Space Camp utilizes an astronomy-themed curriculum in collaboration with CU's Sommers-Bausch Observatory to engage children in academic learning opportunities and social interaction. Each child with ASD brings a peer to the camp. The campers are supported in learning and interaction by graduate student clinicians in speech-language pathology.

Each child with autism made significant progress by increasing his or her level of independence in peer interaction across the course of Space Camp. In addition, other friendships began to form among the children. Several children invited each other for play dates and families exchanged contact information.



Across the last two sessions, something wondrously unexpected occurred. Several children joined together and created their own band, *The Rockin' Rockets*. Complete with dancers, a drummer, an air guitarist, and a lead singer, they performed three spontaneous songs about space for the clinicians and families at the end of camp!

A mom told us, "We saw 'A' [her daughter] grow from angry and withdrawn on the first days of Space Camp, to fully embracing the experience and even putting together an 'air band' show of camp participants on the last day. In the months since Space Camp, she has made significant progress with social and pragmatic speech skills, and we are now optimistic that we are finally on the right track with supporting her challenges."



Submitted by: University of Colorado -Boulder



Children's Speech and Reading Center (CSRC) has been proudly providing pre-literacy programs for over nine years at three different preschools in the Loveland and Fort Collins area. There is no cost to families thanks to the Scottish Rite Foundation who makes it possible for children who are at risk for reading challenges to get a head start at an early age.

CSRC is currently serving 88 four-year-olds who were identified using the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening for Preschool (PALS-PreK). Funding for the screens is also provided by the Scottish Rite Foundation at no cost to the parents. 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 pre-literacy program serves children from October through May and includes 32 weekly sessions with a maximum of four children per group session. The results have been encouraging and life changing as Valerie Backo, who re-designed and implements the program, works to make each lesson engaging, creative, and unique for the participants. All of the children being served began below the developmental standards that predict early reading success and are now above the average range. Thank you again to the Scottish Rite Foundation for your support in this important work to increase children's learning and reading success.

Submitted by: Andrea Orrison RiteCare Program Director – Children's Speech & Reading Center, Ft. Collins

### **Montrose Memorial Hospital: A Successful Summer's Work**



Montrose has been a busy place this summer. The big event was the Ice Cream social held at the pediatric clinic. The RiteCare appraisal committee members served ice cream while the Shriner clowns painted the children's faces and made balloon animals. There was a craft project available as well. Patti Anderson, the RiteCare Director, reports that it was a fun experience and it is being planned again for next summer.

In August, Patti attended the Biennial National RiteCare Conference in Los Angeles. She reports being most impressed with the 2018 Conference classes addressing current topics in speech-language pathology and expressed her thanks for the Scottish Rite Foundation's helping her to attend.

In July, Dr. Kristin Uhler, the Endowed Chair, visited the Montrose program and met with the new hospital CEO, Mr. James Kiser, the Director of Marketing/Public Relations, Leann Tobin, and the Rehab Director and the Office Manager, Martin Lutz and Misty Brant, respectively. Patti reports that it was a very informal and informational meeting.



Submitted by: Patti Anderson, RiteCare Program Director, Montrose Memorial Hospital

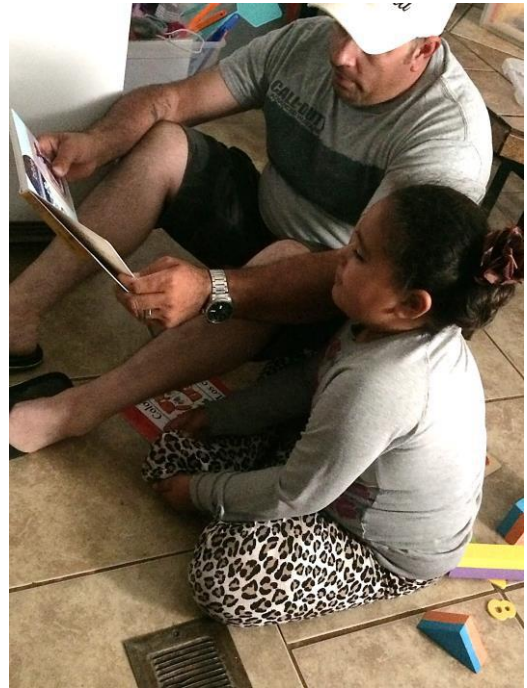
## The Piñon Project

### Treasure Chest Program

It was a goal of the Piñon Project's Treasure Chest Program this past year to expand its availability of English/Spanish Treasure Chests.

This father and daughter relocated to the Cortez area a few years ago and began using the program. At that time, the father had little to no English and the daughter had little to no Spanish. So together they have been exploring each other's language using the Treasure Chest Program.

Mom reports, "Together father and daughter enjoy every day a Spanish-Themed Treasure Chest for Preschool ages. They read books and engage in play, building a stronger relationship." They hope to continue to use the Treasure Chest boxes even as their child gets older.



Submitted by Maggie Tevault, Treasure Chest Coordinator-The Pinon Project, Cortez

## Rocky Mountain SER Western Slope Head Start

### Treasure Chest Family Spotlight

The Wichman family was one of our Treasure Chest participants during the 2017-2018 academic year. Below is the testimony that the mother, Amber, gave:



Dear Scottish Rite Foundation:

My four-year-old son Justin, participated in the Treasure Chest Program and loves it. The games and books they put together, and the activities are always educational in a way that's fun for the kids. In my opinion this is how kids learn.

My son was always so excited to get his mystery box. I gained a lot of knowledge from this program and was able to teach my son the skills he needed to enter kindergarten. I hope this program continues and I am so thankful to the ladies who made this happen. It would be awesome if the program were also available for kindergarteners. Thanks again for your support.

Amber

P.S. I have attached a piece of art work that Justin created for you.

Submitted by: Carmen Marsh, Treasure Chest Coordinator, Rocky Mountain SER Western Slope Head Start

## **Pueblo Therapy Care Center**

### **A family's Thanks**

Dear Scottish Rite Foundation,

We are so grateful for your continued support and assistance for our daughter Abilene.

She has made great progress since starting speech therapy and we are very excited for her future.

We would not be able to keep her in this program without your help and we are so appreciative!

Thank you all so much.

Sincerely,  
The Family of Abilene



**Martha Drake, SLP and Abilene**

Submitted by: Stacey Bernal RiteCare Program Director, Pueblo

## **Gunnison Valley Hospital**

### **A Family's Thanks**

"When we adopted Owen as a newborn we were made aware that there were some speech issues in his family, but we did not know exactly what. When Owen was slow to begin talking, we sought out the help of Miss Jen at Gunnison Valley Hospital.

"We started the process just trying to get Owen to say simple words so we could understand what he was trying to tell us. Now he speaks complete sentences and strangers can understand him.

"During the therapy sessions Miss Jen would help Owen and also help us to better understand how we could help him. His speech has improved so much during his time in therapy. His confidence has really improved now that he can easily communicate with others."



**Jennifer Moore, SLP and Owen**

Submitted by: Jennifer Moore, RiteCare Program Director Gunnison Valley Health



# Parent Education Program

## Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

### Printer's Park, Colorado Springs

In the last year, two AAC Parent Education Programs were conducted at Children's Colorado Therapy Care at Printer Park in Colorado Springs. This program will be conducted again this fall.

AAC Parent Education Program is for children as well as their parents and siblings who have recently received or are soon to receive their first communication device. This is a caregiver-training program designed to support families through direct instruction, hands-on activities, and group therapy sessions to use a speech-generating device.

Parents and primary caregivers learn ways to support their child's communication throughout the day. Siblings are included in one group therapy session to allow for additional support to the family in practicing the strategies during fun motivating activities. The Scottish Rite Foundation has generously supported our efforts and the families that have attended this program through scholarship funding.

We have seen excellent progress with all families that have participated in this program and families have been very thankful of the program. This is what one of the parents had to say about her experience in the program this last spring...

***"This program is a MUST for all parents new to augmentative communication. The AAC Parent Education Group in Colorado Springs helped me reduce my self-imposed barriers to using the device and my child was more receptive to using her new "voice" seeing me model. Technical device use, strategies, and practice has left us ready for more! Thank you staff at Children's Hospital Colorado and Scottish Rite for this opportunity!"***

Lani, mother of Emily



Submitted by: Autumn Hayes-Diges and Sharon Rueter



# One Young Man's Journey at Talking with Technology Camp



Carson & Lisa Martin, SLP

Talking with Technology (TWT) Camp is a weeklong program for young people ages 6 to 21 who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems. Children's Hospital Colorado contracts with Easter Seals Colorado for this week to be held each summer at its camp facility, Rocky Mountain Village (RMV), in Empire, Colorado.

In addition to campers, siblings, trainers, RMV and Children's staff, a mentor is paid to participate in camp. The mentor is typically a more advanced AAC user who can serve as a role model to the campers.

This year, we were honored to have Carson Covey, a previous camper return as our mentor. Carson is a remarkable individual and we wanted to highlight his success and experience at TWT Camp through an interview.

## How do you feel like having a voice SGD (sound generating device) has impacted your life?

I feel like having a voice is life changing. I got a device when I was four years old. I have 14 years' experience with AAC. Before I got my first device, I did not have many friends because they didn't understand me. When I got an AAC device that changed and my freedom to communicate went way up.

## What was your experience at TWT as a child?

My experience at Talking with Technology Camp as a child was so helpful. Before I went to TWT for the first time as a camper, I had Speech Therapy for Augmentative and Alternative Communication devices from Lisa Martin. When I went to Talking with Technology Camp, it was nice to have AAC therapy outdoors up in the mountains. It was nice to have a change of settings for five days. I went to TWT for three years and learned so much. After the 3rd year they said Carson you can't come back to Talking with Technology Camp anymore because you can teach this camp. They were just kidding but they did say that I pretty much had graduated and was doing so well I didn't need the help of the camp anymore.

## What was your experience at TWT as a mentor?

My experience as the Talking with Technology Camp's Mentor this year was amazing. I am now working at Jill Tullman and Associates. I am a mentor for other people that use talkers and I am now in charge of their social media. My experience at Jill Tullman and Associates helped teach me how to mentor the Talking with Technology's campers. At camp this year I found my passion for mentoring people who have Augmentative and Alternative Communication devices.

## What does camp mean to you?

What camp meant to me was eye opening. I learned you have to use different techniques for each person who has devices because they all learn differently. For some people it is easier to just ask questions, like "do you have any pets?" For other people, you just try to have a conversation with them. It was nice to work with people from all different walks of life. I can even learn from some of the campers!

## How has camp changed your life?

Talking with Technology Camp has changed my life. I'm thinking about going to school for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPA for people who have AAC devices.) I found my passion for people who have devices.

## 10 Things About Talking With Technology Camp

- 1) In 1987, Tracy Kovach, PhD, CCC-SLP, created a partnership between Children's Hospital Colorado and Easter Seals Colorado to begin Talking with Technology (TWT) Camp. The camp's start was made possible by financial support from the Scottish Rite Foundation.
- 2) TWT Camp just celebrated its 34<sup>th</sup> year of existence and has reached children and adults across the state, country, and around the world.
- 3) It provides children and young adults who rely on AAC with the opportunity to participate in a camp program (swimming, fishing, zip line, horseback riding, etc.) with their peers.
- 4) Children that use AAC spend the week with 30 of their peers, who also rely on AAC, which can be life changing.
- 5) 30 "trainers" (comprised of graduate students, SLPs in the community, OTs, paraprofessionals, and caregivers) come every year to provide therapy to the campers in a fun, natural setting. They receive an intense graduate level course throughout the week.
- 6) Trainers gain firsthand experience needed to go back to their lives/careers and advocate for other individuals who rely on AAC.
- 7) Siblings also participate in camp and can develop friendships and a support system with other siblings.
- 8) TWT provides parents with a much-deserved week of respite!
- 9) 10 Children's Hospital Colorado staff participate each year providing education, training, support, and develop programming.
- 10) TWT could not happen without the generous support of the Scottish Rite Foundation and the Rollie R. Kelley Family Foundation.



<p><b>Children’s Hospital Colorado</b>  Audiology, Speech Pathology and Learning Services  13123 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, B030  Aurora, CO 80045  Telephone: 720-777-6800 Fax: 720-777-7169  Kristin Uhler, Ph.D.  Kelley Family/Schlessman Family  Scottish Rite Masons Chair in Childhood Language Disorders  Email: <a href="mailto:kristin.uhler@childrenscolorado.org">kristin.uhler@childrenscolorado.org</a></p>	<p><b>Children’s Hospital Colorado</b>  Therapy Care at Printers Park  175 South Union Blvd. Ste. 255  Colorado Springs, CO 80910  Telephone: 719-305-8000  RiteCare Director:  Email:</p>
<p><b>Children’s Hospital Colorado Therapy Care Center, Pueblo</b>  704 Fortino Blvd., Suite A  Pueblo, CO 81008  Telephone: 719-305-8300 Fax: 719-305-9723  RiteCare Program Director: Stacey Bernal  Email: <a href="mailto:Stacey.Bernal@childrenscolorado.org">Stacey.Bernal@childrenscolorado.org</a></p>	<p><b>St. Mary’s Life Center</b>  Language Development Clinic  1100 Patterson Road  Grand Junction, CO 81506  Telephone: 970-298-6158 Fax: 970-298-4642  RiteCare Program Director: Amy Neilsen  Email: <a href="mailto:Amy.Neilsen@sclhs.net">Amy.Neilsen@sclhs.net</a></p>
<p><b>Gunnison Valley Hospital</b>  Pediatric Rehabilitation  711 N. Taylor Street  Gunnison, CO 81230  Telephone: 970-641-7248 Fax: 970-641-7216  RiteCare Program Director: Jen Moore  Email: <a href="mailto:JMoore@gvh-colorado.org">JMoore@gvh-colorado.org</a></p>	<p><b>Montrose Memorial Hospital</b>  Mountain View Therapy  800 South Third Street  Montrose, CO 81401  Telephone: 970-240-7369 Fax: 970-240-7306  RiteCare Program Director: Patti Anderson  Email: <a href="mailto:panderson@montrosehospital.com">panderson@montrosehospital.com</a></p>
<p><b>Children’s Speech and Reading Center</b>  1330 Oakridge Drive  Fort Collins, CO 80524  Telephone: 970-419-0486 Fax: 970-221-5751  Executive Director – Dave Boone  RiteCare Program Director: Andrea Orrison  Email: <a href="mailto:andrea@csrckids.org">andrea@csrckids.org</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: 303-492-3068 Fax: 303-492-3274  RiteCare Program Director: Alison Lemke  Email: <a href="mailto:alison.lemke@colorado.edu">alison.lemke@colorado.edu</a></p>
<p><b>University of Northern Colorado</b>  Audiology and Speech Language Sciences  Gunter Hall, Campus Box 140  Greeley, CO 80639-0486  Telephone: 970-351-1084 Fax: 970-351-2974  RiteCare Program Director: Kimberly Murza  Email: <a href="mailto:kimberly.murza@unco.edu">kimberly.murza@unco.edu</a></p>	<p><b>The Piñon Project</b>  Treasure Chest Program  300 N. Elm Street (PO BOX 1510)  Cortez, CO 81321  Telephone: 970-564-1195 Fax: 970-564-9011  Treasure Chest Coordinator: Maggie Tevault  Email: <a href="mailto:mtevault@pinonproject.org">mtevault@pinonproject.org</a></p>
<p><b>Rocky Mountain SER Western Slope Head Start</b>  Treasure Chest Program  685 W. Gunnison Avenue, Unit 111  Grand Junction, CO 81591  Telephone: 970-243-9318 Fax: 970-243-9322  Treasure Chest Coordinator: Carmen Marsh  Email: <a href="mailto:carmenm@rmser.org">carmenm@rmser.org</a></p>	