

RITEVIEW

Winter 2018



Table of Contents

Letters	1
Chairholder Update	1
Scottish Rite Foundation.....	2
Updates	3
UNC	3
St. Mary's Hospital.....	4
Pueblo Therapy Care.....	5
Montrose Memorial Hospital...	5
The Piñon Project.....	6
Gunnison Valley Hospital.....	6
Learning Services – Dyslexia..	7
Letters from Families.....	9



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

Happy New Year, it is hard to believe that 2019 is here! Each new year brings a wonderful reminder and opportunity to reflect on the past year.

I feel this year's reflection can better be stated by Eckhart Tolle than myself; "Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation of abundance."

I am thankful to each of you for the remarkable services provided by you each day!

We are fortunate to work with such talented and skilled speech-language pathologists, learning therapists, and early interventionists.

I am left with an abundant feeling of gratitude for the Scottish Rite Foundation's Board of Trustees and Vern Ingraham's dedication to serving families and children in the state of Colorado, as well as the twenty Masons around the State who serve on the Foundation's Appraisal Committees. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with you and to hear the delightful stories shared by the families you serve with your clinical expertise, time, and dedication. As you will read in this RiteView issue, clinicians have become very creative in their service to busy, working families, through camp programs, parent education programs in the evening, and who have children who attend daycare programs across the state.

I hope this issue of the RiteView leaves you with the same joy as it has me. I am appreciative of all the professional and personal stories shared. These heartwarming stories of endurance and strength ignite the fiery passion of our mission to serve the children with speech, language and learning challenges and their families in the state of Colorado. I look forward to continuing to work and grow these programs together as we all strive to improve the services we provide for the children and families throughout the state. This issue of the *RiteView* is packed with wonderful articles highlighting the meaningful work that each Center conducts throughout the year. I look forward to sharing updates next time about the Annual Report and Community Benefit outcomes in the next issue. As always, thanks for your dedication and work in our mission of serving children and their families.

“2018 Reflections”

**Vernon B. Ingraham, 33° Grand Cross
Executive Secretary, Scottish Rite Foundation**

In reflecting on your work over the past year, I sum it up simply by quoting from Masonic ritual in saying “Well done thou good and faithful servant.” Each precious client you work with presents a unique personality and set of communication-related issues. While there are basic protocols you follow, you do so by tailoring your work to each child. And you work with the parent or guardian in helping them understand how they can help their child. I have the highest regard and respect for each of you. I have some thoughts about this work which I’ll convey in the context of the camp programs which we supported in 2018.

At Children’s Hospital I attended a parent education program designed to help parents and teachers better understand dyslexia and the best practices that are most effective. I was more than impressed with the teens who participated and role played during the program. I learned so much from them. Now I have vivid mind pictures which help retain the learning. The Learning Services staff at Children’s Hospital which planned and implemented these sessions did an outstanding job.

At CU-Boulder Dr. Kristin Uhler and I attended a session of the Colorado SPEAKS Camp, a joint program of CU-Boulder and Children’s Hospital. This camp is the only day-camp program in Colorado serving young teens who stutter. I spoke with some of the campers as well as having an interesting conversation with Dr. Ryan Pollard, the CU Professor who had the vision for creating this opportunity for young teens who stutter. The planners and implementers of this camp deserve a hearty well done.

While in Boulder I also attended a session of the Social Communications Space Camp, a camp designed for young children on the Autism Spectrum. This was my second year in visiting with the graduate students and professors who conduct this camp. I had lunch with the students and, as with last year, marveled at how a telescope and an astronomer, Mr. Fabio Mezzalira, can reach out to these youngsters by enabling them to reach for the stars. It was a humbling and engaging experience.

My final highlight is the remarkable work at UNC being done in helping young children communicate. Dr. Kimberly Murza, the UNC RiteCare Director, seized an opportunity and took a bold step in implementing the Treasure Chest Program on a trial basis. I spoke with several graduate students who participate in this program. They told me what it meant to the families and what it means to them. My colleague, Foundation Trustee Tom Magnuson, and I also visited the off-campus SEVA House in Greeley where the students work with the kids and parents. When he and I parted company that day, we both left impressed and humbled by what we had seen and heard.

Each of you - whether a speech-language pathologist, learning specialist, or audiologist - are serving a cause greater than yourself. There are many more examples I could highlight, but this is sufficient for my purpose. You are Reaching Out, Lifting Up – helping children communicate. You are helping to make the world for so many children and their families a better place for them to live in by serving them. It is a privilege for the Scottish Rite to play a part by helping you.

You serve a great cause, the most important one we have – the children.

Submitted by: Vern Ingraham, Executive Secretary, Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado

University of Northern Colorado

Community Engaged Scholars Symposium

On October 30, 2018, the work of the Scottish Rite Foundation was recognized with three awards. First, Vern Ingraham was awarded the Community Partner Award for his continued support of UNC's SLP Program and specifically his role in the Treasure Chest Program. Kim Murza, the UNC Scottish Rite Director, was awarded the Community Engaged Faculty Award for her work coordinating the Treasure Chest Program, and three of our graduate students, Anna Momchilov, Rebecca Autrey, and Shyanne Heise, were awarded the Graduate Student Award for their work as graduate assistants for the Treasure Chest Program and the Project Ready Program in Greeley.



People in the photo left to right:

Dr. Kristin Uhler, Vern Ingraham, Dr. Kim Murza, Anna Momchilov, Shyanne Heise, Rebecca Autrey, Tina Farrell (UNC Clinic Coordinator), Araceli Calderón (Centennial BOCES Migrant Education Program), Mary Ellen Good (Centennial BOCES Migrant Education Program), Terri Pappa (SEVA Community)

Submitted by: Dr. Kim Murza, RiteCare Program Director, University of Northern Colorado

St. Mary's Hospital

A Very Rewarding Year Wrapped Up with a Delightful Christmas Party

St. Mary's Speech therapy program has had a very busy year. We increased the number of children receiving Scottish Rite assistance from a total number of 55 in 2017 to the current number of 67 children in 2018. The children participated in individual and/or group therapy, based upon their individual need.

We also completed our parent education programs, which were offered free of charge to our community, thanks to the Scottish Rite Foundation's financial support. Topics included: Literacy, Early Play, the Foundation for Language Development, Executive Function, Feeding our Children, and Using Games to Teach Language.

Amy attended the National Rite Care Conference in Los Angeles, this past August, once again with the assistance of the Scottish Rite Foundation. The conference not only provides quality educational programs but also offers an excellent opportunity to network with other therapists and learn about their programs and delivery models.

The year wrapped up with our annual Christmas Party, which was breakfast with Santa. And what a party it was! We had approximately 265 attendees, the most we have ever had in attendance. Everyone had pancakes, ham, juice, and coffee. The Shrine Clowns created balloon animals, swords, crowns, unicorns, or whatever the child requested. Each child went "candy cane" fishing, colored pictures and could get Christmas tattoos. And most importantly each child had the opportunity to visit with Santa Claus, who provided them with a special book.

The kindness and generosity of the Scottish Rite Foundation and the sparkling eyes of the children made us all aware of the true meaning of Christmas.



Submitted by: Amy Neilsen, RiteCare Program Director – St. Mary's Hospital, Grand Junction

Spotlight on Pueblo Therapy Care & Scottish Rite Foundation

Recently, Pueblo's speech therapy program was highlighted in an article Spotlight On Pueblo Therapy Care in the Children's Hospital Employee Website. The following is taken from that article, which shines a light on the importance of the Scottish Rite Foundation for the children of Southern Colorado that are seen for speech therapy services:

"At the southern-most edge of Children's Colorado's Network of Care lies the smallest operation within our organization, the Pueblo Therapy Care clinic. There are ten team members including seven speech therapists, one learning therapist and two patient-family service specialists. Many of the patients seen at the clinic wouldn't be able to afford these services if it wasn't for a unique funding program. The Scottish Rite Foundation focuses on helping children with communication disorders which are frequently not covered by insurance. The foundation's funding makes it possible for most parents to afford speech therapy for their children. Co-pays range from \$5 to \$400. A family applies for the finding, and then a copay is assigned that the family qualifies for. This funding provides life-changing therapy for kids!"

Submitted by: Stacey Bernal RiteCare Program Director – Pueblo Therapy Care

Montrose Memorial Hospital Program and Event Updates!

Thanks to the Community Benefit Grant provided by the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado we completed speech/language screenings at the local private preschools in the community. This is a service that has not been provided in the past, and one that could become a yearly tradition. The screening will help with early identification of children with speech/language delays that otherwise might not be identified until the children are enrolled in the public school system. Our program is fortunate to be sponsored by such a generous and supportive organization as the Scottish Rite Foundation. Thanks for all you allow us to do.

Our pediatric speech/language/literacy program continues to have a busy schedule. Our clinic is closed on Fridays on a trial basis, that leaves only four days to schedule appointments for therapy and evaluations. We look forward to the new year and all the new adventures and educational opportunities it might allow.

The RiteCare program at Mountain View Rehab in Montrose Memorial Hospital had a wonderful turn-out of excited children for the "Snacks with Santa" event in early December. Thanks so much to our "Santa," Brother Franklin is a natural. We provided snacks, crafts, clowns with balloons, and, of course, Santa. My Appraisal Committee members continue to be helpful and supportive in all our endeavors. I appreciate them so much.



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

The Piñon Project Treasure Chest Program

The Pinon Project Family Resource Center's Early Childhood Programs held their 5th Annual Pajama Party and Family Literacy Night on Thursday, December 13th. Over 60 individuals attended for a night of pancakes, holiday craft activities and a quick lesson on interactive reading. Pictured is ECP Staff BryAnne Goddard who read *The Mitten* by Jan Brett, one of our favorite books featured in our Wintertime themed treasure chest. Each family who attended received a copy of the book to take home and read together.



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

Gunnison Valley Hospital – Program Update

Gunnison Valley Hospital has been offering free speech and language screenings at preschool/daycares in our valley. Families have been given results, and if therapy is recommended and the family has pursued therapy, it is provided by Gunnison Valley Hospital at their child's daycare facility.

Families have been grateful and appreciative of this opportunity as well as the daycare staff and directors. This has allowed children to get the services they need quickly, and parents can continue working without having to take time off. Parents have reported that this process has been much quicker and more accessible, and they love the weekly communication provided between therapist, home and the teacher. Parents have even come into the daycare to meet the Speech-Language Pathologist and learn how to implement the strategies and cues at home. Children have made quick progress and love getting the attention and help that they need to communicate with their peers, teachers, family member, and friends.

We look forward to continuing this collaboration and partnership in the future.



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

Community Benefit Grant – Dyslexia 101

For the past 4 years Learning Services has hosted two series of 4 nights focused on dyslexia, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Learning specialists from Children’s Hospital Colorado present most current information to families, teachers, and community members. Each night focuses on a different topic related to dyslexia.

Dyslexia 101 (held on April 12, 2018 and September 20, 2018):

- Definition of dyslexia
- Facts and myths about dyslexia
- Best practice for helping a child with dyslexia
- Open table setting for discussion and questions

Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)/504 Plans (held on April 19, 2018 and September 27, 2018):

- The process and components of a 504 Plan
- The difference between and IEP and 504 Plan
- Helpful things to know before attending a meeting at school
- Suggestions on working with the school to get appropriate accommodations and interventions for your child

Self-Advocacy (held on April 26, 2018 and October 11, 2018):

- Individual power points to promote self-advocacy
- Methods for talking with teachers about your dyslexia and your needs
- Personal stories and advice from the YES! Ambassadors

Assistive Technology (held on May 3, 2018 and October 18, 2018):

- YES! Ambassadors demonstrate different assistive technology that works for students with dyslexia.

These nights could not be offered without the generous support of the Scottish Rite Masons. Community members are so grateful these nights are offered as there is not a lot of accurate information related to dyslexia readily available.

A few comments left by attendees:

“I could never tell what the real science was before. I now feel less overwhelmed about how to proceed.”

“My daughter will have a great life and that she can do anything.”

“I think the ambassador’s examples were great, especially to hear it from a kid’s perspective.”

Things to Know About Dyslexia

- Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is **neurological in origin**. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition, by poor spelling, and decoding abilities. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. (National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD))
- These difficulties typically result from **deficits in the phonological component** of language that is often **unexpected** in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction.
- 15 to 20% of all individuals are dyslexic.
- Indicators (all those with some or all of these characteristics may not be dyslexic)
 - **Family history** of literacy difficulty
 - Slight (several month) **delay** in beginning to **speak** and in progressing to the use of phrases
 - Difficulties with **pronunciation** of many words after five or six years of age
 - **Insensitivity to rhyme** in early childhood (i.e. inability to recite nursery rhymes or to identify rhymes)
 - Failure or delay in acquiring the ability to learn the **names and sounds of the letters** of the alphabet.
 - **Confusion of words** that sound alike (i.e. tornado/volcano)
 - Frequent usage of **imprecise words** (i.e. stuff, things, etc.)
 - Tendency to “**talk around**” a word by describing it with indirect words
 - **Difficulty memorizing** information particularly **math facts**
 - Speech littered with **hesitations or pauses**
 - Difficulty with **articulation**
 - **Avoidance** of public speaking or reading
 - Use of **word substitutions** while reading (i.e. car of automobile)
 - **Difficulty reading small function words** (i.e. in, on, the, that, an)
 - **Inability to read fluently** (Hesitant and choppy rhythm of reading, with words omitted or misspoken)
 - **Poor spelling**
 - Highly **variable performance on exams**, with time as a strong predictor of performance.
 - **Poor handwriting**
- Dyslexia is NOT
 - Reading backwards/seeing letters backwards
 - Difficulty understanding orally presented information or a comprehension problem
 - Helped by vision therapy* (According to a Joint Statement with the American Academy of Pediatrics)
- “We human beings were never born to read; we invented reading and then we have to teach it to every new generation. Each new reader comes to reading with a "fresh" brain: one that is programmed to speak, see, and think, but not to read. Reading requires the brain to rearrange its original parts to learn something new”. Maryanne Wolf , Proust and the Squid, 2007

University of Colorado - Boulder

A Family's Thanks

Dear Scottish Rite Foundation,

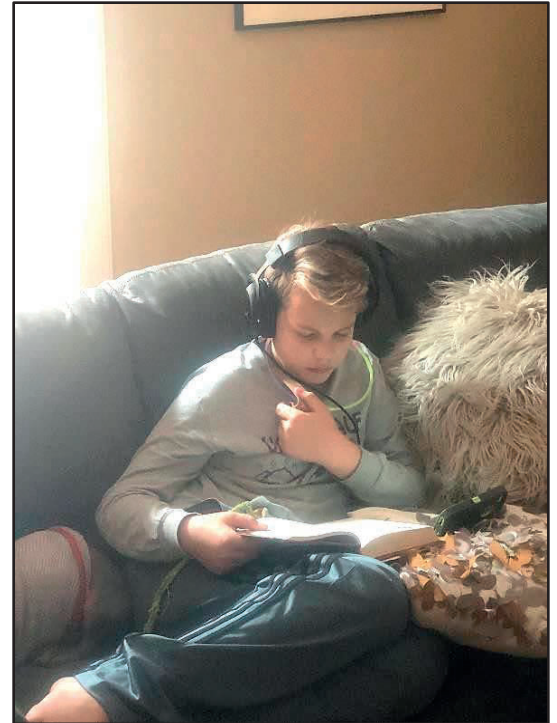
It is with profound thanks that we write this letter. With your assistance, our son Grayson has been able to attend the Write On program at the University of Colorado Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences center. This program has transformed Grayson's reading and writing abilities.

After struggling in school for some time, Grayson was diagnosed with Dyslexia in 2016. Reading and writing were an absolute chore to him and in no way enjoyable. He was anxious about attending school and our family was finding it difficult to secure adequate help in our area that wasn't cost prohibitive. Our oldest daughter has Type I Diabetes. She was diagnosed in 2005. Our family's out of pocket medical costs are astronomical. When faced with the choice of management and treatment of her T1D and Grayson's dyslexia, dyslexia treatment falls by the wayside. Thanks to the Scottish Rite Foundation, this is not the case this year.

The CU Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences center has helped Grayson improve his reading and writing in ways we never thought possible. He was the only kid in his class this year that could accurately identify the root of a word. He also proudly finished reading The Hunger Games book series on his own and is finally excited about bringing home books from the library. Thank you for your support and making this possible.

Best regards, The Family of Grayson

Submitted by: Shelley Shepcock – CU Boulder



Rocky Mountain SER Western Slope Head Start

A Family's Thanks

The family was one of our Treasure Chest participants during the 2018-2019 academic year. Alexis has three girls two of them are receiving speech therapy in our school. Below is the testimony from the mother:

Dear Scottish Rite Foundation:

I just wanted to express that the Treasure Chest Program is very beneficial to my three girls. They love getting the activities and books, they enjoy it and I enjoy doing the activities with them. It has become a family activity that they learn from while having a great time. We look forward to receiving a new tub each month. I am so thankful for the Treasure Chest Program.

Thank you for what you do. Alexis



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

A Family's Thanks – University of Northern Colorado

Jace was a shy two-year-old who was confused and frustrated when he tried to communicate. His family knew he was a wonderful, intelligent, sweet little boy who needed extra help. They didn't want to "wait and wonder" any longer. His parents spent way too many sleepless nights researching what could possibly be troubling his ability to speak. It was a gut-wrenching realization that their little boy needed help, and he needed it fast.

Fortunately, his older siblings were experts at interpreting for him, so the family managed at home the best they could. They also incorporated baby sign language to help reduce all of family frustration. However, they knew it was imperative for their family to encourage him with professional help as soon as possible. His parents knew in their heart that they simply couldn't wait any longer.

He began to participate at UNC's Speech and Audiology TALP program (Talking and Listening Program for Preschoolers) at two years 10 months. He was young. His parents knew it was a lot for him, and anticipated a tired boy in the fall, when he added preschool to this new routine. However, through all their research, they knew they had to give him the best chance at speaking, which meant to begin early.

Jace worked in a private and a group setting two times per week at UNC. It was tough at first. He struggled with being in the therapy room without his parents. Most sessions began with tears. After a few weeks, he'd finally start going to therapy without much of a fight. Once he finally got comfortable with a therapist, it was time to transition to a new one. His mother dreaded having to explain to him why he had to start with a new therapist every semester. It was very difficult.

Despite all the tears and initial lack of interest to attend TALP, Jace gradually began to look forward to attending the program. His parents called it the "UNC preschool". It became his favorite "school" to attend! It got to the point where he wished he could go to UNC daily. A fine and welcome change began blossoming in their young boy.

Jace began to joke with his therapists, and was able to articulate what he was thinking. His therapists and family members began to understand what he was saying. It was incredible. His parents and siblings learned new techniques while observing his sessions. A light began to turn on. Jace was becoming a funny and joyful little boy, who wasn't afraid to try to talk. In fact, he was becoming a chatterbox. His family couldn't believe the change.

This new transformation was received by his family and teachers with such relief, hope, and joy. Jace was a new kid. He spent less time frustrated and more time engaging with his loved ones. One day he grabbed his mother's cell phone, and said, "turn off cellular data", and Siri actually understood what he said! The poor kid had tried to talk to Siri for years, like his older siblings, and never could get the phone to understand his voice. His mother wept tears of joy when she heard Siri say, "OK, I turned off Cellular Data". Her son was finally understood.

Jace's family is so grateful for the time & expertise that the clinicians and supervisors have poured into him over the years. Various clinicians took the extra step to work closely with his teachers and speech therapists at his preschool. This helped bridge the two programs he was involved in to help him be as successful as possible. He also has made some very special friendships with his TALP classmates.

All of the clinicians and supervisors have been good, and most, have been absolutely spectacular. They bring great energy, talent and drive to the program. The UNC TALP journey has revealed so much promise and hope for the bright and vibrant five-year-old. Jace has turned a new leaf. He is social, and has transformed into a confident little boy that isn't afraid to say something that may not be understood. His family simply cannot imagine their lives without all the progress he has made at UNC. A BIG thank you to the **Scottish Rite Foundation** for helping Jace and our entire family, as well as all the students and staff that have invested their time to help him!

Jessica (Jace's mom)



Submitted by: Dr. Kim Murza, RiteCare Program Director, University of Northern Colorado

<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 Kristin Uhler, Ph.D. Kelley Family/Schlessman Family Scottish Rite Masons Chair in Childhood Language Disorders Email: kristin.uhler@childrenscolorado.org</p>	<p>Children’s Hospital Colorado Therapy Care at Printers Park 175 South Union Blvd. Ste. 255 Colorado Springs, CO 80910 Telephone: 719-305-8000 RiteCare Director: Email:</p>
<p>Children’s Hospital Colorado Therapy Care Center, Pueblo 704 Fortino Blvd., Suite A Pueblo, CO 81008 Telephone: 719-305-8300 Fax: 719-305-9723 RiteCare Program Director: Stacey Bernal Email: Stacey.Bernal@childrenscolorado.org</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 RiteCare Program Director: Amy Neilsen Email: Amy.Neilsen@sclhs.net</p>
<p>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: JMoore@gvh-colorado.org</p>	<p>Montrose Memorial Hospital Mountain View Therapy 800 South Third Street Montrose, CO 81401 Telephone: 970-240-7369 Fax: 970-240-7306 RiteCare Program Director: Patti Anderson Email: panderson@montrosehospital.com</p>
<p>Children’s Speech and Reading Center 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: andrea@csrckids.org</p>	<p>University of Colorado – Boulder Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences 2501 Kittredge Loop Road – Campus Box 409 Boulder, CO 80309-0409 Telephone: 303-492-3068 Fax: 303-492-3274 RiteCare Program Director: Alison Lemke Email: alison.lemke@colorado.edu</p>
<p>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: Kimberly Murza Email: kimberly.murza@unco.edu</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: Maggie Tevault Email: mtevault@pinonproject.org</p>
<p>Rocky Mountain SER Western Slope Head Start 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: carmenm@rmser.org</p>	

Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado
1370 Grant Street
Denver, Colorado 80203

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DENVER, CO
PERMIT NO. 2393