

RITEVIEW

Winter 2022



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

Every March, I find myself eager for winter to end and for spring to begin. As each of you likely experiences, the first two months of the new year are busy. A quote by James Allen, “No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks,” reminds me to pause and refocus on what matters most. I am thankful to each of you for the remarkable services provided by you each day! We are fortunate to work with talented speech-language pathologists, learning therapists, and early interventionists. I am left with an incredible feeling of gratitude for the Scottish Rite Foundation’s Board of Trustees and L. Bryant Harris’ 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. Unfortunately, again this year, due to COVID, we could not have an in-person annual board meeting, but we recorded it for your viewing, see QR codes for the meeting and the new websites.

Annual Meeting QR



RiteCareCO.org



ScottishRiteFoundation.org



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We are optimistic that next year we can be together in-person to share the accomplishments and express our gratitude to the Scottish Rite Foundation. 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, virtual camp programs, parent education programs, and parent stories. 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. As always, thanks for your dedication and work in our mission of serving children and their families.

Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado Update

Children in our rural communities need better access to speech pathology services. Families need to know that there is great hope for children who receive early intervention for their speech and learning difficulties.

The last two years have been an obvious challenge. RiteCare partners across the state have risen to that challenge. They have been creative in finding ways to augment existing services in existing locations. The talent and passion of our service providers up and down the front range and western slope is extraordinary. The University of Northern Colorado and University of Colorado Boulder are graduating excited and well-prepared new Speech Language Pathologists. The Treasure Chest programs are reaching out to families in unprecedented ways to ensure families are ready for the next steps in their children's developmental lives.

Last year I was finally able to begin limited travel to visit clinics and it was eye opening. I was not surprised by the wonderful clinicians, administrators, and volunteers I met. Working with you all remotely has shown me what amazing people you are. What was eye opening was the distances between our service providers. Distances that children and families, if they seek assistance, must overcome to receive help.

I traveled to Limon late this fall to speak to a hospital administrator about how the Scottish Rite Foundation could help in the communities that his system served. It became quickly apparent that the Scottish Rite Foundation has built a successful model serving high-density populations. However, we are going to need to get creative if we want to ensure that children, from boarder to board in the state of Colorado, can have access to the speech and learning services, which we believe are so critical for early childhood development.

Many of the graduate students who apply for the *Dwight A. Hamilton Scottish Rite Foundation Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology* express an interest in working with rural communities. If those interests are to be met, they are going to need a place to land. Just as there is a large physical distance between our more urban clinics, there is a large practical distance between the way the Scottish Rite Foundation has provided support to urban populations and the support needs of Colorado's children in more sparsely populated regions.

This coming year, I hope to learn more about the unique needs of the communities we are not yet reaching. We have only just begun to scratch the surface in understanding the challenges presented in reaching the four corners of our state. Solving this problem will require the same creativity our existing RiteCare partners have exhibited in the last two years. I look forward to the ongoing conversations on how the Scottish Rite Foundation can improve our reach.



Submitted by: L. Bryant Harris, 32° Knight Commander of the Court of Honor
Executive Secretary, Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado

In the Spotlight at the University of Northern Colorado— Kim Murza, PhD, CCC-SLP Interviewed by Lisa Powers



Lisa: Tell me a little about yourself.

Kim: I grew up in Florida and went to the University of Central Florida. I initially wanted to be a teacher and then found the SLP profession and really enjoyed it. I earned my Master's degree and worked with children privately for a couple of years. I worked in public schools in Orlando for another two years but loved learning.

So, I went back and got my PhD from the University of Central Florida with a focus on language and literacy; my dissertation research focused on an intervention for inference generation with autistic adults. My first job with my PhD was at the University of Northern Colorado. I have been here for nine years. I have taught language, research, and phonetics courses and served as graduate coordinator for a few years. On January 3 of this year, I took on a new position in the College of Natural and Health Sciences. I am now the Associate Dean of Research and Faculty Affairs. I am excited to learn about other disciplines and what our faculty does. I have a husband and two kids, and we live in Greeley. We love Colorado and the outdoors, especially hiking and camping.

Lisa: What is the most valuable lesson you try to impart on your speech-language pathology students?

Kim: The last several years, I served on the Colorado Department of Education speech-language advisory board and focused on social engagement and communication. We work to coach para educators, Special Educators, and SLPs to focus on engagement versus compliance. I hope to impart this to students. Language isn't as black and white as other areas in our field and there are many opportunities to be creative. I want to help them develop problem solving skills and realize it's okay to not have all the answers. I want them to figure out what kind of SLP they want to be and focus on what they want.

Lisa: What do you find most rewarding in the work that you do?

Kim: Prior to my new role, I have loved teaching graduate students. They are so inspiring, motivated, and just amazing human beings. Our students must fight to get into this graduate program, and their passion is amazing. I learn so much from them.

**Submitted by: Lisa Powers, Associate Clinical Manager
Children's Hospital Colorado**

Lisa: How has the Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF) impacted the care you/your clinic provide?

Kim: It's amazing what they do through their support of clients in clinic that otherwise would not get services. They have been with us through the pandemic and our pivot to tele-therapy, which has allowed us to reach even more families. The highlight of my career has been building the Greeley Treasure Chest program. SRF has been there every step of the way and is so supportive. This program allows us to better connect with our community and work collaboratively with the Weld county Nurse Family Partnership Program, United Way, and SEVA Community. The training opportunity this provides for students is unique. I don't see many other university programs teach students how to coach families. The Treasure Chest Program is modeled after Early Intervention. Students take the EI course and while in the course get to coach families and apply what they are learning during that semester. It's so much fun to see how students' confidence completely changes over the course of one semester! Students learn they have a lot to offer and see themselves as a clinician and capable by the end of the semester.

Lisa: If you could spend time outdoors with some of the SRF Masons, what would you do?

Kim: We love Rocky Mountain National Park as a family, so I would love to take them to Bear Lake. We also have property in Glen Haven, and I would love to take them out there and sit around a fire, camp, and enjoy the beauty!

Lisa: And what would you want to say to the SRF Masons?

Kim: I don't think "Thank You" is powerful enough. I want them to know the impact they have had on me personally is immeasurable. They have allowed me to build something I love! They have impacted so many people through the Treasure Chest program (students, professors, colleagues, and families) and that experience then impacts other families. Families have told us how this program has helped them better understand, support, and interact with their child. They have changed the lives of countless children in Colorado. So grateful!

Lisa: What's next for the UNC program?

Kim: We are excited because Dr. Caitlin Raaz will now be the SRF Director and leading the Treasure Chest program. She started at UNC in January 2020 and is an amazing educator, SLP, and researcher, who is going to bring new ideas and insights to the program. I'm excited for her to take it on and make it her own. Caitlin has great early intervention experience and part of her research involves using ultrasound technology for remediating speech sounds, such as stubborn /r/. Her knowledge and research will bring a lot of opportunities that we can offer to clients in our community. She's amazing! I'm excited to see how the program develops under her leadership.

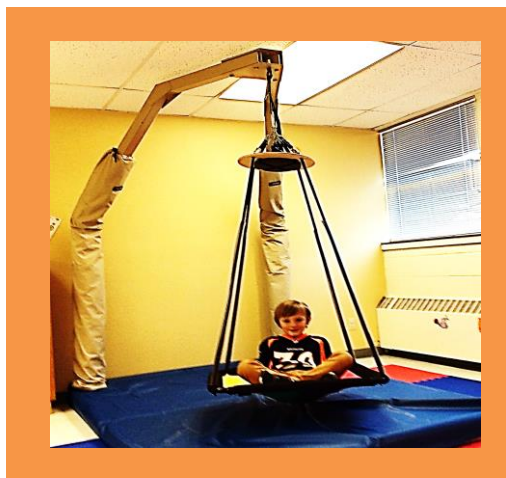
Program Updates - Montrose Regional Health

In 2021, the Montrose pediatric program was the recipient of a generous financial gift from an anonymous donor. We were allowed to choose one piece of equipment for the clinic. The choice was a freestanding swing for the group speech/language therapy room. This has been a fun and helpful addition to our therapy sessions. Swinging can assist with mood regulation. It allows the children to experience the calming effect of the swing's movement or the elevation of arousal with spinning. Swinging can decrease fidgeting and improve concentration for tasks and increase language usage. It is also very motivating for most of our kiddos. We are very thankful for this special gift.

In other hospital news, Montrose Memorial Hospital has rebranded to "Montrose Regional Health". Jeff Mengershausen is our new CEO.

We continue to follow our hospital's guidelines for Covid including wearing masks and taking temperatures.

Submitted by Patti Anderson, RiteCare Program Director Montrose



Program Updates – University of Northern Colorado

The UNC SLP Program successfully completed another Fall semester, which included the return of in-person sessions for the Greeley Treasure Chest Program. We continued to offer sessions via telepractice for families who preferred a virtual option, but were thrilled to be able to offer in-person sessions again. Our first-year students will continue to participate in the Treasure Chest Program in the spring semester and are excited to work with many new families in the coming months. The feedback we have received from families who have participated in the program demonstrates the substantial impact this program has had on the community thanks to the generous support of the Scottish Rite Foundation. Here are a few quotes from families who participated in the Fall of 2021:

- *"We are so grateful for the opportunity to participate in this program. Receiving services for [my child] during the pandemic has been a struggle and the support we have received through the Treasure Chest program has been phenomenal. [My child] is talking more and more every day!"*
- *"Thank you for all you have done to work with [my child]. He loves coming to meet with you all and has so much fun playing with his Treasure Chest items."*
- *"Hayley [graduate student] was such a pleasure to work with. She provided us with resources and strategies that we are able to incorporate every day. [My child] is using so many new words and I feel like I understand how to help her communicate. Thank you*

Submitted by Caitlin Raaz, RiteCare Program Director University Northern Colorado

The Colorado Speaks Day Camp

“Stuttering is a speech disorder that can negatively impact a child’s self-esteem, confidence and connection to peers. Everyday situations like ordering food, asking a store clerk a question, and speaking in class are considered easy for most kids but are often frustrating or embarrassing for those who stutter. Speech therapy can certainly help, but often time’s young people who stutter also need to know that they are not alone in their struggles. That’s why summer camps for kids who stutter can be so beneficial; camps can provide a welcoming space to gain confidence and a positive self-image by building kids’ communication skills while connecting with others who understand what they’re going through.

Colorado Speaks is a weeklong day camp for adolescents who stutter that has been held annually on the CU Boulder campus since 2017. It is the first of its kind in the state, created through a collaboration between the CU Speech, Language and Hearing Center (SLHC), Children’s Hospital, and Friends, a local non-profit for children who stutter. Within a supportive and fun environment, campers interact with others who stutter and participate in activities that help them build confidence, better manage their stuttering, and communicate more effectively. In past years, campers have come from across the Front Range as well as from nearby states. Many children from traditionally underserved communities have been able to attend due to the Scottish Rite’s generous contributions. We are excited to continue our partnership with Scottish Rite and offer an engaging and fun camp experience again this summer!

The Colorado Speaks day camp is under the direction of speech pathologist Ryan Pollard, Ph.D. His area of expertise is stuttering and other fluency disorders. He teaches undergraduate and graduate students at CU Boulder and works with people who stutter in the SLHC. If you are interested in learning more about the Colorado Speaks day camp, please contact Dr. Pollard at Ryan.Pollard@Colorado.edu “

University of Colorado Boulder – Program Updates



Speech and Language Diagnostic Services

The Speech Language Hearing Clinic (SLHC) at the University of Colorado Boulder offers comprehensive speech and language services for children of all ages. Speech Pathologist Dr. Daniel Haught supervises Master’s level speech -language pathology students and works with families to complete diagnostic sessions for school-aged clients at the clinic. In this role, “Dr. Dan” assists families who have concerns about their child’s speech/language, but may not have been able to access services through their school district or private insurance. This service is valuable to parents if they have questions or concerns about their child’s language development, but have not had the opportunity to find complete and concise answers about exactly what speech and language processes are difficult for their child. Working with a team of students, we can provide comprehensive speech/language assessments to school-age children.

Submitted by: Alison Lemke, RiteCare Program Director and Dr. Ryan Pollard, Speech Language Pathologist, CU Boulder



How It All Began

The Children's Speech and Reading Center (CSRC) is Northern Colorado's only 501(c)(3) nonprofit speech-language, reading and pre-literacy therapy provider. Next year will be our 30th anniversary. How did it all begin?

The CSRC started as a small, reduced-fee service in 1993 when Colorado State University closed its graduate speech and audiology program and on-campus university clinic. The first name of the CSRC was Pediatric Communications Therapy Services. This stayed with the organization until 2000 when the name was changed to Community Rehab Connections. Providing speech-language services to children is not the first thing that pops into your mind when you hear that name! One year later, in 2001, the name was quickly changed to the Children's Speech Therapy Center. In 2005, the final name change occurred and we became the Children's Speech and Reading Center.

When the graduate program in speech and audiology at CSU closed in 1993, the speech-language pathologist that ran the clinic, Joan Larson, became the CSRC founder. She reached out to the Masons for potential sites for the clinic. They quickly found a home in downtown Fort Collins at 225 W Oak Street. The address might sound familiar to some because it is the Masonic Temple, Fidelity Lodge #192. The CSRC clinic stayed in the Fidelity Lodge #192 for thirteen years.



The initial CSRC proposal to the Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF) for funding support was submitted in April of 1998 and direct financial support by the SRF came later that year. Two years later, the CSRC was designated by the Colorado Speech-Language and Hearing Association as the Colorado Clinical Program of the Year in 2000.

The clinic remained at the Masonic Lodge until 2006 when the clinic moved off-site to a location on the north side of Fort Collins. In 2012, it moved to its current location in south Fort Collins. In 2016, the CSRC opened a second clinic location in Loveland to better serve the children in the surrounding communities of Loveland, Berthoud, Windsor, and Estes Park.

From the very beginning, the Masons of the Fidelity Lodge #192 and the Scottish Rite Foundation have stood beside the CSRC. Without the support of the Scottish Rite Foundation and the ability to provide services on a sliding fee scale, thousands of children of low-income families would not have been able to receive the services they need. THANK YOU!

SRF Parent Testimonials

When I started looking into speech therapy for my daughter, I was nervous about finding a good fit for my daughter, but also for our tight budget. Children's Speech and Reading Center has been a great experience for our family. We are so thankful to be able to afford such a wonderful speech therapist for our daughter through the SRF scholarship program

Submitted by: Dave Boon, Executive Director Children's Speech and Reading Center

The Piñon Project, Cortez

The families in our community have been incredibly helpful providing feedback through surveys about Treasure Chest themes they would like to see available. Some suggestions families have made have been Treasure Chests about Colorado, our local community, recycling and the environment, and ways to stay busy when it is too cold to go outside. The Piñon Project Treasure Chest Program is circulating eighty-four new chests this month. New themes include: The Arctic, Reduce and Reuse, My Community, Get Your Wiggles Out, Tummy Time, and Family Fun Night. All themes are available for infants, toddlers, 3+ and Bi-lingual (Spanish/English). Treasure Chest theme of "My Community" celebrates the culture of Cortez and is available Bi-Lingual in English/Navajo. Treasure Chests are used frequently and effectively through Piñon's PAT and Safe Care programs, as well as supervised visits. Piñon is grateful for the ongoing support of Scottish Rite Foundation.

With the continued support, Piñon is able to provide our community with positive play and early literacy opportunities. The average monthly number of children Piñon is serving through the Treasure Chest Program is twenty-seven. While providing Treasure Chests to a local preschool, one family was apprehensive about checking out a Treasure Chest. Over several visits, the family continued asking questions and their child's excitement over a particular chest motivated the family to take a chest home. At my next visit, the family returned to get a new chest! They stated that they were unsure of taking a chest before due to their child being nonverbal and having challenging behaviors that made play something they did not always enjoy. However, the combination of their child's excitement and having handouts on how to play and how use the chest supported the parents to facilitate a play time that was rewarding and fun. The family was motivated to try a new chest and requested themes they thought their child would enjoy for next time.

Submitted by Elizabeth Russell, Treasure Chest Coordinator, Cortez



Children's Colorado Therapy Care, Colorado Springs Updates

Children's Colorado Briargate and Printer's Park Speech Therapy, in Colorado Springs (COS), have continued to thrive amidst the ups and downs of COVID-19. We continue to provide patient care (both in person or via telehealth) for all general speech/language and feeding patients as well as those treated within our specialty populations that require assessment/treatment from individual or multi-disciplinary clinics at our Printer's park and Briargate Networks of Care and COS hospital. We have also been able to provide some telehealth groups for certain specialty areas for patients and families to connect with, not only the therapist, but other patients and families that have similar ages and diagnoses to provide treatment and support. COVID numbers and current guidelines continue to put our in-person group treatment models "on pause" (e.g., deaf and hard of hearing, academic language and learning, and social skills), but we stay optimistic that these models of care will also come back with time.

During the spring and summer of 2021, some of our COS Speech team members were able to provide internship supervision opportunities (via in person and tele-practice) to graduate students, which allowed us to continue to take part in training the next generation of speech-language pathologists. Between July and August, we were also able to expand our COS speech therapy team by acquiring three new clinicians to support our Spanish speaking/bilingual patients and families, as well as patients who would benefit from the use of alternative augmentative communication (AAC).

In 2021, we were able to reactivate planning discussions regarding our new Children's Colorado COS building, currently labeled Telstar. This new project will not only provide a single outpatient clinic to house all our COS speech, occupational and physical therapies that have been split between the Briargate and Printer's Park clinics but will also house a southern Colorado developmental pediatrics clinic and pediatric mental health team as well. This is very exciting news for all of Children's Hospital Colorado, but especially for our southern Colorado team members and community at large!

Finally, I would like to mention that our local COS Scottish Rite Foundatino (SRF) Appraisal Committee has been through some changes as well over the last few months. It is with a heavy heart that I mention that we lost, Wayne Clark, a friend, well-respected Scottish Rite Mason and truly great member of our COS SRF Appraisal committee. Wayne had been with the committee prior to my onboarding in 2019. He was a diligent attender of all meetings, and even when we could no longer meet in person (due to COVID guidelines within our clinics) he was able to connect to meetings by phone to support the application appraisal process to support children who required speech and learning therapy needs and would benefit from the SRF scholarships. We will miss you Wayne. Within this loss, we have had the great opportunity to find Tom Scheulen to step in and continue to support our COS SRF Appraisal Committee, and we had our first meeting with him in September! The Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado continues to be a consistent and invaluable resource for families in COS to ensure that their children begin and/or continue to receive high quality and evidence-based interventions they need. For this reason, I myself, my team members, their patients and patient families are eternally grateful.

Submitted by: Matt Holmberg, RiteCare Director Children's Colorado Therapy Care, Colorado Springs



Children's Hospital Colorado Virtual First Steps Camp

Giving Back to First Steps Camp

Lori Spurgeon attended First Steps Camp with her husband, Mike, and their two sons in October 2018. Lori works as an addiction counselor and while at camp, recognized the need for families to have a facilitator, like a counselor, help connect.



To bring a better sense of connection to Virtual First Steps Camp, this past fall, we invited Lori to be a facilitator, a parent who had been in their exact shoes, to help bond and connect families. Families met Lori on their first night of the camp program who shared about her experience at First Steps Camp and about the many milestones her son has reached since then. Lori returned later to the 8-week program, on a new night designed specifically for families to connect. Families received gift cards to order a meal through Door Dash and met for over 1 and a half hours sharing in their experiences of children with complex communication needs. Families shared at the final session that the "Family Connection Night" was a great reminder of how they are not alone in this journey of disability and how they would like more connection opportunities. Lori shared that it was an honor to give back to the families and help guide them in their journey.

Virtual First Steps Camp is an 8-week program for parents to receive education and training on how to use and support their child using a speech-generating device (SGD). In fall 2021, six families participated in the program and shared "We learned a lot and cannot wait to keep going forward in our AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) journey! Thank you so much!"



Submitted by: Caroline Woeber, Speech Language Pathologist, Children's Hospital Colorado

Program and Staff Updates Memorial Regional Health Rehab Center, Craig

Greetings from Craig, CO where it was -11 degrees this morning! We are super grateful that despite colder temperatures, COVID and extenuating circumstances our families and patients continue to show up for therapy!

We are excited to introduce you to Robyn Kitchen, MA, CCC-SLP. Robyn is going to have her first SRF funded patient soon and she is thrilled! Robyn joined our team with over 19 years of experience in pediatrics. She has held a Certificate of Clinical Competence via the American and Hearing and Speech Association for 19 years. Robyn has been a member of the Child Find Team for 18 years. She has earned the following certifications: Educational Identification for Autism via the ADOS, ELLEN training, Transdisciplinary Play Based Assessment-2nd Edition and is a certified trainer for LETRS-Early Childhood.

Robyn was born and raised in Craig. She often knows her patients before they walk through the door for evaluation. Robyn is woven into the fabric of this community and has changed so many lives with her expertise. She has a heart for service and a true passion for her profession. We cannot begin to express how thankful we are that Robyn joined our team!

As always, we want to extend our sincere gratitude to the Scottish Rite Foundation. Currently, we have four children receiving assistance and are appreciative that we can provide services. Thank you for all that you do for the children of Colorado! –



Robyn Kitchen, MA, CCC-SLP and Colleen Boyle, MS, CCC-SLP

Submitted by: Susan L. Jones, MS, OTR/L, Clinical Lead, Pediatric Therapist

St. Mary's Life Center Family Expresses Their Gratitude

The following is a story written by one of our parents regarding her family's experiences as they navigate their lives while raising their son with autism and how Scottish Rite has impacted their family. (I have shortened the story to fit into this format, if you would like to read the full version, please let me know)

I am the mother of a young man with high-functioning autism. I live with my husband, son, and our three dogs. Joshua is the youngest child in our family and the only child still living at home. We are a middle-class family with two working parents and a typical but not neuro-typical teenager. We share many of the same hopes and dreams other families have for their children: happiness, safety, love, education, independence, fulfillment of self-aspirations, success. Like other families, the differences are in the details of how these hopes and dreams manifest themselves in the life of each unique, individual child. I want to share with you the patchwork quilt of support our family is piecing together for our unique and much loved child who lives every day on the Autism spectrum....

I want to thank Scottish Rite for their part in the story of Joshua's patchwork quilt of support.

This is an overview of that story.

From the moment we knew we were expecting, we loved him. Joshua was (and still is) a beautiful, perfect, precious baby...all ten fingers and all ten toes. He developed much the way any other child would. There were some indications of his sensory sensitivities. As he moved through the primary grades, it became clear that he was in need of extra help and even with that extra help through the Title I program (which started in kindergarten), Joshua's academic performance was abysmal. Most of the time his performance on standardized testing was in the single digit percentiles. By second grade, it was clear he also struggled socially with his peers and it appeared he had built a reputation with many of the parents of his peers as being the kind of kid you do not invite to parties or for sleepovers. Overall elementary school was often a lonely place for Joshua socially. When Joshua entered the 4th grade, his teacher realized the disparity between Joshua and his 4th grade peers. She immediately set to work on coaching him through difficult peer interactions, grade-level work, and ways to respond to friendly outreaches from his classmates. While this structure was helping, it was clear that this student needed much more help than the regular classroom could provide. She referred him to the special education department for evaluation. When the testing battery was complete and the school psychologist was finishing her reports, she came to me the week or so before the meeting and said it was looking like autism.

The first patches in this quilt were the school supports through the special education department and Joshua's IEP. I soon learned that while these are crucial for school to become a place of learning and socializing within the norms of society, they must be supplemented for life beyond the institution of school. St. Mary's Life Center provided speech services I didn't even realize existed. Speech therapy went beyond mere articulation concerns and actually provided opportunities to meet with others with similar struggles and work on understanding receptive and expressive communication, organizing thoughts into a sequential order others can follow, societal norms, and expressly teaching the art of nonverbal communication. All of a sudden, there was help teaching Joshua to decode the social complexities of our society. This was the first step to including patches from entities outside of the school setting into Joshua's quilt of support. We saw, and still do see this therapy as a vital part of Joshua's growth and success for all aspects and stages of his life. It is very hard to succeed in a world where you do not have the skills to navigate the social code. He has come so far with his social skills and awareness because of the supplemental speech therapy from the Life Center.

When we found out that our health insurance limited speech therapy to 20 visits per year, the speech therapist suggested we reach out to Amy and we found out about the Scottish Rite program for summer speech sessions. We didn't know how we were going to manage the cost of speech therapy but we knew we were very late in getting a diagnosis and needed to make up for lost time and we had to get him into as many therapy sessions as possible. When Amy called to say we had been approved for a very reasonable co-pay for the whole summer it was such a relief. When we needed help for our son, Scottish Rite was there!

When our school district chose to stop providing health insurance and sent employees to figure out their own solutions and our new private insurance had the same 20 visits per year restrictions, Scottish Rite was there

Continued on next page

St. Mary's continued

When we were priced out of private health insurance and our above poverty-level income combined with Joshua's less severe need status made us ineligible for the autism waiver for Medicaid, Scottish Rite was there!

When we were still uninsured and scraping together STRIVE funds for as many sessions as we could but were not able to cover summers, Scottish Rite was there!

When cancer treatment, car break downs, student loans, home repairs, and any number of life events stretched our budget to its limits and beyond, Scottish Rite has been there for our family and many, many others!

I want to thank you for your philanthropy and your selfless giving to the children in our community. Your dollars help children participate in the most basic of needs. The need to communicate and connect with others. Your dollars provide hope and help for families who are prepared to provide for the basics of raising their child but have their whole world turned inside out when their child suddenly needs something they may have never even imagined existed and most likely are wholly unprepared to provide.

The children who are impacted by your program need the professional services of speech therapists who are trained in the incredibly complex world of communication. I can tell you as a professional educator this is an area of specialty that is vital and I can tell you as an educator and parent, I do not have this training. So God bless you and your gift to the children and families of our community! Thank you from the bottom of my heart because you are making a world of difference!

Julie

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



Treasure Chest Program Families are Thankful!!

This Family is one our Treasure Chest participants. Jael's daughter, Serenity is participating in our program this year. Below is a note letting us know how much they appreciate the program and materials.

Dear Scottish Rite Foundation,
I want to start by saying thank you for the donations! My daughter and I usually spend 30 minutes to 1 hour after school reviewing numbers and letters. Serenity spends time looking at each game and will communicate with me the type of animals she recognizes on them. I have found that she is more interactive with me when we choose a game that has pictures that look familiar to her. These games have made our bonding time even more enjoyable and are continuing to help her reach each milestone her school and I set for her! – Jael

Submitted by: Carmen Marsh, Treasure Chest Coordinator, Grand Junction

