

# RITEVIEW

Spring 2020



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

I hope that this Spring RiteView finds you and your families safe and healthy. Our lives have continued to change dramatically due to COVID-19, with in-person clinics being temporarily closed, and with virtual meetings taking the place of in-person therapy visits, school, socializing, and conferences. Clinical responsibilities and the timeline for patient care delivery have shifted in many ways that challenge our field. Still, one thing that has not changed is the dedication and commitment of the Scottish Rite Foundation to provide support for speech, language, and learning therapy across our state. The support of the Scottish Rite Foundation, now more than ever, has been instrumental in providing therapy services via telepractice and for families who are facing financial hardship due to loss of employment. We are fortunate to be able to provide high-quality speech, language, and learning services to ensure continuity of care for children! We are reminded of the true gift of communication as we celebrate May is Better Hearing and Speech Month each year. Although we were not able to celebrate in our usual fashion, this RiteView demonstrates how our RiteCare and Treasure Chest partners are achieving better communication for all children. Accomplishing this during the current COVID 19 Pandemic required creativity, resilience, and commitment to children and families. These efforts would not have been

possible without the Scottish Rite Foundation. With the Scottish Rite Foundation's help, we make every month "better hearing and speech month" for so many children. I hope you will be as delighted as I was to read about the creative ways our RiteCare partners across the state have successfully continued to meet the needs of the children and families in their communities.

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## May is Better Hearing & Speech Month



In closing, please join me in celebrating and thanking our dear friend Mr. Vernon Ingraham 33° Grand Cross and Executive Secretary of the Scottish Rite Foundation on his retirement. His dedication to the Scottish Rite Foundation and children across the state of Colorado will forever leave its mark on the hearts of those he worked with directly and a countless number of children and families. While we are not saying goodbye to Vern as he embarks on his new journey, for now we say, "until we meet again."



Dear RiteCare Friends and Partners,

On February 28, 2020, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado had its annual meeting at The Children's Hospital, Aurora, CO. At that time, it was announced that our Brother Vern Ingraham, 33° Grand Cross and Executive Secretary of the Foundation, would be retiring after 20 plus years of exemplary service to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado.

During those 20 plus years of service, Vern was instrumental in the operation of the Foundation and was responsible for its well-being. This was not only with the Foundation and the Scottish Rite Masons of Colorado but also with you, our Friends and Partners. He exemplified what it means to be a Scottish Rite Mason. While we move forward and will continue to move forward, we want to thank Vern not only for his service as the Executive Secretary of the Foundation but as a valuable member of Scottish Rite Masonry. We know he will be missed, and I know you wish him well in this new phase of his life.

We are searching for an individual to replace Vern, and when found, we will notify you of the individual and any changes to be made. Until then, all operations will go on exactly as before.  
Sincerely and Fraternally,

Stephen M. Munsinger, 33°  
SGIG Emeritus for the Orient of Colorado  
President of the Board of Trustees for the  
Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado



My Best Memories  
Vernon B. Ingraham, 33° Grand Cross



Vernon B. Ingraham,  
33° Grand Cross

I am retiring this year with gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for having had the opportunity to serve in helping support the work you do for our RiteCare clinic and Treasure Chest partners around the State. What you do and who you serve speaks volumes about who you are. It is a high calling you have answered in helping children communicate.

On February 15, 2000, my first day with the Scottish Rite Foundation, I sat in Dr. Deborah Hayes' office at Children's Hospital Colorado (then known as The Children's Hospital). I ask her if she could schedule an observation for me to see first-hand a speech therapy session with a young child.

Several days later, I sat in an observation room with a one-way mirror. A group of four children and their parents were in the therapy room. In many ways, the children were like all youngsters about two years of age. They would stand next to each other and play but not necessarily participate in planned play activity, which is typical of this age group. The speech therapists were busy working with the children and helping the parents with skills to use at home.

It takes a lot of energy and patience to work with young children. Some are constantly on the go, quickly moving from one object to the next – from the sandbox, to the computer, to the light switch, to the ball. Others are content to stay in place. You, the therapist, learning specialist, audiologist, or Treasure Chest provider are with them talking, explaining, demonstrating, teaching, caring and sharing. Some of the children have multiple issues and require considerable attention and care, each an individual with a unique personality; each a precious soul to be cared for, taught, and helped.

In another session I watched Elyse Graves, SLP, work with 20-month old Wesley. He was a lively bundle of energy, curious and excited. He had one enormous challenge – a severe and progressive hearing loss. Following the session, I spoke with Wesley's young parents. Clint told me that Wesley could drop-kick a soccer ball, and he had no idea where the boy learned that skill. Wesley's parents were dedicated to his welfare and seemed stronger than ever in their will to succeed and make a better life for their son. I often wonder how the three of them are now doing these two decades later.

Here in Colorado, we are the third generation of Masons to support your work. It is gratifying for all of us to play our part by doing this. For me personally, you serve as an inspiration for taking what is and turning it into what can be. Each and every one of you, through your dedication to the great cause of helping children communicate, are teaching and lifting up the children in your care. Thank you for your service to the families of Colorado and for the dedication to your profession.

It has been a wonderful journey for me these past 20 years. I take away a flood of good memories. Some of these memories are in the category of "best." I close this final message with a stanza from one of my poems.

**The Best Memories**, the ones that count,  
Repair your heart, remove your doubt.  
They shine a light pointing the way  
Reminding you to begin a new day.

# A Time of Resilience at RiteCare Locations

## St. Mary's Hospital Spring 2020

The Spring of 2020 has rolled in like a lion, taking all of us by surprise. On March 18, 2020, our facility closed its doors, not allowing any patient care in the clinic. The weeks ahead were filled with questions regarding how long this would continue and how do we care for our patients. This was then, the catalyst that allowed us to pursue Telehealth care for our children here at St. Mary's Life Center. The therapists, determined to provide care for the children, began researching the various platforms that we could use for telehealth, the requirements for the billing, the insurances that would approve the usage of telehealth for therapy services, and locating the computers equipped and available for our team to use for therapy services. After a few long weeks, some coaching from Stephanie Coe at Children's Hospital, and the assurance that the Scottish Rite Foundation was supportive in providing financial resources for Telehealth therapy, we were up and running, providing speech and language therapy for our children using Telehealth. It was a very steep learning curve. However, we have grown in many ways over the past few months, allowing us another means of care for the children on the western slope of Colorado. The hospital is now allowing us to provide both in clinic and telehealth speech and language services.

We are hoping that the Spring of 2020 goes out like a lamb, as we have much to look forward to in the coming months. Especially, the opportunity to participate in the Autism Spectrum Disorder Training Grant approved by the Scottish Rite Foundation. Thank you for your continued support.

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

## Memorial Regional Health Rehabilitation Center

At Memorial Regional Health Rehabilitation Center, we have been offering both telehealth therapy and in-person outpatient visits. Being a critical access hospital and with the low number of COVID-19 positives in Moffat county, we are able to continue to safely provide outpatient services using the proper precautions and screening procedures. Prior to COVID-19 we did not have the capability to provide our patients with telehealth services. It has been a powerful time watching kids and families build resiliency and adaptability while adjusting to new routines, procedures, and therapeutic platforms. Our favorite thing about teletherapy is the role parents play in the session—each week we see them take more responsibility and implement therapeutic strategies taught to them during our virtual time together and it is incredible. We are seeing wonderful growth in our patients. Teletherapy has also allowed us to see our patients from a different perspective and we have noticed a few new things in a different light. Overall, we have been very lucky to be able to continue to provide services during this time through telehealth therapy thanks to the support of the Scottish Rite Foundation.

Thank you for supporting our kids and therapists!

Submitted by: Ericka Lucas RiteCare Program Director, Memorial Regional Health Rehabilitation Center, Craig



## University Northern Colorado

The Greeley Treasure Chest Spring 2020 Program was a success up through pausing abruptly due to COVID-19. First-year graduate students worked individually with 13 families and their 18 children during the first 9 weeks of the semester under the supervision of Dr. Kim Murza. Additionally, we were able to continue collaborating with the Nurse-Family Partnership who saw at least 7 new families this semester and have 28 chests in their circulation. Multiple families were interested in a Saturday Intensive Treasure Chest option but due to COVID-19, this had to be postponed. The program also had numerous families express interest regarding a summer program or additional opportunities outside of the traditional biweekly Wednesday morning format. During the spring semester, the Treasure Chest program was recognized by the Community Engaged Scholars Symposium and the University of Northern Colorado's Annual Research Day.

Since the university went completely online in March, we have worked with our community partners and the Scottish Rite Foundation to adapt to the changing needs of the Greeley community. Kim Murza is working with the Nurse Family Partnership of Weld County, the Migrant Education Program and the SEVA Community to create educational and age-appropriate activity bags and parent-education materials for approximately 250 families over the summer. Families who are interested in participating in parent-coaching with UNC graduate students can sign-up for summer weekly sessions. In addition, five families who were receiving on-campus therapy services through Scottish Rite Foundation scholarships at UNC have successfully shifted to teletherapy services thanks to the hard work of both Tina Farrell, our Clinic Director, our clinical educators, and amazingly resilient students. During this uncertain time, we at UNC are so very thankful for the continued support of the Scottish Rite Foundation.

Submitted by: Kimberly Murza RiteCare Program Director, University Northern Colorado



**Dr. Kim Murza with helpers Sophia and Charlie**

## Montrose Memorial Hospital

We at the Montrose clinic are celebrating the fact that we are beginning to open up the clinic and start seeing kids again! It seemed longer than 6 weeks that we were closed because of the Corona Virus pandemic. The clinic was closed in March and April, but in May we started slowly opening again. Only half the staff were working Monday/Wednesday, and the other half working Tuesday/Thursday. We have had a steady increase of clients returning for therapy. By June 1 we should be fully open with all therapists back to our regular schedules. We are following the safety precautions established by the state, with masks and hand-washing and lots of cleaning. Thank goodness for our tech staff who take great care of the materials we use. I think we are adjusting to this 'new normal' and are ready to go with it. I hope everyone is doing well with the changes.

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

## Piñon Project Treasure Chest Program



The Piñon Project Treasure Chest Program has remained extremely busy throughout the stay-at-home order by providing families with materials to continue early literacy and language development in a home environment. Several families were concerned about meeting their child's educational needs and just keeping isolated kiddos busy in general! Multiple families report how grateful they were to have this resource during this challenging time. Thank you Scottish Rite!

Submitted by: Maggie Tevault RiteCare Treasure Chest Coordinator, Pinon Project

## Pueblo Therapy Care

Similarly to many health care professionals, our staff at Children's Colorado Pueblo Therapy Care has had to quickly adapt to a new way of providing speech and learning therapy through the medium of Telepractice. Although the goals for the child remain the same, the ways in which we interact, engage and motivate them looks different. Keeping a sense of normalcy is important. For example, it is important to do similar activities that the child was used to when he came into the clinic. Elyse Ramsay, CCC-SLP stated that "I continue to implement literacy into my sessions whether it is reading a story to a child or watching an animated story together via telehealth. I've especially enjoyed doing hands on activities with my patients, such as making play dough and creating Mother's Day crafts. Many kids have had fun doing *show and tell* with their favorite toys at home."

This new way of doing therapy is not just a steep learning curve for the therapist but also for the family. "I was amazed that all of my families wanted to give Tele-Health a try. Not a single one turned it down. Even if a session is not perfect, parents are very appreciative of the effort," says Martha Drake, CCC-SLP.

Most of the children are really excited and able to maintain attention and complete therapy sessions through telehealth, however many simply cannot attend using this service delivery model. For those children, therapy is placed on hold until our clinic re-opens. Other challenges experienced by families and clinicians is the unreliability of technology, specifically internet connectivity issues.

There are many positive stories and surprises as well. According to Jaclyn Mutz, CCC-SLP who specializes in feeding therapy for children, seeing the family via Telepractice provides a beneficial perspective in which she can provide more specific suggestions and strategies for the family during an actual snack or meal in the natural home setting. Corey Mattorano, CCC-SLP shared that after one of her client's caught a glimpse of Corey's dog in Corey's home, the client became very excited, and began talking much more than she ever had. Corey stated that they had their first true back and forth conversation.

"One positive experience that stands out to me," shared Elyse, "is with a child who has had a challenging time implementing functional speech therapy skills into his everyday life. During a teletherapy session, we read the "Are You My Mother?" story and completed extension activities. Weeks have passed and his mother reported that he will continue to make connections between the story and his everyday life, such as when he found a bird's nest near his house. I think teletherapy has provided meaningful opportunities for skill carryover in the home environment."

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



## Colorado Springs Therapy Care

Children's Colorado Briargate and Printer's Park Speech Therapy, in Colorado Springs, has continued to thrive amidst the unprecedented changes that COVID-19 has brought. We have been able to transition the vast majority of our speech-language pathology team to telepractice to be able to support continuity of care for a number of our patients. We have also been able to provide some in person assessment and treatment (when warranted) and were just recently able to begin reactivation in-person services that cannot be provided via telepractice. A few team members have also been able to provide mentorship, observation, and internship opportunities, via tele-practice, to graduate students, which allows us to continue to take part in training the next generation of therapists. In this time of ever changing news, lives, feelings and finances, The Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado has been a consistent and invaluable resource for families in southern Colorado to ensure that their children begin and/or continue to receive high quality and evidence-based interventions necessary for appropriate development of speech, language, and learning.

Submitted by: Matt Holmberg RiteCare Program Director, Colorado Springs Therapy Care



## Children's Speech and Reading Center, Ft. Collins

Due to the rapid changes with COVID-19 and the corresponding safety precautions established, Children's Speech and Reading Center transitioned to teletherapy on March 18, 2020. Our Executive Director, Board of Directors, and Office Manager supported the therapists and were proactive in finding a HIPAA compliant, online platform. The clinic was closed to clients for only two days while the staff transitioned to online services. Teletherapy presents many new challenges such as: client attention, parent involvement, finding new motivators and teaching tools, as well as the technological difficulties. However, the families have been patient, willing to try new methods, and appreciative for the continued services. Each therapist has been able to expand their skills, learn new strategies and maintain their unique teaching style. Children's Speech and Reading Center has worked together as a team to continue to serve our community during this difficult time. The Scottish Rite Foundation has been essential to several families who lost their jobs and needed a scholarship during this time. We are tremendously grateful for the support of the Scottish Rite to provide scholarships for families in need to be able to continue speech-language services.

Submitted by: Andrea Orrison, RiteCare Program Director, Children's Speech and Reading Center



## First Steps Camp Goes Remote at Children's Hospital Colorado

The spring program for First Steps Camp, an extended weekend program designed for families who have recently received a speech generating device for their child with minimal verbal communication, was planned for April 16-19 of this year. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Audiology, Speech, and Learning Services decided to postpone camp until the fall for the safety of the families and team members involved. Talking With Technology was also cancelled.

Many families wait 6+ months to attend this intensive training camp, so when the decision was made to postpone, it was disappointing for all, especially the families who were planning to travel across the country and from around world to attend. Fortunately, the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) specialists at Children's Hospital Colorado were not discouraged and put together an "everything but camp" program. Families who were accepted to the spring camp were able to receive the training they desperately wanted and needed through a four-part parent training series. Over the course of a month, families participated in hour long presentations reviewing the fundamentals to communication and supporting a child's communication with a speech generating device. A 30-minute question-and-answer supplemental session was also offered for families.

Pre- and post-surveys measured for each training showed that families gained a better understanding of supporting their child's communication. Families expressed their appreciation weekly, often sharing sentiments of "This was great! Thanks so much."

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



Jonathan (2019 first year camper) pets a baby alligator visiting from the Denver Zoo



## Rocky Mountain SER Early Learning Center Grand Junction Treasure Chest Program

The family was one of our Treasure Chest participants during the 2019-2020 academic year. Below is the testimony that Yaretzi mother, Evendira gave in Spanish.

Para el "Programa de cofres del tesoro":

Estamos muy contentos de poder ser parte del programa, que nos ayuda a unirnos como familia. Este programa nos ayuda a aprender las etapas y desarrollos de nuestros hijos y cómo enseñarles estas cosas, porque a veces simplemente no sabemos. Hemos sido parte de este programa durante más de 2 años y cada vez que nos emocionamos tanto cuando conseguimos una nueva bañera y estamos tan sorprendidos. Muchas gracias por este programa es un gran programa.

Gracias a Merrycca y Carmen por ser siempre tan agradable!

Gracias por las bañeras que mis hijos llaman "Happy Box"

Gracias

Submitted by: Carmen Marsh, Treasure Chest Coordinator, Rocky Mountain SER Early Learning Center

### English translation:

For the "Treasure Chest Program":

We are so happy to be able to be part of the program, it helps us unite as family. This program helps us learn the stages and developments of our kids and how to teach them these things, because sometimes we just don't know. We have been part of this program for more than 2 years and every time we get so excited when we get a new tub and are so surprised. Thank you so much for this program it is such a great program.

Thank you to Merrycca and Carmen for always being so nice!

Thank you for the tubs my kids call "Happy Box"

Thank you



