

RITEVIEW

April - July 2022



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

Dear Colleagues. It has been a productive summer. In June, the Scottish Rite Foundation received applications from graduate students in speech-language pathology at University of Colorado-Boulder and University of Northern Colorado for merit-based scholarships. The committee carefully reviewed the extraordinary achievements of the applicants and selected six students to receive scholarships of \$5,000 each. Once again, these scholarships demonstrate how committed Colorado Masons are to caring for the children and families we serve both today and in the future!

While we hosted “First Steps” virtually this spring, we were thrilled to have “Talking with Technology (TWT)” camp in person this summer! These camp programs are for families and children who are both using and/or learning to use augmentative/alternative communication. Please see the remarkable stories on page seven sharing experiences from TWT 2022!

L. Bryant Harris, Executive Secretary for the Scottish Rite Foundation, and I were able to visit four RiteCare programs this summer in Gunnison, Craig, Fort Collins, and Boulder. It was heartwarming to hear about the children and families they serve in their local communities. We enjoyed learning more about these programs, how they have evolved over time, and the magnificent care provided to families by our Speech-Language Pathologists. We were thrilled to visit our newest Treasure Chest Program, Metropolitan State University of Denver who had their first graduate class of Speech-Language pathologists in June 2022! I continue to be 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.

Table of Contents

Chair Holder Update	1
Scottish Rite Foundation.....	2-3

Program Updates

Memorial Regional Health.....	4
Metro State University.....	5
University Northern Colorado	5
Piñon Project	6
Montrose Regional Health	6
Children's Hospital Colorado.....	7
Children's Speech & Reading.....	8
Centro de la familia.....	8
Children's Colorado COS.....	9
St. Mary's Life Center.....	9
In the Spotlight.....	10



Presenting the 2022 Dwight A. Hamilton Graduate Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology Recipients

This year, as every year, the Scholarship review team had a tough time deciding on the awardees. Both the University of Northern Colorado and University of Colorado – Boulder turn out so many outstanding graduate students in Speech-Language Pathology. We lamented the loss of one of our team, Norm O’Kelly, 32° KCCH. Norm served with us for several years and was always a joy to work with. Ellis Miller, 32°, joined us this year. Ellis is a new brother to the Scottish Rite; having gone through his reunion in April at the Grand Junction reunion. His extensive background in social work and working at one of our partner sites, The Pinon Project in Cortez makes him a perfect fit. Dr Uhler, Ellis, and I are excited to introduce you to the 2022 Dwight A. Hamilton Graduate Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology Recipients.

Emma Jo Wiley
University of Northern Colorado



Ms. Wiley was born and raised in Fort Collins, Colorado. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Health Science at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. She worked in an emergency room, at a foster care company and a preschool before determining to study speech-language pathology. She is looking forward to a career working with children in Colorado to provide those with communication needs with a voice or creative way to be understood.

Rachel Binder
University of Colorado - Boulder



Ms. Binder is from Centennial, Colorado. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies at Chapman university in Orange, California. Rachel currently resides in Erie, Colorado with her husband and two sons. She became interested in speech-language pathology after working with foster care youth during her term with AmeriCorps. Rachel wants to continue working with youth in underserved communities upon graduation.

ShayLee Bunkers
University of Colorado – Boulder



Ms. Bunkers was born in Sioux City, Iowa and moved to Colorado in 2009. She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts from Metroplitan State University of Denver in December of 2020. She is particularly enthusiastic about family-centered care and is looking forward to her first study being published. She is honored to be part of such a distnigished foundation that alignns with her personal interests and values.

Courtney Jenson
University of Colorado - Boulder



Ms. Jenson earned a Bachelor of Arts in both Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and Psychology at the University of Colorado – Boulder. As a first generation college student and Colorado native, she is excited to serve underprivileged populations in her home state. She is fascinated with all areas of the field, but has a particular interest in cognition. She believes in holistic treatment and installing resilience in clients and their families.

Alexis Smith
University of Colorado – Boulder



Ms. Smith completed her undergraduate degree with distinction, majoring in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences with a minor in Education at the University of Colorado – Boulder in 2020. She has had invaluable exposure to interdisciplinary teams in various settings including as a teaching assistant at the Rise School of Denver and as a paraprofessional educator at Brighton High School. As a sixth generation Colorado native, she is committed to staying in Colorado working with children in underserved populations and those with health disparities.

Aichel Campos Suarez
University of Colorado - Boulder



Ms. Campos Suarez has worked with linguistically and culturally diverse children and families as a registered behavior technician and Spanish medical interpreter. While at the University of Colorado – Boulder, she participated in the Augmenting and Alternative Communication Community Outreach Grant Project as a bilingual graduate clinician and volunteer translator. She looks forward to providing speech and language therapy to the Denver Metro area's diverse communities.



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



Memorial Regional Health, We have a lot to celebrate!

Our rehabilitation department was named Best Rehabilitation Center in Moffat County by the community, as reported by the Craig Press.



We were able to purchase a monkey bar swing to support sensory regulation and fun. The children are having a blast! We are very grateful to our team members in the Maintenance Department and Materials Department for helping to get the swing up and running so quickly!



Submitted by: Colleen Boyle, Speech-Language Pathologist, Memorial Regional Health, Craig

One of our Speech Pathologists, Colleen Boyle M.S. CCC-SLP, was featured as an Unsung Hero of the hospital in the month of July in the Craig Press and on the MRH Facebook. The article reads as follows:

As a Speech and Language Pathologist at MRH, Colleen specializes in pediatrics in the outpatient clinic, and she also works on the inpatient side treating adults. She provides services to children who have receptive and expressive language disorders and articulation disorders. She treats adults who may have cognitive impairments or other conditions that impact swallowing and communication.

Colleen enjoys the tight-knit and supportive community among the staff in the rehabilitation department and how thoughtful everyone is.

We notice how dedicated and caring you are towards your patients, Colleen. Thank you for all that you contribute as our Unsung Hero!



Grateful for Scottish Rite Foundation Assistance

Our 6 year old son was referred to speech therapy in need of articulation help. Our family does not have 'traditional' insurance and our weekly services were going to be paid out of pocket. At our first visit, our speech therapist offered to provide an application for the Scottish Rite Foundation. The forms were easy to fill out and the wait time to hear back on determination was short. We were accepted for participation in the program and it made the next six months of services more easily obtainable. Once that six month period ended, we resubmitted an application and again, heard back quickly. Our family was blessed by the help provided by the Scottish Rite Foundation and we are extremely grateful!

Metro State University Treasure Chest Program Updates

Our graduate program officially launched on June 10 with 14 students in our inaugural cohort. Program leadership purchased materials for our initial Treasure Chests. We are now offering toddler and preschool treasure chests in English, Spanish, or Bilingual boxes! Materials address all developmental domains; receptive/expressive language, social-emotional development, fine and gross motor development and cognitive/adaptive skills.

Our on-campus clinic opened the week of June 22 and we have served 28 clients across the lifespan consistently over the summer. Of our 28 clients, 5 participated in the Treasure Chest program. The youngest participant is 22 months old, the oldest is 3 years 9 months old. We have given out 2 bilingual boxes and 3 English boxes. Clients and families were provided with treasure chest items and participated in training sessions with graduate clinicians on how to use the materials in the treasure chests to elicit and practice speech and language during playtime and daily routines.

Comments from parents during/after participating in these sessions include:

"This is great, it's like Christmas in July."

"These books are wonderful, I'm so glad we have more bilingual books to read with him!"

"I can see how easy it will be to work on his language using these toys. There's so much to talk about!"



**Submitted by: Ilana Oliff, Director Clinical Education,
Metro State University**

Program Updates – University of Northern Colorado

Thanks to the generous support of the Scottish Rite Foundation, we have been able to serve over 30 families through the Greeley Treasure Chest Program during the Spring and Summer semesters.



In addition, several of our speech-language pathology graduate students participated in the Northern Colorado Children's Festival to promote the Treasure Chest program and distributed books to over 1,000 children who were in attendance. This summer, graduate students volunteered at the SEVA Community Brain Camp and provided language screenings and modeled play techniques for parents. Through these events, we were able to recruit many new families for the Treasure Chest Program and look forward to working with them in the Fall semester. We are so thankful for this partnership and will continue working to make a positive impact in our community by supporting children and families!

**Submitted by Caitlin Raaz, RiteCare Program Director
University Northern Colorado**

The Piñon Project Treasure Chest Program Updates



The Piñon Project Treasure Chest Program has been dedicated to increasing the number of infants and toddlers served in the area. The Piñon Project Treasure Chest coordinator has partnered with agencies such as Nurse Family Partners, WIC, and Baby and Me story times to increase awareness of the program to our community's youngest members and their families. During a recent Incredible Babies Parent Group hosted at Piñon, Treasure Chests have been used during role plays and practices to encourage positive play between infants and their caregivers. One caregiver commented that they struggled at first knowing how to play and interact with their young infant and the Tummy Time Treasure Chest gave them a map to follow in play. The caregiver reported after taking a Treasure Chest home that they felt like they knew how to play with their infant and they found more joy in interacting with their infant through use of the Treasure Chest Program.

Submitted by: Elizabeth Russell RiteCare Treasure Chest Coordinator, Piñon Project

Montrose Regional Health – Mountain View Therapy Updates

The RiteCare program at Montrose Regional Health recently held our annual summer Ice Cream Social. The gentlemen of our Appraisal committee served up the ice cream cups, adding topping, sprinkles and whipped cream to all those who attended. The party was held outside at the clinic on a very hot afternoon, so the water balloon toss was a welcome event. Our parents had the opportunity to meet our Appraisal committee members and therapy staff, all of whom were present. This continues to be an event we all look forward to sponsoring each year.



The summer program is coming to an end as school will soon be starting. We are gearing up for the fall changes. We wish all our 'graduates' a successful school experience.

Submitted by: Patti Anderson, RiteCare Program Director, Montrose Regional Health



Talking with Technology Camp 2022 Through the Eyes of a Senior Camper



Cleo (pictured) stands in front of her name at the Out Camp, where campers hike to an abandoned cabin and write their names using charcoal. This is a rite of passage for many campers who come to Talking with Technology Camp at EasterSeal's Rocky Mountain Village.

Camp was so fun! We had an Encanto skit the first night. Then, we got to watch the movie. I love that movie.

The first morning, I went zip lining. I got a rope burn. It stung. But, I felt like I was flying! I hiked to Out Camp. I love that place! I always loved the outdoors and climbing.

I made a video interviewing people about their experience at Talking with Technology Camp for

my senior video. I sang Speechless the third night. Everyone loved it.

We had art on the fourth day. We beaded bracelets. Then, we swam in the pool. I love we knocked boxes down and had a dance party. I love dancing. We also had a luau that night. I really like anything tropical/ocean aesthetic. There was a little pool with balls set up outside. My friends and I got Italian Ice.

I went camping at Out Camp the last night. I had a blast! We told scary stories. I told a family ghost story about a man with one leg falling to his death while building our cabin and then haunting it and 'The Girl with the Green Ribbon'. I'm honestly surprised that I remembered those since it was a year since I heard the family ghost story and nine months since I read 'The Girl with the Green Ribbon'. I thought about the next chapter of my story, which is ironically about the girl going camping with her family, all night.

The next morning, during Talking with Technology time, I did a survey about camp. I said all good things. - And then I wrote a thank you letter for Scottish Rite. I am so grateful that they paid for me to come to this place. And then I made a goody bag. I put a space pencil, some animal stickers, a pinecone, cookies and chips in mine.

I am so glad that I could go to this camp. From filming, singing on stage, beading bracelets, dreaming of my hobbies, dancing with my friends, playing in the water, eating ice cream, camping, and writing, I enjoyed every minute. Though I'm sad to leave my last year as a camper, I am looking forward to coming back as a mentor next year.

Submitted by: Cleo, Senior Camper Talking with Technology Camp

Cleo is a 17-year-old, Coloradoan who communicates using a speech generating device. This is her third year attending Talking With Technology Camp. She wrote this article as a component to her week at camp.

Talking With Technology Camp is a week long sleep away camp for children and young adults (ages 6-21) who use speech generating devices. Started in 1986, it is the longest continuously operating camp for individuals with complex communication needs. Campers have a variety of diagnoses including cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, apraxia, and rare genetic conditions. In partnership with Easterseals Colorado, 15 campers and 8 siblings from Colorado, Texas, and California were able to attend TWT Camp 2022.

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



BIG NEWS – A New Home for the Children's Speech and Reading Center (CSRC)!

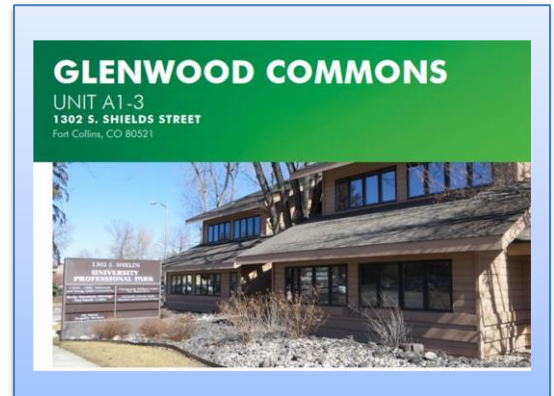
The Children's Speech and Reading Center (CSRC) is excited to announce that they have moved into a new location in Fort Collins in June – **1302 S. Shields Ave Unit A1-3, Fort Collins CO 80521.**

This is an ideal location for the CSRC Speech, Reading and Pre-Literacy clinic. We are closer to our roots and the location we originated from in 1993 – Colorado State University (CSU). The Children's Speech and Reading Center 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.

Inside the Clinic - Our new clinic has a large reception area and separate office manager area, two bathrooms, six therapy/office rooms, a large conference rooms and lots of storage. We have windows – lots of windows. Our last location for ~10 years was a basement with no external light or windows. We are located just across the street from CSU dorms and just a short walk across campus to where we started ~30 years ago.

Come Visit - We are so excited about this opportunity for the Children's Speech and Reading Center, and we hope you will join us so we can continue supporting children for many more years. We had a SRF site visit on Monday, August 1st by Dr. Kristin Uhler and Bryant Harris who are both very excited for Children's Speech and Reading Center's new location and continued therapy program.

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

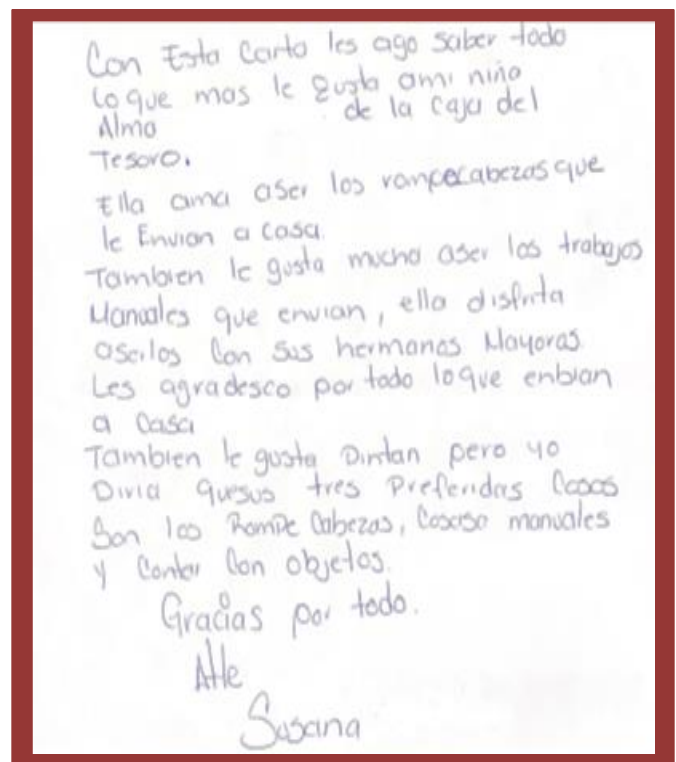


Letter of thanks from one of our Treasure Chest families whose child attends our Gateway Canyon Head Start Center. This family only speaks Spanish. Mom has written a letter sharing her experiences and appreciation regarding the program.

We have provided the translation;

With this letter I will let you know what my child Alma loves about the Treasure Chest Program. She loves to do the puzzles that are sent home. She also likes to do the arts and crafts that are sent home as well, she also enjoys doing them with her older brothers. Thanks for everything you have done for my house and sent home. She also enjoys the painting, but she loves the puzzles best and enjoys counting objects. We thank you so much for all you have done. Thanks for everything. Susana

Submitted by: Carmen Marsh, RiteCare Treasure Chest Coordinator, Centro de la familia



Children's Colorado Therapy Care, Colorado Springs Updates

Children's Colorado Briargate and Printer's Park Speech Therapy, in Colorado Springs (COS), continue to sustain in person and telehealth models of speech therapy at both of our outpatient clinics.

We continue to provide individual patient care for pediatric populations in a variety of areas: receptive/expressive language disorders, articulation disorders, stuttering, social/pragmatic language disorders (secondary to Autism), Childhood Apraxia of Speech, Phonological Disorders, etc. At our Briargate Network of Care and COS hospital. As of this fall of 2022, we have been given the "greenlight" to start providing in person groups to support patients in the areas of feeding, language and reading, social skills, and early language development.

During the Winter/Spring of 2022, a few 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.

During this summer of 2022, we have been able to expand our COS speech therapy team by acquiring two new clinicians to support our feeding and general speech/language patient needs.

Finally, we are very proud to announce that our SoCo Rehab team (including speech, occupational, physical and learning therapies, developmental pediatrics and pediatric mental health) will be transitioning these SoCo departments to a single outpatient clinic in the northern COS area. The Telstar (current name of clinic based on address) Outpatient Clinic will open it's doors to the Springs community on Tuesday 8/23/22. This is very exciting news for all of Children's Hospital Colorado, but especially for our SoCo team members and community at large!

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado continues to be 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, learning, and feeding skills. For this reason, I myself, my team members, their patients and families are enterally grateful.



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

St. Mary's RiteCare Program Updates!

The second quarter of 2022 has sailed by. Over the past quarter we have added 9 new children to the Scottish Rite Program for a total of 14 new children in 2022. We also added a new part-time Speech and Language therapist to our team. She has helped this summer to evaluate our new referrals and identify their needs. Now that school is starting, she will be helping us to provide care for the children in the after-school hours.

Another area we are excited about is our continued positive responses from the community regarding our web based Scottish Rite sponsored Educational Programs. These are the programs we created with our Community Benefit Grant from the Scottish Rite Foundation last year. The ongoing survey results we are receiving indicate that we are continuing to provide our community with information regarding early childhood development.

One of the most exciting parts of the 2nd quarter of 2022 has been the addition of our modern technology, which would not have been possible without the Scottish Rite resources. We added iPads, computers, touch screens and new computer/ augmentative communication applications to our therapy material repertoire. We are still awaiting our new printer to facilitate creating home programs and family support materials. One of our therapists requested I share her thanks to the Scottish Rite Foundation saying, "Thank you so much for funding our technology. This allows us to trial a variety of augmentative applications that let our kids that have extreme language needs communicate."

Coming up on August 13, we will be having our first Scottish Rite Ice Cream Social. This will be the first opportunity to gather our pediatric families and our local masons together since Covid arrived in our community. In the next newsletter I will get to share with you the details of this new adventure.

With sincere thanks for the opportunities, you create for the children on the Western Slope of Colorado.

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

In the Spotlight at Children's Hospital Colorado

Amy Frisbie, M.A., CCC-SLP

interviewed by Lisa Powers



Lisa: Tell me a little about yourself.

Amy: I am a parent and a speech therapist. I moved to Colorado from Minnesota for graduate school. I went to CU Boulder and have been at Children's Colorado (CHCO) ever since, for almost 21 years. I love to spend time when not at work in the garden, traveling, and being with my family.

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

Amy: I've been interested in learning about autism since I was in middle school and having the privilege to work with children and families who have autism at the hospital for so long has for sure been the most rewarding. When I started as a speech therapist, my vision was to create an autism program at CHCO, so really developing a program around autism at the hospital has been a dream come true. Watching others learn, and teaching speech therapy peers and students, has also been incredible. Between teaching, presenting, and writing, I've been able to help folks learn how to help others. In my current role [as the Associate Clinical Manager for Speech at CHCO Therapy in Broomfield], helping team members grow and work together has been another really exciting opportunity. I appreciate being able to give back the field of speech-language pathology. [Amy has presented at multiple conferences; spent 6 years as the AAC instructor for the grad program at CU Boulder; consulted for 11 autism schools in Shanghai, China; written numerous journal articles; and published two chapters in a DHH textbook related to autism].

Lisa: What is the most memorable thing that has happened during a therapy session?

Amy: The first time a child says "I love you" to a parent using their AAC device is always a memorable experience. And sharing in that moment with a family is pretty life changing.

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

Amy: Wow, in so many ways! I've been able to participate in TWT camps for 20 years and have seen the changes, growth, and progress that individual campers make every summer. There is also such a benefit for siblings, training of SLPs from the community, and for families being able to take a break and know that their kids are safe and having the time of their lives at summer camp. Individual families who are on a path of starting services with us, such as a Hanen parent education program, are so appreciative when SRF can step in to help them complete their intervals of care. The many opportunities I have witnessed for kids with autism to participate in social groups, and build friendships and improve their quality of life, when supported by SRF funding, has been just wonderful to be a part of.

Lisa: If you could travel somewhere with the SRF Masons, where would you take them?

Amy: On an adventure. In 2019, I was able to visit China and standing at the top of the Great Wall was pretty amazing. That would be an incredible opportunity to learn and continue helping people in other countries who also experience barriers to communication. Another amazing place I traveled to was Nepal where I was able to see Everest and meet so many beautiful, generous people, who were so kind to us. That was a powerful experience that I would love to share with the masons to remind us that families are the same all over the world- we all want the very best for our children!

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

Amy: Thank you for impacting the lives of so many children, families, and clinicians! Thank you for your commitment to making families' lives a little easier.

Lisa: What's next for the CHCO Autism program?

Amy: Laura Cooper [new Autism Program Coordinator for speech therapy at CHCO] and the whole autism team. In the 20 years that I've been doing autism, everything has changed. The next 20 years requires openness, new eyes, well supported team members, and a new level of understanding and advocacy in how we include and support autistic and neurodivergent people in all aspects of society. At CHCO we are blessed with so many amazing, creative clinicians, who will continue to develop programming that meets the changing needs of the young people in our community, to prepare them for whatever comes next.

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