

RITEVIEW

September - December 2022



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 2023 is here! It is with joy and a sense of adventure that I greet each new year and reflect on the experiences of the past year. Experiences shared together have been a highlight of 2022. It was wonderful to be together last month at the Scottish Rite Foundation’s holiday party and see so many parents, children, friends, and colleagues.



Photos from the December 2022 holiday party. Left: Scottish Rite Foundation Board of Trustees: Honorable Steven Munsinger, President and SGIG Emeritus, Bob Gregory, and Bryant Harris, Executive Secretary. Right: Members of the HIKE Choir leading us in song.

I genuinely enjoyed speaking with families at the holiday party who shared how the services provided by our Learning Therapists have helped their children feel more comfortable in describing their experiences with dyslexia, and hearing how proud these children were that they could read now! Another family, who was new to working with their speech-generating device, shared how nice it was to meet other families who used similar technologies. These are just a couple of examples of how services provided daily by the talented and skilled speech-language pathologists, learning therapists, and early interventionists in all of the RiteCare programs directly impact the lives of children and their families. I am extremely grateful for each of you and our partnership with the Scottish Rite Foundation’s Board of Trustees and Bryant Harris’ dedication to serving families and children in Colorado, as well as the 20 Masons around the State who serve on the Foundation’s Appraisal/Assessment Committees. It is a true honor for me in working with our team and reading the delightful stories shared by the families you serve with your clinical expertise, time, and dedication.

In this issue, we continue to highlight your outstanding work underscored by your creativity in serving busy, working families. For example, your dedication and hard work in supporting both professionals and families through education, celebrations, and ongoing individual therapy programs has made them all highly beneficial to children, families, and professionals alike.

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. As always, thanks for your dedication and work in our mission of serving children and their families.

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Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado updates

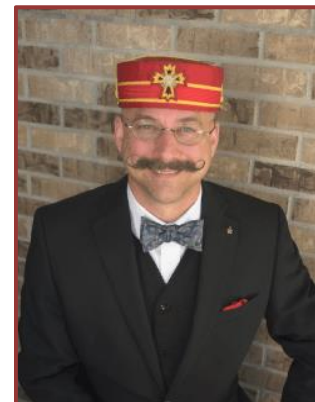
As I write this in the last few days of the year, as the last few donations roll in, I am reminded of how much *you* have accomplished over the last year. You are the bread and butter, meat and potatoes that make the lives of children in the state of Colorado better. Through donations, volunteer support, professional support, and fresh ideas; Scottish Rite Masons and RiteCare Partners have made possible huge strides this year.

One of the biggest new opportunities your Scottish Rite Foundation has successfully engaged in, is a partnership with Metro State University. MSU started off in the Summer with their own spin on the Treasure Chest Program, providing underserved children in urban Denver locations with literacy opportunities they have not had in the past. The Foundation hopes to see applicants for the Dwight A. Hamilton Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado Graduate Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology next year. We are also hoping that in the future we will see engagement with the clinical side of MSU.

A second new initiative, which we hope to get under way in the new year, is outreach on the Eastern Plains. Putting all the pieces of this project together in the last year has been a rewarding and an eye-opening challenge. Finding a Speech-Language Pathologist to partner with on the Eastern Plains, a facility to host clinical work, and understanding a new way to fund the project has been a creative endeavor involving many different people. When I mentioned that we were looking for Speech-Language Pathologists and other resources at Scottish Rite Reunions and meetings, Scottish Rite Masons stepped up and offered their expertise and connections. Without that invaluable support and willingness to engage, the Foundation would not be able to grow and reach out to more children across the state.

Finally, this year, we have a new website. If you haven't looked at our site in a while, you may be surprised by the new format. The Foundation has built a more interactive web presence which now can be used not just to locate information about Speech-Language services, but also for our scholarship applicants to submit their paperwork and our RiteCare Partners to enter their billing information. The development of the site is always ongoing. Moving it to a common content management system allows us to adjust information and post new news items more efficiently so more time is spent on other critical management functions.

Those are just three highlights of the changes which have occurred in 2022. The Scottish Rite Foundation looks forward to an ever-expanding reach to help *all* the children of Colorado speak and be heard. If you have new ideas, wish to volunteer or make a donation, please reach out to us at ritecare@scottishritefoundation.org.



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

In the Spotlight at Children's Speech & Reading Center

Cheryl Campbell, M.A., CCC-SLP

Interviewed by Lisa Powers



Lisa: Tell me a little about yourself.

Cheryl: I've been a speech pathologist for 28 years. I am married, and my husband was in the Air Force & Air National Guard, so I've worked in multiple states. We moved to Alaska in 1998. I worked for a clinic there for 3 ½ years and then bought part of that private practice. I had my own practice for over 17 years. My therapy evolved from exclusively group therapy to exclusively individual therapy. I had employees when my practice began and then transitioned to just myself over time. I have a daughter and 2 grandchildren. In 2017, my husband retired completely from the military and got a job offer in Fort Collins. Over the next year, I moved along with my daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren to Colorado. I initially worked for a clinic in the Greeley area for 2 years and then was hired at the Children's Speech & Reading Center (CSRC). CSRC has been a good fit. I work at the satellite office in Loveland 3 days per week and at the main office 1 day per week. I get to team with the reading specialist at Loveland. I've learned a lot working for a nonprofit and alongside the reading specialist. Since moving to Colorado, I have learned that I can still learn new ways to do therapy, such as the incorporation of Teletherapy during the pandemic.

Lisa: What makes Children's Speech & Reading Center unique?

Cheryl: CSRC is special in so many ways. We can offer scholarships through the Scottish Rite Foundation. This amazing support allows us to work with a part of the population that may not seek therapy because insurance doesn't cover speech or they can't afford to pay for speech out of pocket. Those children tend to fall through the cracks without being able to receive help. We can help those families and serve those children. It's an amazing opportunity!

Lisa: If my child was to have you as a therapist, what could I expect?

Cheryl: I like to meet the child where they are, and I tell parents that. We are going to build on the skills that the child has, and therapy is unique to every child. We get to celebrate all the little milestones as they achieve them. It's fun to watch them grow and develop and participate more in therapy and see their confidence and communication skills grow. I encourage families to work with their children at home and that time adds up and extends their therapy time.

Lisa: What do you find most rewarding about your work?

Cheryl: Watching children develop and getting to see those skills, such as when they master a skill or hear new sounds in spontaneous conversation. I get excited to see therapy is working and the child is getting it and making those changes. It's amazing to graduate kids from therapy and see that they're good to go. It's heartwarming to witness kids who have been basically nonverbal to then communicating verbally—it's hard to not cry. A month or so ago a child was leaving therapy and shouted, "I love you!" I love to experience those things!

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

Cheryl: Early on in my private practice, I had a little girl whose speech was unintelligible. We sat down at a table, and I must have yawned or opened my mouth wide. She said something to me that sounded like "you have bleed in your mouth." I had burned the roof of my mouth earlier that day and wondered if I was bleeding. But then I realized that she actually said, "You have bling in your mouth" referring to my dental fillings.

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

Cheryl: One thing that I like is that if a child can tolerate a longer session, we are not limited to only doing 30 minutes. SRF is amazing in that they've chosen to focus on supporting children with communication disorders and helping them. Not all private clinics can offer scholarship support. SRF allows us to do more for families of northern Colorado.

Lisa: If you could share the beauty of Alaska with the SRF Masons, where would you take them?

Cheryl: People need to put Alaska on their list to visit once or twice to experience the grand beauty. You should visit in the Summer to experience the amount of daylight and in Winter to experience the contrast of seasons. Anchorage—where we lived—has ½ of population of state and has a very close-knit community feel—biggest small town in America. An hour outside of Anchorage is a whole different world—smaller highways, smaller roads. Everyone should take a train trip, so you can see parts of the state that you can't see from the highway. And Denali in the summer is a must! You can't always see her, as she generates her own weather system, but when she is out, it is grand.

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

Cheryl: Huge thank you! What you are doing is changing lives and setting children up for success! There's no amount of thank you that would adequately express that. I hope they do understand the difference they are making.

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

Montrose Regional Health - Program and Event Update

Holiday Greetings from Montrose Regional Health RiteCare program. We are winding up 2022 with our traditional Holiday party. We held it on Friday afternoon and it was a wonderful success. The children were busy with the Shriner Clowns, crafts, snacks and, of course, a visit with Santa. We had a great turnout and are looking forward to doing this again next year.

This party was the final function for one of our gentlemen on the Appraisal Committee. Brother Lloyd Stahl is retiring from the committee after 8 years of service to our program. We appreciate all the time and effort he has graciously dedicated to our children. We will miss his sense of humor and responsibility.

The RiteCare program continues to provide funding for speech/language therapy for families that do not have insurance coverage for many reasons. Our families are very grateful for this opportunity and the partnership between our hospital and the RiteCare program.

We are looking forward to the coming new year and hope you and yours have a Wonderful and Safe Holiday.

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





The Children's Speech & Reading Center staff has been very busy since August, working with local preschools to perform free screenings. Our therapists have worked with five preschools to complete 78 speech/language screenings and 109 early literacy screenings. Receiving support from the Scottish Rite Foundation, to be able to offer these screens in our area, is a crucial part of building a foundation of learning for the children of northern Colorado.

**Submitted by; Cheryl Campbell, RiteCare Program Director
Children's Speech and Reading Center, Ft. Collins**



The Piñon Project Treasure Chest Program



The Piñon Project utilizes The Treasure Chest Program with families in a variety of programs offered throughout The Piñon Project.. The Piñon Project had the opportunity to share The Treasure Chest Program with a family that has had real success accessing valuable literacy experiences, learning opportunities and parent child interactions. The parent experienced academic challenges as a child. The two-year-old child has developmental and speech delays. The family has limited access to books and toys at home. The Treasure Chest Program allows the parent to experience success and more fully appreciate reading, sharing books with her child and access to a variety of toys and puzzles. During this family's involvement with the program the mother and child had an increase to speech success, and a richer vocabulary. The parent has stated since using The Treasure Chest Program she looks forward to and is better able to play with her child. The Piñon Project is continually grateful to The Scottish Rite Foundation in its support to our community resulting in positive parent child interactions and a love for literacy.

**Submitted by: Elizabeth Russell, Treasure Chest Program
Coordinator, Cortez**

Memorial Regional Health

When you think of Craig, Colorado what may come to mind is hunting, coal and power plants. What you may not realize about Craig, Colorado, specifically Memorial Regional Health, is that our speech language services are on the pulse of change. Colleen Boyle, M.S. CCC-SLP has been immersing herself in learning to ensure she is providing the most up to date, neurodiversity affirming speech language therapy. Colleen has been taking courses covering topics including the neurodiversity paradigm, disability justice, gestalt language processing, authentic strategies to foster autonomous communication via AAC, interoception, and emergent literacy. Though she has felt the challenges of implementing progressive therapy strategies, she has seen the effectiveness of this education in both her patient's and patient's families lives.

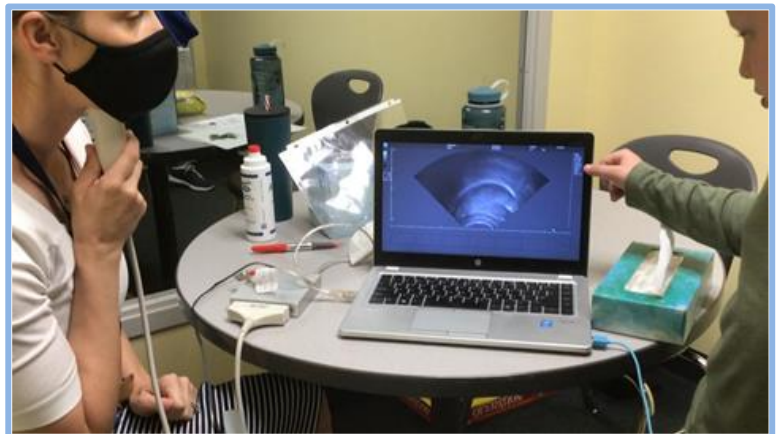
We at Memorial Regional Health and this community are incredibly grateful for Colleen and the Scottish Rite Foundation.
Thank you!

Submitted by: Susan L. Jones, Lead Occupational Therapist, Memorial Regional Health, Craig

University of Northern Colorado Program Updates

Thanks to the generous support of the Scottish Rite Foundation, we were able to run a new program during the Fall semester that provided intensive therapy services using ultrasound biofeedback for children with speech sound disorders. Children attended speech therapy for 4 hours per week for a two week period. Our speech-language pathology graduate students also provided parents with training and materials for a home practice program that enabled families to reinforce speech production skills at home. We also gathered information from parents and children who completed this program about their experiences in participating in intensive therapy services, which is greatly needed to inform our clinical practice.

This program was provided in addition to the Scottish Rite funded Treasure Chest program and regular therapy services delivered in the UNC Speech and Language Clinic. We are so grateful for this wonderful support and the opportunity to serve children in need of speech and language therapy!



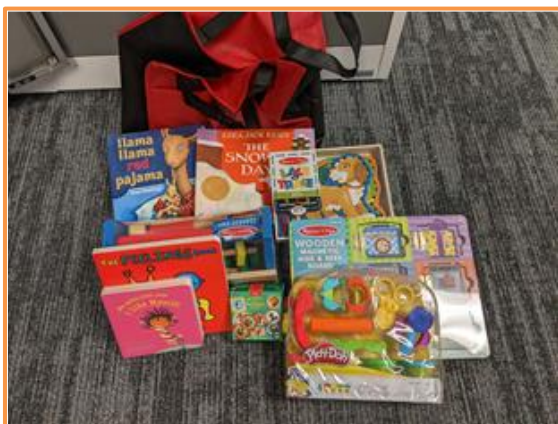
Submitted by: Caitlin Raaz, RiteCare Program Director, University of Northern Colorado

Metropolitan State University of Denver Treasure Chest Program Updates

November was a bit of a slow month for treasure chests as we had to shift to a waitlist for our clinic and were unable to accept new clients.

Here is what we accomplished in November:

- We hired a full-time Clinical Educator- Sarah Beckman. She is supervising students in clinic and will be supporting the treasure chest program.
- Both Sarah and Ilana completed [Hanan It Takes Two to Talk](#) certification workshops and are now able to offer the It Takes Two to Talk program as full parent workshops or through individual sessions. This program will complement and enhance the education and training of parents who we see as part of the Treasure Chest Program.
- Our administrative staff worked hard this month to better organize and secure our treasure chest materials. Below are pictures of our new materials for the preschool and toddler Treasure Chests provided in English and Spanish.



- Upcoming plans:
 - Sarah is creating an 8 session lesson plan series that students will use when new clients come in for Treasure Chests
 - We will host a Treasure Chest Workshop at the Peoria Crossing housing development for 5 families through our partnership with You Be You Mobile Preschool
 - We will accept new Treasure Chest clients beginning the week of Jan 23 for our Spring semester of clinic

Submitted by Ilana Oliff, Director Clinical Education, MSU

Children's Hospital Colorado First Steps Camp Interview with a Graduate Student

First Steps Camp is an intensive parent training program for families who have recently received their child's first speech generating device (SGD). The program occurs over an extended weekend (Thursday through Sunday) each April and October at Easterseals' Rocky Mountain Village, in Empire, Colorado.

An SGD is tablet with specialized software that speaks what an individual is trying to communicate. It is considered an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) tool that can help non-speaking individuals learn to communicate a different way than with their voice, similar to learning to write letters with a pen.

Each camp, we invite eight families to this incredible weekend experience. Additionally, we invite graduate students who participate in the parent trainings and learn the invaluable caregiver perspective.

How would you describe First Steps Camp weekend?

At First Steps Camp I spent the weekend learning alongside families of children who just received AAC devices to help them communicate. The children were able to enjoy adaptive activities such as ziplines, fishing, and outdoor hikes while the parents learned from AAC experts how to implement their child's AAC devices into everyday life.

What was a moment that really stood out for you?

A moment that really stood out to me was on the last day having the parents and caregivers share what they took away from the experience. While the camp was only 3 days, it was powerful to hear how much valuable information the caregivers learned, and how much growth they were able to see within their own children as well.

What was a moment that was really hard/challenging? What was the outcome?

One of the more challenging moments was when the families did a personal circles activity. They investigated who is in their child's immediate circle and who are on the peripheral. Seeing the families recognize who is truly a part of their child's life, and who may not be as big of a part as they had once thought brought up a lot of emotions for the families. This was a big counseling moment and having a safe space to share with one another allowed them to open up and be vulnerable. The families offering resources to one another and offering to stay in touch or continue to support one another after camp was a heartwarming outcome. It's amazing how common experience can bring people together.

How do you think this experience will impact your therapy/working with families?

This experience gave me invaluable insight into the importance of working with families within therapy environments. Parent education will go a long way when they are the ones that spend the most time with the child with an AAC device. As a future SLP, I will only be able to work with the child for a small portion of time in a week, so ensuring that the parents and caregivers are equipped and confident in providing models and make customizations to the devices is so important. I also learned the emphasis of advocacy, and what role we play in providing resources to families and connecting them to their community will be extremely beneficial to not only the caregivers, but their children as well.

Erika Soderholm, B.A.
Graduate Student Clinician
Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic
University of Colorado Boulder

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

FAMILY EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION

Dear Scottish Rite Foundation,

Thank you so very much for the scholarship provided to my son Parker. We have just returned from the most remarkable weekend up at Rocky Mountain Village for the Talking with Technology camp.

It is very difficult to articulate how much this camp meant to me and my family. It was the first time since we had our son that we were able to FULLY enjoy being camping in the beautiful mountains/woods. It was also the first time that my son has ever been excited to go with another person to have adventures. I am so proud of his growth in just a few short days!! The scholarship you provided allowed us to experience this life changing weekend.

The classes that my husband and I attended while our 3 year old was experiencing the most wonderful activities and interactions really changed my viewpoint and the way I use/see his talking device. I knew it was his voice, but it really didn't sink in that it is HIS voice. I need to be better at programming words that HE would like to say. Hearing from the other parents was so inspiring and comforting.

Again, I don't know if I can ever fully express how full my heart is and how much I appreciate your foundation and what you do. I just want you to know that we are a VERY grateful family!!!!

All the best,

Traci, Matt, Parker and Hudson



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