



The Regional Medical Center

**SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION OF COLORADO
2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado provided financial assistance to 65 children to receive Speech and Language Therapy at St Mary's Medical Center in Grand Junction, CO, in 2020. The overall average cost per child to receive speech and language therapy was \$2,436, which was 1.1% less than the average cost in 2019. The children were from the Grand Junction, Clifton, Glade Park, Debeque, Fruita, and Collbran communities. The table below summarizes our 2020 program, including the type of services provided, the number of children served.

2020 Program	Number Served	Scottish Rite Foundation Contributions	Average Cost per child
Total	65	\$158,325	\$2,436

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The "Rite Care" Speech-Language Program at St Mary's Hospital provided "in-clinic" speech and language therapy until March 17, 2020, at which time, we closed our clinic and all therapy services due to COVID 19 restrictions. On April 13, 2020, we began offering telehealth to speech and language services to our interested clients. As our community restrictions decreased, we gradually added "in-clinic" services and therapy sessions through telehealth.

Our Rite Care program sponsored children from 19 months through 7 years of age throughout the year. In June 2020, we offered a limited summer therapy program for children up to 11 years of age for individual and group therapy. The Summer group therapy program was designed to have one child in-the-clinic with the therapist, and the other children in the group participated using the telehealth connection. Family education is always a high priority and is incorporated into each therapy session. The child's caregivers are encouraged to attend the therapy session, allowing therapists to review the goals and strategies used in the session and assist the family in carrying over those goals.

We have therapy appointments available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, and services are provided by six licensed and certified speech-language pathologists, with the support of a therapy assistant and two therapy aides. Our pediatric team of therapists also includes registered pediatric occupational therapists and a pediatric physical therapist.

The St. Mary's Rite Care Program provides speech therapy treatment for children with simple to complex developmental delays, including: autism, deaf or hard of hearing, fluency disorders, voice disorders, apraxia, cleft lip and palate, eating disorders, learning disabilities, neurotrauma, executive function challenges, children requiring augmentative/alternative communication.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Providing quality care, resulting in the desired outcomes, is of utmost importance to our program. To measure and monitor our performance, we administer baseline assessments to each child and periodic reassessments. We continued to add data to the REDCap data collection program in 2020. We enter the results of the baseline data, and subsequent results of the follow-up assessments. At this time, our sample size is small. However, in Speech Sound Development, our data indicate that 75% of the children demonstrated improvements in their speech sound productions after six months, and 100% of them demonstrated improvements after 12 months. In Language Development, the data indicates 90% of the children with follow-up tests improved after six months. The assessment results are also used to design treatment programs, provide parent education and home programs.

To further ensure our program provides best practice programs for our clients, the pediatric therapists participate in ongoing continuing education. This year the entire speech staff attended a three-day course in the Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) Program, and everyone has attended multiple online trainings for Telepractice. And most importantly, we have had the opportunity to participate in monthly online training with Amy Frisbee from the Children's Hospital Colorado Autism Team, thanks to the Scottish Rite Foundation grant.

LEADERSHIP

The St. Mary's Speech and Language Department associates are active within our department, our hospital, our community, and our state. Some of the organizations in which they participate include: School District 51 Child Find Assessment Team, The Cleft Palate Team of Western Colorado, Colorado Home Intervention Program, The Early Childhood Steering Committee, Mesa County Partnership for Children and Families, The Community Food Bank, The Colorado Speech and Hearing Association, and The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are proud to say that St. Mary's Hospital Speech and Language Therapy Program and the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado have been partners for 35 years. We have seen many fluctuations in our local economy over the years, and once again, due to the pandemic, many families in our community are struggling. Scottish Rite has always been there to help with financial support to help our local children learn and grow. The Foundation has provided more than \$3.6 million for the children in our community over the past 35 years.

We would especially like to thank our 2020 Scottish Rite Appraisal Committee members, Don Hobbs, Jimmy McBride, Gerald Conyers, Dennis Bechtold, and Mike Murphy.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our children, our community, and our program.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Brophy-Neilsen, M.S., CCC-SLP