



Orient of Nebraska

July-August 2012 - Volume 2, Issue 4

Calendar

Jul 1-5 Imperial Shrine (Charlotte, NC)
 Jul 5, 12, 19, 26..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Jul 21..... One Day Blue Lodge degrees (O)
 Aug 20..... Membership Picnic @ Cooper Farm (O)
 Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, 30..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Sep 6, 13, 20, 27..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Sep 8 WalkRite for RiteCare (O)
 Sept 28..... Feast of Tishri dinner (L)
 Oct 5.. Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner & Auction (O)
 Oct 4, 11, 18, 25..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Nov 1, 8, 15, 29..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Nov 2 and 3..... Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
 Dec 6, 13, 20..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, last Friday of each month
 Aug 31, Sep 28, Oct 26, Nov 30, Dec 28

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month
 Sep 4, Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month
 Sep 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month
 Jul 16, Aug 20*, Sep 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17

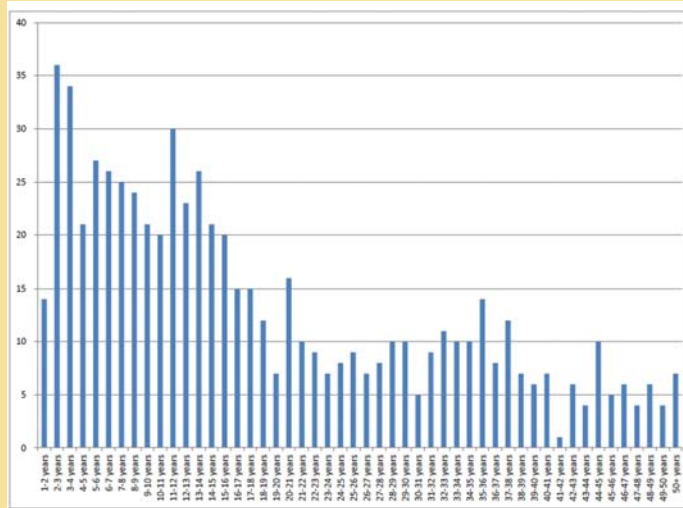
*Note: Aug 20 will be members' Picnic at Cooper Farm.

For more information, call the
 General Secretary in your Valley

Gene Gatti (Alliance) (308) 762-4324
 Glen Jorgensen (Hastings)..... (402) 462-5813
 Bruce Wood (Lincoln)..... (402) 435-2144
 Curt Edic (Omaha) (402) 342-1300

Membership

An interesting and sobering fact came out of the Grand Commander's Leadership Conference in St. Louis last March. Dean Alban, Director of Membership, reported that Scottish Rite Valleys traditionally lose the most members between their 2nd and 5th year of membership, if they are not engaged.



This graph shows how many Brothers were suspended, based on the length they were Scottish Rite Masons. The numbers are surprisingly high, but the two highest categories demonstrating that we lose the most members between the critical 2nd and 5th year.

We know there isn't a "magic bullet" to engage Brothers. But there are things we can do to let Brothers know they are welcome here.

- Introduce yourself to a new brother, and introduce him to your friends. Listen to their story about why they joined Masonry.
- Invite a new Brother to join the kitchen team, degree team, prop or costume room team. You'd be surprised how much they'll get involved when they know their talents, skills, and expertise are valued.
- Go out of your way to sit with a new Brother at a Lodge dinner. Make sure his wife is part of the conversation. Let them know that this is their home and that their families are welcome here, too.

This isn't the job of the General Secretary. This job belongs to all of us. Once our new Brothers know they are an integral, valuable, and welcome member of the Masonic family, you'll be surprised how fast we can reduce these trends of Brothers quitting within the first 2 to 5 years.

Congratulations to the new Masters of the Royal Secret at the Spring, 2012 Reunions



Lincoln Class, April 16, and 17

Top row (left to right): Shane Rhian, 32°, James Batten, 32°, Bruce Wood, 33°, Jerry Rauch, 33°
 Middle Row: Joe Huskey, 32°, James Brown, 33°, Jimmie Delp, 32° KCCH, Kevin Gleason, 32°, Dale Lueders, 33°, Charles Godwin, 33°, Andy Seachord, 32°
 Front Row: Ken Beebe, 33°, **Preston LaPointe, 32°, Greg Prososki, 32°, Antonio Pastrana, 32°, Abdul Kareem, 32°, David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH, Dennis Hecht, 32°**



Omaha Class, April 15, 16, & 17

Top row, l to r. Paul D. Rutherford, 33°, Class Director; John T. Maxwell, 33°, Asst. Class Director, Curtis M. Edic, 33° General Secretary, Richard L. Corwine, 33° Almoner, Cary L. Manson, 32° KCCH Venerable Master of Consistory, Scott D. Reuman, 32° KCCH, Eminent Commander, Council of Kadosh, A.J. Johnson, 32° KCCH, Wise Master, Chapter of Rose Croix, Dean F. SKokan, 32° KCCH, General Director of Degrees, James O. Wolfe, 32° Stage Director, Richard E. Gilmore, 32° Asst. Class Director

Bottom row, seated, l. to r.: **Richthofen Carrasco Rojas, John R. Warnhoff III, Nicholas T. Moore, Richard D. Moore**, Class Orator, Robert A. Falk, 33° Grand Cross, **Derek Bruning**, Class President, **Matthew D. Nielsen, Steven W. Marshall**, Class Treasurer/Secretary

Lux social studies teacher wins prestigious Scottish Rite award



Scott Dodge, 32° KCCH presents Lux Middle School social studies teacher Kathi Mercure with the 2012 Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award

Since 1964, the Scottish Rite Valley of Lincoln has presented Lincoln teachers with the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award. This year, Lux Middle School social studies teacher Kathi Mercure received this prestigious honor, and her portrait will be displayed with the past years' winners in the Lincoln Public Schools administration building.

Kathi brings her passion to the classroom, talking to students what history is all about, usually from real life experiences, according to Principal Bill Bucher. She shares her own experiences from travels around the world, and will lead a group of Lux students to Washington, D.C. this summer and to Japan in October. Her travels open students' minds to the world.

"It changes their perspective on life. It changes their perspective of other people," Mercure said. "It really makes them grow up. I so love it. It is so exciting."

She went to a year of college, then got married, took time off while her husband got his undergraduate and law degrees, then graduated from Peru State College. During the hiatus, she realized that her passion was in history.

"I think teaching was the perfect job for me, because I love kids and I love learning and I love traveling and I love helping them understand ordinary people make history all the time," she said. Kids know when teachers truly care, she said, and middle school is a particularly important time to make connections with them. That's how teaching can change students' lives, said Mercure.

The award comes with a \$1,500 stipend from the Lincoln Scottish Rite Preservation Foundation, supported by Century Club donors and tax-deductible gifts.

*Bruce Wood, 33°
General Secretary, Valley of Lincoln*

One Day of Giving. . . A Lifetime of Support

On May 17, 2012, the Lincoln Community Foundation hosted the Give to Lincoln Day fundraiser. Moneys donated to Lincoln non-profits not only supported those organizations, but were eligible for a prorated match of \$200,000 split among all participating organizations.

20 members of the Lincoln Valley joined the Century Club through the Give to Lincoln Day fundraiser, and raised \$2,075 for the Lincoln Scottish Rite Preservation Foundation. Through their generosity, Century Club members have contributed \$9,075 to the Foundation, which will be used for much-needed building renovations, the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award, and RiteCare speech and language services. At present, there are 46 Charter members of the Century Club.

All members of the Lincoln Valley are invited to join the Century Club and to proudly wear the Century Club pin as a member of this



exclusive club of donors. Members will also receive a periodic newsletter, *the Lantern*, detailing the state of upcoming fundraising initiatives, what is happening with RiteCare in the state, and news about the Foundation. Your tax-deductible donation helps the Valley continue our commitment to the community.

Please consider a tax-deductible \$100 annual gift to the Lincoln Scottish Rite Preservation Foundation. Call Bruce Wood, 33° at (402) 435-2144 or e-mail scottishrite@windstream.net for more information.

In conjunction with the Temple Board, the Foundation Board will begin exploring needed updates and renovations to the Lincoln Scottish Rite. Century Club members are helping to maintain the Scottish Rite as an architectural jewel in downtown Lincoln for the next century.

*George McCabe, 32° KCCH (Board President)
Lincoln Scottish Rite Preservation Foundation*

St. Louis Leadership Conference

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Scottish Rite Leadership Conference hosted in Saint Louis, Missouri on March 23 and 24.

The bus trip down and back was interesting and provided an opportunity for Masonic fellowship.

We traveled with the officers from our valley along with the Fellows and Officers from the other Nebraska valleys. The first evening we all met for dinner at a local restaurant and had an enjoyable evening.



2012 Fellows (L-R): Kyle Martindale (Hastings), Jon Oliver (Lincoln), Grand Commander Ron Seale, 33°, Chris Nigro (Omaha), Jeffrey Coleman (Omaha), Andy Seachord (Lincoln)

The Fellows meeting started at 9:00 AM Friday and Fellows from across the country were there. Grand Commander Ronnie Seale discussed what makes the perfect valley and asked for input ranging from the number of degrees performed to the dues and initiation. It was interesting to see people argue on the need for dues to cover expenses, but we did not come to an agreement. The discussion focused on what expenses should be covered and is a dollar per day too much for dues? The rest of the morning, we discussed how to make things happen and encourage participation in valley events and recruit new members.

The last portion of the morning was the presentation of the Fellows pin. It was a humbling experience as we lined up across from each other and presented each other with the Fellows pin.

The rest of the weekend we participated in the regular Leadership seminars and I found the social media ones to be the most interesting. One thing I realized during the seminars was how active and interactive Nebraska's Valleys are compared to others. We have several activities and the leadership is open to new ideas when presented.

Overall this was an enlightening experience and I was able to meet many interesting people from valleys all over the country and I hope to use the information we obtained to enhance our valley.

*Jeffrey M. Coleman, 32°
2012 Fellow*

With great sorrow, we announce the passing of Ill. Brother Warren "Duke" Lichty, 33° past Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Nebraska (1991-2007), and Past Grand Master of Nebraska (1979). Duke served as Assistant Attorney General for Nebraska and chief counsel to the Department of Roads, and was active in numerous Masonic organizations during his career. Duke served as Grand Sovereign of the United Grand Imperial Council, Knights of the Red Cross of Constanine, as well as on the board for the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Duke served in numerous leadership roles within the House of the Temple, including several years as managing editor for the Scottish Rite Journal. He is survived by his wife Margaret of many years, and will be missed by Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons.



Goodwill Board of Directors member Ron Jensen inducts Charles Sederstrom into the Hall of Fame.

On April 12, 2012, Goodwill honored **Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°**, SGIG for Nebraska, by inducting him in their hall of fame for his service as a Board member. The Hall of Fame is Goodwill's way of recognizing the leadership, performance, volunteerism, fundraising and the good moral character of board members and volunteers. Charles Sederstrom and Wayne Simmonds, retired CEO of FBG Services are Goodwill's newest inductees for 2012.

Goodwill's Mission: Goodwill changes lives and strengthens communities through education, training and work. Website: www.goodwillomaha.org.

Scottish Rite Masons serve their communities by sitting on Boards, volunteering, and mentoring. Share your story with the members of how you are making a positive impact in your Valley. E-mail Micah Evans at micah@SRNE.org with your story.



Scott D. Reuman

Eminent Commander, Council of Kadosh



Scott entered the US Navy on the delayed entry program. Upon graduation, he went to Special Weapons School in San Diego, CA. Completing his training there in 1980, he was assigned to the Naval Magazine in Lualualei, HI. Scott was also deployed to White Sands Naval Station for weapons testing and DOE, Albuquerque, NM for training. He was honorably discharged in 1983.

Scott followed family to Nebraska and has worked for Seward Motor Freight hauling CO2 and Herman Bros. hauling dry cement. Since 1991, Scott has been employed by Sara Lee Bakery.

Scott's Masonic career began in 1995 when he was raised at Springfield Lodge #112. He served as Worshipful Master in 2001. Scott joined the Scottish Rite and Tangier Shrine in 1995. He has served as Tangier Shrine Racers Treasurer for several years, and has been an active member of the stage crew since 1997. Scott is also a member of the Knights of St. Andrew and was honored with his KCCH in 2011.

Scott met his wife Cookie in Omaha in 1994 on a bowling league, and has been happily married since Oct. 5, 1996. Scott and Cookie have a wonderful daughter Brittany who is now 12.



Date: Saturday, September 8, 2012
Location: Zorinsky Lake Picnic Pavillion (156th & F Streets, Omaha, NE)
Time: Registration opens at 9:30, Walk begins at 10:30
Registration: No fee for walking and registration, but donors who give \$100 or more receive great incentive prizes
Website: Visit walkrite.kintera.org/omaha2012 for more information

Cary L. Manson

Venerable Master, Consistory



Cary Manson was born in Nebraska City and raised in Omaha. He graduated from Technical High School in 1956. Cary and his Lady Toddy Ann married in 1960. His daughter Tammy and her husband Todd live in Omaha, and his other daughter Jennifer and her husband Justin live in Kansas City. Cary and Toddy have four

grandchildren, Cameron and Audrey who live in Omaha and Abigail and Porter who live in Kansas City.

Cary worked at United Airlines Ramp Service for 40 years, retiring in 2000.

Cary was raised a Master Mason at Florence Lodge #281 in 1980, and served as Worshipful Master in 1989. He is a dual member at Nebraska Lodge #1. He joined York Rite in 1981 and Tangier Shrine in 1982. Cary has been a member of the T-Bird Classic Unit and the Mustangiers, as well as the Black Sheep and Jo De Ra. He served as Potentate of Tangier Shrine in 2010.

Cary was Associate Bethel Guardian of Bethel #33 from 1985 to 1990 and was Associate Patron of Owaissa Chapter OES when Toddy was Worthy Matron of the Chapter in 1987. Cary joined the Scottish Rite in 1993, and received his KCCH in 2009. In addition to serving as a line officer, Cary has been a member of the Culinary Masters for many years.



House of the Temple Update



On May 19, the House of the Temple hosted the “Celebrating the Craft” web-a-thon, emceed by legendary comedian Norm Crosby. Money raised supported renovations at the House of the Temple, the century-old headquarters

for the Supreme Council and the Scottish Rite.

Scottish Rite Masons from around Nebraska tuned in to www.scottishrite.org to watch Norm Crosby and his guests, including country singer Brad Paisley, Academy Award winning actor Ernest Borgnine, and Grand Commander Ron Seale. Nebraskans contributed nearly \$5,000 toward the House of the Temple Preservation Fund, which will help with much needed renovations on the building, as well as to build a world-class Masonic headquarters, including museum and library resources, and state-of-the-art meeting spaces for Masons from around the world.

Thank you to all who helped make the Celebrating the Craft fundraiser a huge success!

Knights of St. Andrew Leadership Conference



Nebraskans comprised the largest KSA delegation at the Guthrie, Oklahoma Spring Reunion. Here, they join Ill. Brother, Jim Tresner, 33° G.C.

12 Knights of St. Andrew representing the Valleys of Omaha and Lincoln, travelling to Guthrie, Oklahoma in April for the first annual KSA Conference. Members had the opportunity to network with other KSA

members from around the nation and participate in leadership sessions about how to best engage 32° “black hats” in the Valleys within their Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew. The KSA is an organization for “black hats,” providing volunteer and service opportunities within the Valleys.

Past Venerable Master for the Omaha Chapter of Knights of St. Andrew Micah Evans presented a session on how the KSA can be integrated into the Valley as an organization to develop leaders.



Groundbreaking Re-Enactment

Scottish Rite Masonic Center

Join us as we relive the
Centennial Anniversary
of the Scottish Rite ground-
breaking ceremony
1912—2012

Sat., July 28, 2012

Scottish Rite, Omaha

- Groundbreaking Program
- Pasta dinner prepared by Culinary Masters

Details to follow

www.scottishriteomaha.org

Please note that July 28th is the correct date for the Ground-breaking Re-enactment. This was listed incorrectly in the last edition.



Did you know. . . The Scottish Rite is on Facebook. Search for “**Scottish Rite, Valley of Lincoln**” or “**Scottish Rite, Valley of Omaha**” to join. Keep up with upcoming events, stories, and conversation with Scottish Rite members, wives, family members, and the community. Open to all Facebook members. Twitter updates are available by subscribing to [@NEScottishRite](https://twitter.com/NEScottishRite).

Scottish Rite Masonic Center
FEAST OF TISHRI
Feast in the East

Friday, September 28, 2012
5:45 p.m. social time • 6:30 p.m. dinner

Scottish Rite Masonic Center
 332 Centennial Mall South
 Lincoln, NE 68508

Call (402) 435-2144 or
 e-mail scottishrite@windstream.net
 for reservations or more information.

www.scottishritelincn.org

Scottish Rite Wives. . . Making a Difference

The Scottish Rite Ladies of the Valley of Omaha share a proud history. At one time, it was the largest ladies' organization in the state, boasting more than one thousand members. Recent years saw a quieter and smaller group, but we are proud to report that this is changing.

Our now loosely organized group meets regularly while our husbands attend the Lodge of Perfection meetings, on the third Monday night of each month. Average attendance is around 20 ladies, with new members joining regularly. Our group requires only a desire to make friends among fellow Scottish Rite Ladies and enjoy good company. Our ages range from young mothers to grandmothers and everyone in between. Activities are planned by the ladies, for the ladies. Some months, we join our husbands to hear Scottish Rite programs. Recently, we attended the Installation of Officers, and heard a wonderful presentation by humorist Mary Maxwell with our husbands. Other months, we do our own thing. In the past year, we've enjoyed social events including a vendor fair with a massage therapist, game nights, and cookie exchanges.



Scottish Rite wives make a difference - putting together holiday care packages for the troops

We've also engaged in charitable events, chosen and organized by our members. In the summer, we made back-to-school gift bags for the children at the local RiteCare

Clinic. Early in the fall, several ladies participated in WalkRite for RiteCare, a fundraiser for our local clinic, and presented our gift bags to the families and staff there. In November, we created care packages for military family members and friends of the Scottish Rite who spent the holiday season on deployments. Future events include plans for speakers, trips to area restaurants to enjoy wine and dessert, and repeating our very enjoyable gift bag and care package projects. We also hope to grow the size of our WalkRite team and continue to find ways to support our local clinic. Scottish Rite Ladies are in attendance at each Reunion dinner, and would love to meet and welcome new members and their ladies.

Please contact the Scottish Rite of Omaha and ask to be connected with the Ladies Group at anytime for more information.

*Elizabeth Charbonneau
wife of Brother Joseph Charbonneau, 32°*

Tradition and Reinvention

Tradition - a ritual, belief or object passed down within a society, still maintained in the present, with origins in the past.

Reinvention – change so much as to appear entirely new.

As we approach the centennial of the Omaha Valley's distinguished building we have uncovered many facts, not only about the building, but also about our membership and organization over the past century. For instance, in 1920, we took in 714 new members, by far the largest one-year class ever. During the Great Depression of the 1930's we lost over 45% of our members. Our largest post-war class year was 1946 with 352 new members, and 21 years later in 1967, we hit the highest number of total members ever, 5,688. Since then our membership has decreased by 75%. The analysis of membership trends and every other category of data we can measure would constitute a very lengthy commentary, but the intent of this short article is to stand back and consider the ideas of **tradition and reinvention** – those polar opposites, both staring us in the face today and both begging for our attention and due consideration.

The Omaha Valley, of course, is not alone in this conundrum. The Scottish Rite, Freemasonry, and nearly all civic and social organizations are experiencing the same dilemma of declining membership. Each has their own challenges, but let's stay focused on our own Valley.

So does the Omaha Valley hang on to what we have [**tradition**], hoping for a revival – or – do we change the organization to meet the needs and desires of 21st century society [**reinvention**], and hope new members will join? The answer of course is not black and white, but that does not mean we sit back and let the future determine our course. In fact, Masonic organizations of the past have set sterling examples of change.

The first 100 years of Freemasonry were pretty chaotic until William Preston put together a system of lectures for the three degrees in 1772. The ritual of the Scottish Rite degrees in America was not cohesive for the first 70 years until Albert Pike put them together along with *Morals & Dogma*, and the degrees really became popular after 1884 when they began to be presented in a theatrical setting – coinciding with the golden age of theater in this country. If the spirit of change is what made Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite such attractive forces in the 19th and 20th centuries, should we not let that spirit express itself ever more fervently today?

Concluded on page 8

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In some ways we are heavily tethered to **tradition**. Our reunions and rituals have changed little since 1914. On the other hand, and to our credit over the past 20 years, the Omaha Valley has become a much more social organization involving our spouses and guests, monthly dinners and programs, education, advocating ethical thinking and practice in the community and opening our beautiful building for use by others – all are components of reinvention.

The Omaha Valley's challenge for a sustainable plan in the 21st century is achieving **balance** between **tradition and reinvention**. The Omaha Valley is poised so well to address this challenge. We have a vibrant, active membership, a beautifully maintained facility, exemplary leadership, a solid financial foundation, great documentation of where we've been and an annual planning process to move us forward. Plus, and perhaps most importantly, we are becoming more civically engaged. Our building is a vehicle for that civic engagement – it speaks 'tradition', but it is also a magnet for inclusion of the community.

Albert Pike's philosophy was one of universality – "where all men will constitute one people, living . . . in obedience to His eternal laws of Equity and Charity." This philosophy is best achieved in working beyond the walls of our organization and being a force in the community for 'doing that which it is right to do' and engaging members to join the cause. Our core values and traditions define who we are. Our ability to reinvent ourselves will keep us ever relevant to the community of the world. ♣

Larry Jacobsen, 33°

Many Scottish Rite Masons choose to remember their local Scottish Rite Foundation or their favorite Masonic charities in their estate planning. In addition to helping the Scottish Rite continue to serve our communities through RiteCare Speech & Language Clinics, an estate gift can offer you tax advantages now while providing for our philanthropies in the future. Charitable gifts made through your estate are tax deductible for estate tax purposes. Leave your legacy for Nebraska's children and future Masons by considering a planned gift to the Scottish Rite. Once you've planned for your wife, your children, your grandchildren, and your favorite charities, please consider your local Valley in your estate plan. Call Micah Evans at (402) 342-1300 or e-mail micah@SRNE.org for more information on including the Scottish Rite in your estate plan.

"Our dues change the light bulbs. Our philanthropy changes the world."

Nebraskans have consistently "stepped up to the plate" to support Scottish Rite philanthropies this past year. Century Club fundraisers in Lincoln and Omaha have raised significant funds, supporting RiteCare Speech & Language Clinics, scholarships, Teacher of the Year Award, and needed building renovations and repairs. The generosity of Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons has been overwhelming. Donations are measured in more than dollars and cents, and Brothers have continually donated their time, their expertise, and their service, whether it is sitting on committees, working in the kitchen, painting or laying new carpet, wiring and plumbing projects, or keeping that old boiler working for "just one more year."

I am proud to share with you an update on our work to bring RiteCare services to the Nebraska panhandle. This past May, Gene Gatti, 33°, Bob Phillips, 33°, Jack Nichols, 33°, Joel Zilmer, 33°, and Don Loos, 33° met with Dr. Linda Crowe and Laura Moody, RiteCare Clinician from Kearney about the potential to bring telemedicine services to Alliance and serve children wherever they live. The idea is to create a private room in the Scottish Rite building where the children can visit with Laura in Kearney via camera, and receive therapy sessions. Rather than drive from Morrill to Kearney, a family could simply go to the Alliance Scottish Rite and receive treatment, underwritten by Scottish Rite Masons. If this proves successful, satellite clinics could be duplicated in other remote clinics in Nebraska, serving Nebraska's rural children.

You shortly will receive the 101 Club appeal letter. In addition to significant support from Alliance businesses and residents and the generosity of Box Butte County philanthropies, the 101 Club Appeal (\$101 is the cost of 1 session of therapy for a child through RiteCare) will help purchase the equipment needed to operate the Alliance clinic, including a television monitor, computer, camera, and furniture. Donors receive a 101 Club pin and are asked to wear it proudly, telling others its significance. Your donation of \$101 helps provide the equipment necessary to serve children who require speech and language therapy. Last year, Nebraskans raised over \$10,000 to directly support RiteCare services. Please consider a gift this summer in support of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska to continue meeting the demand for RiteCare services.



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Nebraskans continue to lead the nation in our philanthropies and our generosity, and on behalf of the more than 1000 children we've served this past year, thank you.

Micah I. Evans, 32° KCCH
Development Director, Orient of Nebraska