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Official publication of the Scottish Rite bodies of the



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Membership

In a team building exercise through work, I came across the quote from neuroscience researcher John Cacioppo, who makes the argument that “we don’t derive strength from our rugged individualism, but rather from our collective ability to plan, communicate, and work together.” He writes, “to grow to adulthood as a social species. . . is not to become autonomous and solitary, it’s to become the one on whom others can depend.”



30th Degree team,
Central Nebraska Scottish Rite at Hastings

As men, we often face the cultural pressure to go it alone. We tackle a project ourselves or shoulder the burdens of family or work ourselves, without seeking help or even a sympathetic ear. But the very essence of Freemasonry turns the idea of rugged individualism on its head.

Degree work, meetings, and ritual absolutely rely on Brethren. *Brethren*. Plural. A Lodge requires seven Masons to open. There is literally no point in Freemasonry where a man can be a Mason by himself without others.

It is universally acknowledged that the 30th Degree is one of the most sublime Degrees in the Scottish Rite. That is born out by an exchange when the Master of Ceremonies presents the Candidates, saying “*We have assembled here to consider their petition. Their only claim to admission among us is that they are men. . .*” The Preceptor says “*The word man express no claim of right to enter here, and those who come are to obey and not to govern.*” The Master of Ceremonies replies, “*I meant a man in the Roman sense of the word vir, a true man upon whom you can depend and whose intellect has attained manhood. . .*”

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plan on it! giving the gift of voice

As signs point to a return to some degree of normalcy, the Scottish Rite RiteCare Clinics can point to a growing number of positive accomplishments over the past year:

- Fluency Bootcamp at the Lincoln Clinic
- New parent trainings in Hastings
- Telehealth screenings in 26 counties across Nebraska
- Supervising graduate students at UNK
- Moving to the new MMI Clinic in Omaha
- In-person group sessions for preschool and young adult communication

Continuing to provide speech therapy for Nebraska kids represents a major success not just for our Clinicians, but for the Scottish Rite Masons who

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Orient Calendar

- July 17Walk for RiteCare (L)
- July 22 Century Club Donors Dinner (O)
- July 7, 14, 21, 28.....Wednesday Lunch (H)
- July 8, 15, 22, 29..... Thursday Lunch (L)
- July 24Walk for RiteCare (H)
- Aug 6-7 Lincoln Summer Reunion (L)
- Aug 13.....Lobster Boil (O)
- Aug 4, 11, 18, 25Wednesday Lunch (H)
- Aug 5, 12,19, 26 Thursday Lunch (L)
- Sept 15 Fall Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)
- Sept 17 RiteCare Retreat (Lincoln, NE)
- Sept 24 RiteCare Classic Golf Benefit (O)
- Sept 25 Hastings Fall Reunion (H)
- Oct 22.....Nebraska KCCH Investiture (Lincoln, NE)
- Oct 29..... Friends of RiteCare Dinner & Auction (O)
- Nov 12-13..... Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
- Nov 18-20..... Omaha Fall Reunion (O)

**Please check with your Valley
for current updates to events
and cancellations due to
COVID-19 virus**

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

July-Aug (Dark), Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 26, Dec 24

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

July 6, Aug 3, Sept 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

July 21, Aug 18, Sept 15, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

July 19, Aug 16, Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20

**For more information,
contact the General Secretary in your Valley**

- Gene Gatti (Alliance) (308) 762-4324
- Phil Odom (Hastings) (402) 462-5813
- Bruce Wood (Lincoln) (402) 435-2144
- John Maxell (Omaha)..... (402) 342-1300



Donald E. Loos, 33° Memorial Class

Front Row: M.W. Dwight Smith, 33°, Patrick Drake, 32°, Devon Walker, 32°, Mark Carley, 32°, David Schuler, 32°, Robert Kentner, 32°, Ed Russell, 32°, John Ferguson, 33°, Gene Gatti, 33°
 Middle Row: Chris Baas, 32°, Pete Lapaseotes, 32°, Frank Wooden, 32° KCCH, Art Stricker, 33°, Brent Van Patten, 32° KCCH, Ed Morava, 32° KCCH, Dave Thomas, 32° KCCH
 Back Row: David Yost, 32°, Nathan Holthusen, 32°, John Barrett, 32°, Micah Evans, 33°, Tommy Yung, 32°

The Alliance Valley welcomed six new Scottish Rite Masons at the Spring, 2021 Reunion on April 9-10th. This was the first Reunion since the Fall, 2019, and I was thrilled to see Brethren from across the Panhandle turn out to do Degree work and help with the theater and lights.

This Reunion was named in honor of Ill. Brother Don Loos, 33°, who passed away last February at age 89. Don was a 50-year Mason and had been serving as Master of Robert Furnas Lodge No. 265 in Scottsbluff when he passed away. Don had been active in Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, the Tehama Shrine Association, Eastern Star. Masonry was a family affair, and his wife, son, and granddaughters were active in Masonic organizations, too.



*Don E. Loos, 33°
(1931-1921)*

The Valley hosted the 4°, 14°, 18°, 30°, and 32°, and I am very much indebted to John Barrett, 32°, Nate Holthusen, 32°, and Pete Lapaseotes, 32° who handled the stage, lights, props, and scenic drops. Everyone pitched in wherever needed, and I appreciate seeing true Brotherhood on display.

Whitney Baldwin with Community Table made a fantastic dinner on Friday night with fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, and brownies, and served sandwiches, chips, and pasta salad for lunch the next day. John Ferguson, 33°, recognized Brother David Yost, 32° from Ogallala Lodge #159, who joined last year, and presented him with his Scottish Rite patent during the Friday dinner.

We were pleased to welcome 6 new Brethren representing

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Central Nebraska Valley Celebrates Annual Remembrance and Renewal

Forms and Traditions of the Scottish Rite best sums up the annual ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal with the words of Jesus at the Last Supper, who said “A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another.” (John 13:4). This expresses the most sublime truth: all men are brothers, sharing one origin and one common obligation. Forms and Traditions notes, “This observance strengthens the ties of brotherly love, past and present. We meet together to break the bread of fraternity, to reconcile ourselves with those we may have offended, and to drink the wine of refreshment.”

The ceremony, led by Randy Jones, 33° and Monte Malouf, 33°, Wise Master for the Chapter of Rose Croix, began by extinguishing the lights. As darkness encroaches, we remember that evil strengthens, chaos increases, despair looms, and hope seems to diminish. George White, 33° then read the names of 36 Brethren who passed in 2019 and 2020 (since the Ceremony was not able to be held last year, due to the pandemic) while Phil Odom, 33° lit candles in their memory. Afterward, the ceremonial team relit the candles, shattering the gloom. Hope returns, with courage, compassion, and joy. As Brethren, we feel renewed confidence and joy.

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The Masonic Legacy

by Dr. Mike Kleppinger
Hastings, Nebraska

The year was 1918 and World War I was raging. Like 2.4 million other young American men, my grandfather, William Earl Tillma of David City, Nebraska, found himself drafted into the U.S. Army. He was sent to Ft. Dodge, Iowa for basic training, and then shipped to France aboard the Tras-os-Montes. He was stationed near Bordeaux. He was an Artillery man with Battery D, 338 Field Artillery, 88th Division, training to fire the five-inch mobile howitzer canon.



W. Earl Tillma was raised on May 23, 1918 at Fidelity Lodge No. 51 and was a member in good standing for more than 41 years.

On October 28, 1918, Earl wrote to his fiancé in David City,

“My dearest Louisa ... This is the first letter that I have written to you for more than two weeks now. ... I have a good reason though for not writing and that is because the Spanish Influenza got a hold on me and I landed in the Hospital about two weeks ago.”



It wasn't until Earl returned home after the war that the family learned the details. Earl's health during that time declined so badly that he was placed in the “dead tent” - - so many soldiers fell ill that the ones not expected to survive were triaged to a separate unit and given minimal care. A passing doctor happened to notice Earl's Masonic ring. Being a Mason himself, the doctor stopped to examine Earl and said to a nurse, “I think this one can recover. Move him to the recovery tent.”

Earl had a slow recovery. It wasn't until late November, after Armistice Day, that he rejoined his battery. At one point he wrote Louisa, “The Spanish influenza got me where I weighed about as much as you.”

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HASTINGS SCOTTISH RITE RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING AFJROTC CADET



Cadet Jimena Yanes Labrana is a sophomore at Grand Island Senior High and continues to play an instrumental part in our AFJROTC program. As the Lower Squadron Commander, Cadet Yanes oversees 25 first-year cadets and leads from the front by taking part in over 95 hours of community service and 11 Color Guard details. She has selflessly participated in feeding those in need at the Salvation Army, distributing food at Loaves to Fishes, bringing morale to the community at Stuhr Museum's Harvest Fair, cleaning tombstones at Grand Island's Veterans Cemetery and many

other events. Academically, Cadet Yanes has a cumulative GPA of 3.087 and is a member of the GISH Kitty Hawk Air Society (AFJROTC academic organization). She also participates in high school tennis and show choir.

Valley of Lincoln



Valley of Lincoln Spring Reunion

May 14th-15th, 2021

Front Row: Michael D. Gray, 33°, *Justin Williamson*, 32°, *Jerry Morgan*, 32°, *Dick Clark*, 32°, *Pete Kruse*, 32°, *Brian Goninan*, 32°, Bruce D. Wood, 33° Second Row: Dale Lueders, 33°, Eric Bachenberg, 32° KCCH, Tom Greenlee, 32° KCCH, Bob Moninger, 33°, David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH, Wade Kendle, 32° Back Row: Ray Dimmick, 32° KCCH, Nick Furchert, 32°, Ed Bennett, 32°, Don Albrecht, 32° KCCH, Denny Brydl, 33°, Phil Odom, 33°



The Camp lecture from the 32° Degree

The Lincoln Scottish Rite welcomed five new Brethren, several of whom came in this past September when SGIG Chuck Sederstrom, 33° communicated the Degrees. Jerry Morgan joined us from North Platte, coming in for courtesy work for the Valley of Hastings. The Valley performed the 4°, 14°, 18°, 30°, and 32° and we are grateful to so many Brethren who helped make a successful Reunion through excellent Degree work. The Lincoln Scottish Rite is looking forward to our Summer Reunion, scheduled for August 6-7, 2021.



Left: Don Albrecht, 32° KCCH lights the candles; Right (top): David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH relights the candles; Right (bottom): Bell-issimo Bell Choir performs

Lincoln Valley Celebrates Remembrance and Renewal

Like so many organizations, it feels like we've been Rip Van Winkle awakening after a long slumber. The Valley of Lincoln hosted its first truly open event on April 16th with Remembrance and Renewal. David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH, Wise Master for the Chapter of Rose Croix, planned the evening and led the ceremony.

After social time in Chuck's Place, ChateauChef Catering served an excellent dinner of braised beef tips in a demiglaze, Caesar salad, bleu cheese green beans, smashed potatoes, and cheese cake bites. Bell-issimo Bell Choir, a handbell choir representing members of 11 local churches and has performed nationally, provided beautiful entertainment, adding an elegant touch as they played Amazing Grace during the reading of names of Brethren who passed during the year. David Bloomquist led the ceremonial team, which included Edward Bennett, 32°, Adam Seachord, 32°, Edward Boone, 32°, Don Albrecht, 32° KCCH, Bruce Wood, 33°, and Micah Evans, 33°.

Valley of Omaha



David K. Karnes, 33° Memorial Class

Top Row: Jeffrey Coleman, 32° KCCH, Assistant Class Director, *Stephen Struss, 32°, Michael Hernandez, 32°, Class President, Robert Shelly, 32°, Douglas Rasmussen, 32°, Kraig Prange Class Orator, 32°, Michael Ryle, 32°, Robert Scully, 32°, John Herbolsheimer, 32°, Benjamin Zaayer, 32°, Brett Brodersen, 32°, Eric BenSalah 32°, Class Vice President, Jeffrey Myers 32°, Class Secretary/ Treasurer*

Bottom Row: Michael Gray, 33°, Gary Williams, 32°, Eminent Commander, Schadd Gray, 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh, Michael Stuhr, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master, Dan Wellendorf, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council, Bob Maline, 33°, Rick Gilmore, 33° Class Director, Paul Rutherford, 33°, Class Director, John Maxell, 33°, General Secretary

The Omaha Valley hosted the 272nd Reunion on April 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, welcoming 12 new 32° Princes of the Royal Secret. This Reunion honored David K. Karnes, 33°, who passed away on October 25, 2020 after a brief battle with cancer. David Karnes served as United States Senator from 1986 to 1988. He may have been best known for his service in the Senate, but his true legacy was as a devoted father and husband, and his genuine commitment to Omaha's civic, legal, business, and charitable communities.



David K. Karnes, 33°

David Karnes was a 39 year member of George W. Lininger Lodge 268, and a 31 year member of the Omaha Scottish Rite. For many years, he served as Chairman of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha. The Scottish Rite welcomed David's wife Kris Karnes, his children via Zoom, and his lifelong friends John Lund and Willie Thiessen. John Lund recounted David Karnes' service on numerous boards and organizations, and his ability to simply reach the right businessmen around the nation to get major projects done, without any fanfare.



Don Leu, 32° KCCH and Hal Daub, 33° present a certificate to Kris Karnes, naming a scholarship in David Karnes' name.

To recognize his passion for our Scottish Rite philanthropies, Don Leu, 32° KCCH, who succeeded David as President



of the Foundation Board, presented Kris Karnes with a certificate naming a permanent scholarship in David Karnes' honor for a UNO student. Hal Daub, 33°, who served as emcee for the lunch, presented Kris with a plaque "in honor of his fidelity and devotion to our fraternity."

As something new, Steve Elliott, 32°, Potentate of Tangier Shrine, and the Divan obligated Wesley Rodenburg and Kurtis Scully (pictured above), both of Bluff City Lodge #71, as Shriners during the Reunion.

WORKING ON THE CHAIN GANG



KSA members Alan Boulter, Carl Lewis, Ken Thompson, and Dan Alati

The Knights of St. Andrew "Chain Gang" were back in action on Saturday, March 27th, cleaning up a 2-mile stretch of Highway 36, from North 72nd Street to Sargent Street.

KSA volunteers picked up 35 bags of trash over a few hours. Volunteers included Ron Stites, Carl Lewis, Ken Thompson, Jim Flowers, Rob King, George McMullin, Dan Alati, Carl Simmons, Bob Pelletier, and Alan Boulter.

The stretch of highway at marker 22 recognizes the Scottish Rite Omaha Valley.



A SNAPSHOT OF RITECARE PROGRESS

by Holly Schlautman, M.S., CCC-SLP
Lincoln RiteCare Clinician
holly.schlautman@unmc.edu

RiteCare Clinician Holly Schlautman sent us this series of e-mails from a RiteCare parent, sharing a snapshot of what kids and their parents are learning to help improve their speech through the Lincoln RiteCare Clinic.

In her email, a RiteCare Mom wrote that her son, Finn (age 4), had been trying to say “Bruce Wayne” (the Batman character) but it sounded really funny to her. It sounded more like “osh wing”. She said “it gets really confusing for him and me because he says ‘sandwich’ in exactly the same way.” She wondered if we could start “working on the building blocks” of the word or just let him be for now on these bigger words.

I emailed her back, agreeing how frustrating it must be that a food and a toy sounded identical, and that I loved how she was thinking of new word targets for therapy! I wrote, “Yes we can do a simplification strategy with each of these words, meaning we’d model an easier version of the word at first. Some of sounds could be simplified and then we could help Finn grow into more complicated word structures as he accomplishes each stage.”

For example, we simplified “Bruce Wayne” into the following sounds:

- Woo Weh
- Boo Weh
- Boo Way
- Boo Wayne
- Boot Wayne
- Boos Wayne
- Bruce Wayne



From a video of Finn saying “osh wing” (Bruce Wayne) with his mother.

and “Sandwich” into the following sounds:

- Weh wih
- Wae Wih
- Tae Wih
- Sae Wih
- San Wih
- San Wit
- San Wits
- San Witch
- Sandwich

I offered to have her test it out before the next session and that we could try it together the following session. She responded with “Okay awesome! That makes a lot of sense, I ha(d) been kind of mulling this over in my head and then I thought I should just bring it up to (you), haha! We will work on it and see where we get with it. It definitely gets confusing when there’s no context as to which word he’s saying. And especially when he is interacting with people that aren’t with him on a really regular basis. Like his grandparents, I find myself having to “translate” so to speak what’s he’s saying quite often.

When I asked if I could share her experience with the Scottish Rite Masons, she quickly agreed and emailed back, “I really love RiteCare and it’s been an invaluable component to Finn’s speech/language development. The school districts programs are great, too, but I feel like they are sometimes just stretched thin as far as the child’s time with a speech therapist and the relationships aren’t built as strongly with parent/SLP because not much communication happens face to face. I am really grateful for you and having a program like RiteCare accessible for Finn!”

Finn is showing growth week after week and I am so proud of the progress he’s made and the efforts both he and his mother put forth to help him make even more gains!

Central Nebraska Valley Celebrates Annual Remembrance and Renewal

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Venerable Master Dan Deffenbaugh, 32° KCCH rekindles the ceremonial candles

The Valley tried a unique approach, hosting Remembrance and Renewal both in-person and via Zoom. Four Brethren participated by Zoom and several Brethren and their spouses attended in-person. Afterward, guests in Hastings enjoyed refreshments of cakes, cookies and coffee. One member, who had become inactive, brought his membership current due to Remembrance and Renewal. Ceremonial team members

included Randy Jones, 33°, Monte Malouf, 33°, Dan Deffenbaugh, 32° KCCH, Bill Taylor, 32° (pictured below), Mike Small, 33°, Richard Johnson, 32°, Casey Nuss, 32° KCCH, Dan Waldron, 32°, and Jim Hardy, 32°



The Masonic Legacy

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*Tillma & Anderl Clothiers,
David City, Nebraska (1938)*

After the war, Earl returned home to David City and married my grandmother, Louisa Hahn. They had two children. Earl co-owned a men's clothing store and served as Mayor of David City from 1950 to 1954.

This story of my grandfather's experience in the Great War was passed down through oral history. He knew that he owed his life to having worn that Masonic ring. The ring is important to me, as I would not be here today without it.



John Barrett, 32°, Art Stricker, 33°, Frank Wooden, 32° KCCH, and Ed Morava, 32° KCCH consult notes on setting up the 14°.



Brent Van Patten, 32° KCCH, Art Stricker, 33°, Pete Lapaseotes, 32°, John Barrett, 32°, and Nate Holthusen, 32° set up for the 30°

Alliance Scottish Rite Reunion

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Lodges in Sidney, Hyannis, Bridgeport, and Kimball, and I hope our new 32° Scottish Rite Brethren will get involved.

The Valley goes dark in June, July and August, but before we do, our new Candidates and their ladies are invited back on May 28th for the business meeting, where will present our new Brethren with their 32° Scottish Rite caps.

I ask you to continue to reach out to prospective Brethren and invite them to join the Scottish Rite to continue their Masonic journey. Our Fall Reunion will be on November 12th and 13th, and I



David Yost, 32° receives his Scottish Rite patent from John Ferguson, 33°.

hope to see our Alliance Valley Brethren and Candidates for a great Reunion this Fall!

Membership, continued

There's a lot packed into this exchange.

Being a man by gender is not enough to be a Scottish Rite Mason. Being at the age of adulthood is not enough to be a Scottish Rite Mason. The Master of Ceremonies references the Hebrew word *משטר* (*meshtar*), which in this context is meant to mean a commanding quality and manner. And yet, even this is not enough to be a Scottish Rite Mason.

The Master of Ceremonies very specifically uses the Latin word *vir*, meaning *man* more in the sense of *manliness* than male. But *vir* is a very sneaky word. It shows up as the root of the word *virtuous*, tying the art of manliness to high moral standards. Having set the stage with the Latin root word *vir*, the key phrase in the 30° is "*a true man, upon whom you can depend.*"



Rugged individualism is completely antithetical to the concept of Freemasonry

A person can't be dependable by himself. By definition, it requires collective effort. A man can't have a commanding manner in a vacuum. It, too, requires more than one person.

So to return to the original point, the Scottish Rite Mason is expected to have a commanding quality and manner. But as a social person, he must develop the

virtues of care for and connections with the people he leads (or follows, as the case may be). Care and connections with our Brethren are indispensable requirements for Masons, regardless of whether we are leaders or not. A commitment to care and connection is the bare minimum threshold for a virtuous Mason and a Scottish Rite Mason.

This changes the social contract of Freemasonry from one of just having a lapel pin and a dues card to requiring virtuous behavior, which includes the development of connections with our Masonic Brethren. If we are to not just build our membership, but build ourselves as better Masons, creating these social connections and learning to rely on Brethren (or be relied upon) is an absolutely essential part of the lessons of Freemasonry.

VOICE

Giving the Gift of

SGIG Circle and 101-Club Donors Make a Special Gift to RiteCare

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underwrite these services and the families who are particularly grateful.

As part of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska's on-going mission of underwriting RiteCare speech therapy, we are again asking you to consider a donation through the 101-Club/SGIG Circle. You will receive the 2021-2022 appeal in the mail shortly, and I ask you to consider a pledge or donation to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska for speech therapy for Nebraska kids.

\$101 represents the cost of a single session of therapy for a child. As in the past, \$101 donors will receive a 101-Club lapel pin, newly redesigned for the coming year.

SGIG Circle donors of \$300 or more will be recognized in the Scottish Rite Journal and receive the lapel pin and the new challenge coin, specially authorized by Dan Wellendorf, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council.



The 2021-2023 SGIG Circle challenge coin

100% of your tax-deductible donations provide speech services for children across Nebraska.

Thanks to Scottish Rite Masons, speech therapy services have not been interrupted by COVID-19, and our therapists have shown remarkable creativity creating therapy strategies that meet the same standards of excellence as they do for in-person therapy. Our RiteCare speech therapists continue to positively impact childrens' lives, despite distancing.

We continue to receive grateful acknowledgment from families who are truly grateful that their children continue to make positive progress in spite of social distancing.

It is a big ask in these uncertain times, but please consider supporting RiteCare through the 101-Club/SGIG Circle appeal, which cements our commitment to providing speech therapy. **As always, thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason and a True Brother.**

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL

OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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Micah I. Evans, 33°

Orient Development Director
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SGIG Circle Donors (\$300+) to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Name	Valley
John Adam.....	Alliance
Kenneth Beebe.....	Lincoln
T.J. Brumfield.....	Omaha
Micheal Buchardt.....	Lincoln
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Thanks to the generosity of Scottish Rite Masons, RiteCare children receive all the speech therapy they need, without regard to a family's ability to pay. SGIG Circle donors have pledged \$300 or more toward speech therapy for the year. **Please consider a donation or pledge and make a significant impact on our ability to provide exceptional Speech Therapy for Nebraska children.**

**“Your dues change the light bulbs.
Your donations change the world.”**