



IN THIS ISSUE

A special edition for the Orient of Nebraska RiteCare, Right Now Campaign

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An Exciting Campaign for

RiteCare, Right Now

One of the many ways Scottish Rite Masons fulfills its mission is through support for charitable programs taking place locally.

Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska is currently raising money through its RiteCare, Right Now campaign for several projects including the Lincoln Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

A portion of the total \$9.33-million campaign goal will provide remodeled space for the RiteCare Clinic, that has been located on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East campus, to relocate to the Scottish Rite building.

In its new location, the Clinic will have more expanded space to provide speech and language services to more children in need.

“This campaign builds on our tradition as Scottish Rite Masons, remaining relevant to not only Lincoln, but with this investment in pioneering technology, we can spread the RiteCare program into the rural communities of Nebraska and, more importantly, serve children who, without access to this technology, might never get a chance to experience these life-changing therapies,” said Dan Wellendorf, Scottish Rite Foundation’s President.

The Life-Changing Impact of Speech-Language Therapy

The Scottish Rite Foundation has supported speech-language therapy in Nebraska since 1975. Referrals come from families, educators and healthcare professionals, and services are provided at no cost to families.

Imagine the frustration and isolation of children who cannot communicate their needs and wishes to family members or communicate socially to make friends due to a physical or developmental limitation. Imagine the heart-break of parents and family members who cannot meet their children's needs or hear their thoughts and feelings expressed.

According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), children with speech and language impairments are at risk for social, emotional, and/or other academic challenges, such as difficulties learning to read and write. These problems often persist throughout the school years into adulthood. We also know that children are more likely to develop effective communication and language skills and achieve successful learning outcomes the earlier services are delivered.

Speech-language pathologists not only help children with communication challenges, but also with feeding and swallowing problems that limit children's ability to grow and thrive. RiteCare speech-language pathologists utilize a total communication approach, including use of speech, gestures, and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), i.e. speech devices that allows children use to select messages to be spoken out loud, in order to independently communicate.



Clinicians also help families learn techniques to support their child's speech and language development. Offered Amy Nordness, UNMC's Scottish Rite Professor of Speech-Language Pathology, "The practice of speech and language therapy provides the foundation of communications for the entire life

of a child. If we get the opportunity to work with a child, and their family early, we're able to help not only the child but the whole family with a foundation for success that will last a lifetime. Having a predictable and sustaining stream of resources allows us to continue and even grow into the future. We don't know what the future holds, and a predictable source of income takes away the challenges with what we can afford to help families or what we can invest in new technology or new methods of therapy and care."

An Investment of a Lifetime

When clients first arrive at RiteCare, most are not able to communicate fully. Nearly 75% of the children served at RiteCare Clinic-Lincoln use some form of AAC to help them express their thoughts, feelings and wishes through pictures, signs, communication boards and electronic devices. The Clinic provides clients with AAC evaluations conducted by a RiteCare speech language pathologist (SLP), as well as AAC devices for personal use.

Not every AAC device works for everyone. Uncovering the right communication tool for each person takes time, but the clinicians at RiteCare are dedicated individuals. In addition to their work with clients, they share their AAC-related experiences with area graduate clinicians, so more children and families in the area can benefit from RiteCare's expertise.





Room to Grow

One of the biggest challenges at the RiteCare Lincoln Clinic has been a lack of space. Storing AAC devices and having them accessible is essential to the mission. Thankfully, Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska’s campaign is raising support to provide more space for the Clinic inside its Lincoln Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

Not only will adding space help RiteCare serve more children, but the campaign will allow the organization to expand its resources by adding a wide range of equipment including a SE Tablet and other devices for AAC evaluations and the AAC Kids Club.

Just some of the \$2.73 million in capital improvements that will take place because of the Scottish Rite Foundation’s campaign include:

- Décor and furnishing updates to create a more natural environment that fosters ease of communication where families feel more comfortable discussing challenges and treatments.
- More rooms for speech pathologists to visit with clients.
- Meeting areas to accommodate adult seating for group therapy sessions and parent training programs.
- Larger rooms to support preschool group treatment rooms.
- Improved technology for videos and presentations in the large meeting room to support teletherapy.
- Equipment to establish AAC evaluation centers at all locations.
- Expansion of services in western Nebraska.

Said Nordness, “We currently have long wait lists for help, predictable resources allow us to plan for growth and stretch our ability to meet those opportunities to work with families that have been waiting, and those that might come to us in the future. In the location we’re currently at, space is limited, and we can’t possibly grow where we are. While we’re grateful for the years of support from the University at our current location, we not only can’t grow, but the needs of the University are requiring us to pare back on the number of families we can help in the space that we have. The new building will provide a very real connection between our families, the Scottish Rite and its members. The Scottish Rite has for many years now provided life-changing support, this new facility brings it into focus and gives greater context for the community of Lincoln.”



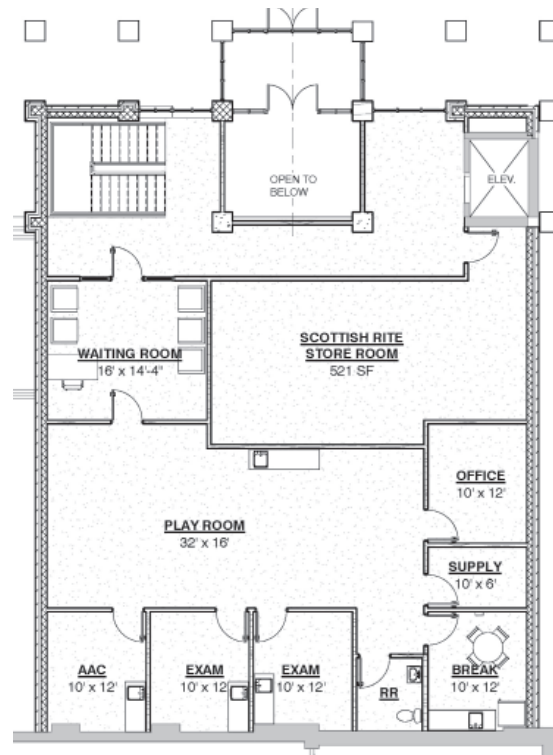
Endowment: Taking a Long-term Approach

One session of speech-language therapy costs approximately \$130—services that Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska makes available to any family who needs it, without regard to a family's ability to pay.

That is why, in addition to capital goals, raising endowment support for the RiteCare, Right Now campaign will ensure the Foundation can continue to offset the costs associated with RiteCare Clinics, so more children and families can receive the care they need.

“The core of Masonic belief comes down to what can we build that can make our communities better. Initially, a campaign—RiteCare, Right Now—is about bricks and mortar. A building is easy to get excited about, but endowment goals are even more important. An endowment will support the programs going on inside the building; and support all the people impacted by the programs. Building the endowment will give us options for creative and meaningful service for the entire state of Nebraska well into the future,” said Wellendorf.

Once funded, the campaign's goal for raising \$5 million in endowment will generate an income in perpetuity, since only the interest—not the principal—will be utilized over time. “The endowment has the potential to allow us to provide more help and expanded services to all our communities in Nebraska. Help that no single lodge could handle on its own,” said Bruce Wood, a member of the Scottish Rite Foundation, Lincoln board of directors.



Lincoln RiteCare Clinic architectural plans by Architectural Design Associates and VerMaas Construction. Learn more about naming rights for therapy rooms on page 6.

Will You Join Us? RiteCare, Right Now

The RiteCare Clinic coming to our building is such a great fit for us in Lincoln,” explained Bruce Wood. “When we let RiteCare use our building temporarily during the renovations of their current facility awhile back it was such a joy for everyone. The families. The children. And our own members as well getting the opportunities to interact face to face. The modifications to our building are going to give us a beautiful new appearance that reflects the tradition and future—not only for Lincoln, but for all of Nebraska. The Barkley Center has been very generous to us for many years now, allowing us to have a therapy room, and another room for our administration and storage. Now, this new center will give us the opportunity to expand our RiteCare services to children and their families exponentially.”

And this from Mike Gray, board member for Scottish Rite Foundation, Lincoln, “We aren't possibly able to meet all the needs in Lincoln and the surrounding area with what we have right now. We must ask people to get involved. Our members of the Scottish Rite are deeply involved a lot of different activities in their own communities, so this is just a natural fit! The RiteCare Clinics have the chance to help children who have speech and language problems tell their parents that they love them. Is there anything more important, or meaningful than that? The new entrance to the building in Lincoln is going to appeal to everyone and establish a strong impression for the experience of everyone coming into the building. Especially the families that come to us for RiteCare. Even the appearance of the building will tell people how much we care for them. It takes all kinds of people to make things work. This is a great place for all of us to get involved and make a difference: *RiteCare, Right Now.*”

RiteCare, Right Now

Naming Opportunities

One of the most familiar buildings on the University of Nebraska Campus is Andrews Hall, named after the former Chancellor of the University, E. Benjamin Andrews. But not as many are aware of the history of how this building came to be named after Chancellor Andrews.

Chancellor Andrews assumed his responsibilities at the University of Nebraska in 1900 following successful teaching stints at Brown and Cornell University.

The University of Nebraska faculty thought very highly of Andrews because of his firm conviction of standing up for their free speech, allowing them to share their academic opinions and serving as a champion of academic freedom.

His reputation and stature rose to the point where he served on the board of trustees for his own alma mater, Brown University. The University of Wisconsin began a serious campaign to recruit Andrews to serve as its chancellor. Andrews turned down job, even though they offered to double his salary.

To honor his selfless act, staff at the University of Nebraska mounted an internal campaign to match the offer, even though it meant a reduction in their own salaries. Andrews said no to this, too.

In fact, during the eight years Andrews served as chancellor, he only had one salary increase: from \$5,000 annually to \$6,000 a year. Andrews retired in 1908, but he continued to support the University through fundraising efforts that eventually allowed the building to be completed and named after him in honor of his commitment and generosity.

This is not a unique story. We hear stories like this all the time. Organizations have found that it is highly appropriate to recognize the generosity and commitment of others by memorializing them through the naming of buildings, rooms, equipment, etc.

We also understand the benefits of making a perpetual gift to endow a position or program. It is wonderful way to honor the lives and work of individuals, families and other entities.

As we begin to make this very significant investment in our new Rite Care Clinic in Lincoln, you may want to consider how naming opportunities could allow you to support the RiteCare, Right Now campaign while making a gift of significant and remembrance.

This is a wonderful chance for you to share in the timeless recognition of service to others. After all, isn't that what being a Scottish Rite Mason is all about?



RiteCare Clinic - Lincoln

We've all heard how much body language plays a part in communication, but did you know there are many other ways people communicate without talking? For anyone who has difficulties with speech—either due to a short-term event or a life-long challenge—Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) offers hope. And at the RiteCare Clinic in Lincoln, the Scottish Rite Foundation is helping to advance this work through a capital campaign: RiteCare, Right Now.

They not only help individuals overcome communication challenges, but also assist with feeding and swallowing problems that can limit a child's ability to grow and thrive.

One of the biggest challenges at the Lincoln Clinic has been a lack of space. Storing AAC devices and having them accessible is essential to the mission. Thankfully, Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska's campaign is raising support to provide more space for the clinic inside the Lincoln Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

Not only will adding space help RiteCare serve more children, but the campaign will allow the organization to expand its resources by adding a wide range of equipment including a SE Tablet and other devices for AAC evaluations and the AAC Kids Club.

To learn more about how you can support the Lincoln Clinic, contact Jason Wood, Hartsook Executive Vice President, (866)-630-8200 ext. 8645 or e-mail Jason at jwood@hartsook.com.

RiteCare Clinics 2021

Hastings

64 children served

1,703 total sessions

Kearney

21 children served

505 total sessions

Lincoln

81 children served

940 total sessions

Omaha

412 children served

3,055 total sessions



Our family reached out to RiteCare once our youngest son was verified with a developmental delay in speech through our public school. We wanted to do all we could for him. We wanted to best learn how we could support his speech and language development.

In the Fall after an evaluation with the Lincoln RiteCare Clinic. My son and I started the program 'It Takes Two to Talk.' We have been using the strategies from the parent session as a family to help him. We continue to see progress in the big picture of things for his language. But on a day-to-day basis it seems some days we understand a lot of what he says, and then other days we think "Gosh, we did not understand much today."

As a family we work together to make him work to better his communication with us and others. In our day to day life we work to figure out what he is telling us. Here are some examples of these things that we do as a family to support his communication and figure out what he is communicating with us.



The Flood Family

One day he said a word over and over again the same way while he was trying to tell me about what he saw at toy store with his dad and sister. He said it about five times while patting on a chair. His dad said he saw cars there. He says No to that. His sister finally said he saw drums. His eyes light up that we understood! We continued to say "You saw drums at the toy store," so he would hear the word 'drums' word many times.

We just noticed the other day he said 'helicopter' for the first time. He has always called it a 'rocopter.' Another small victory for him and maybe a little bittersweet for us to hear him growing up using his words.

He had been at daycare and older children had been there that day. We were eating dinner and talking about who had been at daycare that day. He mentioned an older child that had been there. Again he said a word many times that we could not understand at all. He kept moving his hand while saying it. We took a few attempts at it. He told us No to all of them. Then finally his sister asked if he meant a yo-yo? She had been with him at daycare and had a better idea of what he might be talking about. He light up again like "Yes, you got it!" Then we talked about "Oh, did you like the yo-yo?" He said "Yes!" This was a toy we probably have not really seen before, so this was something new for him. He proceeded to communicate to us that he wants one now!

We as a family are so grateful to the support we have received from RiteCare for our little boy. We feel so blessed to have this program offered to our family. Thank you for helping support our family to support our little boy in his communication needs!

Lives Changed, Stories Shared

Thanks to the generosity of everyone who has supported RiteCare in Nebraska, we are pleased to share heartfelt thanks from families who have been positively impacted, particularly during the last two very difficult years.

"Thank you for the speech therapy my son received last fall. The techniques RiteCare taught me have been invaluable. It was truly empowering to gain these skills and feel so involved in Ryan's treatment and growth. Using what I learned at RiteCare, I was able to interact and connect with my son in a way I have never been able to before. This means so much to us. We have a long road ahead, but now we have hope. We are so grateful to the Scottish Rite Foundation for their generous support and this life-changing gift to our family." -Diana and Ryan Farrell

"RiteCare's professionalism is phenomenal. Their kindness and attention to detail amazed us every step of the way. It's so great to know we are in such good hands. Thank you for the assistance you provide the entire community through your support of RiteCare."

-Irene, Richard, Modi and Kobe

Join the Club

You've read about the tremendous impact the Scottish Rite Foundation is having through its support of RiteCare Clinics right here in Nebraska, but have you had a chance to join in on the good work taking place? Well, let us make that easy for you.

Your generous gift of \$1,000 annually for five years is all it takes to join the ranks of the Rose Croix Society. Imagine the joy of parents and children in learning how to overcome speech and language barriers and communicate their feelings—some for the very time. This is why the work of RiteCare Clinics is so important and why your Rose Croix Society membership is vital. Rose Croix Society helps support RiteCare clinics throughout the state—providing speech-language therapy to any child who needs it, without regard to a family's ability to pay.

Member benefits include:

- A personalized tour of a RiteCare Clinic
- Attendance at a local Valley, Rose Croix Society event
- Participation at the annual Nebraska-wide Rose Croix Society event

Donations can be made monthly, quarterly, or annually, or through a distributions through your individual retirement account. To become a Rose Croix member, please contact Micah Evans, Development Director at (402) 342-1300 or micah@SRNE.org, Scott Justvig, Hartsook Executive Vice President, (866) 630-8500 ext 8675 or sjustvig@hartsook.com.



Rose Croix Society members pledge \$1,000/year for 5 years

SGIG Circle Donors (\$300+) to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

<u>Name</u>	<u>Valley</u>
Kenneth Beebe.....	Lincoln
Charles Bukin.....	Lincoln
John Cooke.....	Omaha
William Cook, Jr.....	Lincoln
Sam Grassmick.....	Alliance
Schadd Gray.....	Omaha
Peter Hartwig.....	Lincoln
Charles Hastings.....	Hastings
James Heinke.....	Lincoln
Virgil Johnson.....	Omaha
William Kimme.....	Omaha
Mel Morton.....	Omaha
Terry Nelson.....	Omaha
Charlie Odorizzi.....	Omaha
Robert Pelletier.....	Omaha
Michael Roe.....	Lincoln
Charles Sederstrom, Jr.....	SGIG Emeritus
Donald Shiu, Jr.....	Omaha
Carl Simmons.....	Omaha
Ronald Stites.....	Omaha
Michael Stuhr.....	Omaha
James Turpen.....	Omaha
Gary Unger.....	Omaha
Douglas Wasson.....	Hastings
George White.....	Hastings

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 to provide exceptional speech therapy for Nebraska children.**



The Scottish Rite Journal is published bi-monthly by the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. The Orient of Nebraska insert is prepared for members of the Alliance, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha Valleys, and is mailed to all current Scottish Rite Freemasons in Nebraska's Valleys. For submissions or articles, please contact Micah Evans at micah@SRNE.org or call (402) 342-1300. Whenever possible, please include a high-resolution photo with your submission. All submissions must be received at least 45 days before the date of publication, which occurs at the beginning of odd-numbered months. (Submissions for the July-August, 2022 Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-May for consideration.)