



The RiteCare Update E-Newsletter
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Charity
New Development Efforts
July, 2019



This RiteCare Update E-Newsletter is the first edition of our quarterly RiteCare updates. The purpose is to share information on speech pathology, best practices, grant opportunities, funding, and more on a quarterly basis.

Additionally, every RiteCare Update E-Newsletter will include a Facility Update featuring a specific RiteCare center. If interested, please provide: (1) contact info on directors, clinicians, or other staff; (2) a short description of your RiteCare Centers to:

Maxwell A. Lasher
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In June, the Supreme Council hired Mr. Maxwell A. Lasher to lead a *National Grants Initiative* to apply for large funding opportunities. The major goals, at this point, are (1) to learn about the specifics of different programs throughout the country; and (2) develop a network of RiteCare clinic directors, clinicians, staff and Scottish Rite Masons, respective to each center.

This process will help us coordinate a national grants effort. We want to make sure that everyone knows and stresses to the RiteCare Centers that we are **collaborating on funding opportunities and not competing for resources**. Maxwell's contact information is listed above and do not hesitate to reach out to him. Additionally, if you happen to have a contact within a private foundation that awards grants relevant to the needs of our various RiteCare centers, we request you bring it to the attention of the Development Office led by Director Matthew T. Szramoski, 33°, IGH.

We want to make note that during the national grant application process, the Supreme Council will refer to different independent centers affiliated with the RiteCare program as 'RiteCare centers'. This is simply to identify our name to grantors, nothing more. We encourage our centers to add RiteCare to the website of the independent organization. We encourage centers to have the term RiteCare in their name or motto.

We look forward to working together to sustain and expand our different programs. We do not have any particular budgetary information in mind in these efforts. Any confidential information to be shared with the Supreme Council, such as budgetary and previously submitted grants, will be secured privately and used only in good faith. Each quarterly newsletter will feature a different model of "RiteCare Center," in different cities and states. Reach out to Maxwell with your interests; and feel free to share this newsletter with your clinic leaders, directors, grant writers, staff, etc. Thank you for your time.

Biennial RiteCare Conference - September 10-12, 2020 in St. Louis, MO at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel.

RiteCare Advisory Panel

Based on discussions held at the 2018 RiteCare Conference, we are creating a national RiteCare Advisory Panel. Members of the panel must be either a Scottish Rite Mason or a non-member who is an employee or volunteer of an established RiteCare program. The Advisory Panel will consist of nine members.

This panel will serve to assist the Supreme Council in looking for opportunities to promote RiteCare; share new techniques and tools in speech therapy; assist with research for grant applications; and more. The panel will meet by remote conference communications on a routine basis and biannually at the National RiteCare conference.

If you know someone who would be interested in serving on this panel, have them submit the following information: name, address, e-mail, phone number, relationship to RiteCare (SR Mason, clinician, etc.), and a brief paragraph stating why they would like to serve on the panel by 3:00 PM on September 12, 2019 to **Illustrious Brother Matthew T. Szramoski, 33°, IGH**, Director of Development, mszramoski@scottishrite.org.

RiteCare Facility Update

Our organization [The Huntington Scottish Rite Foundation in Huntington, West Virginia] has sponsored the Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Program at Marshall University's Speech and Hearing Center since March 2002 ([click here for more information](#)). In 2012, the program name was changed to the Lackey-Oshel RiteCare Clinic to honor the program founders, Ill. James H. Lackey, 33° and Ill. H. Pat Oshel, 33°. A special thank-you to Pamela Holland (Dept. Chair & Scottish Rite Board Member) and Sarah Clemins (Clinic Director) for helping to make this first edition Newsletter happen.

The featured RiteCare Center, in a close partnership with Marshall University, provides a unique opportunity for children to develop communication skills needed to succeed in life in a supportive, compassionate atmosphere. This RiteCare Center has three specialized multi-disciplinary assessment clinics which provide assessments by speech language pathologists. A range of services or therapies offered include, but are not limited to, speech, swallowing, feeding, audiology services, and many more, for children and adults. The mission of the program is to provide financial assistance for speech, language and hearing service provisions for children. The Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Program relies on fundraising activities and donations to provide financial support for the program. There are approximately 80-100 total clients served while 20-30 children per semester are supported by the Scottish Rite.

Annual fundraising activities include:

- Scottish Rite Spring Dinner
- Jule Huffman 5K Run/Walk for the Kids ([click here for more information](#)).
- Scottish Rite Annual Picnic ([click here for more information](#)).
- Motorcycle Benefit Ride ([click here for more information](#)).

Scholarship costs per child per center:

- \$62.50 per semester for 1 tx per week
- \$125.00 per semester for 2 tx per week
- \$37.50 per session for prompt pay option
- \$100.00 for evaluation for prompt pay option

Huntington Scottish Rite Foundation Staff

Our Mission: Helping Children Communicate



Family Spotlight: The Hysell Family

When Jonathan Hysell was born early at 25 weeks, his mother, Connie, knew there would be challenges along the way. When he was 3 years old, she realized he wasn't able to communicate or consume food and drink without some help. Now, just a year later, 4-year-old Jonathan has made what Connie Hysell refers to as amazing progress working with the speech therapists at the Marshall University Speech and Hearing Center. His mother said she hopes to one day hear her son say the words, "I love you, Mommy."



Jonathan is one of many children who have been helped over the years through the Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Program at Marshall. Since 2002, the Scottish Rite program has provided comprehensive services to children with communication disorders without regard to a family's ability to pay.

"When Jonathan was born, he was officially diagnosed with bronchopulmonary dysplasia, cerebral palsy and eventually a receptive-expressive language disorder secondary to extreme prematurity," Connie Hysell said in a press release. "With these challenges, we really did not know what to expect with his development. Since coming to Marshall, his speech and language have skyrocketed. I love watching him learn in speech therapy, and then taking those strategies home and working to improve his vocalization. None of this would be possible without the financial support of the Scottish Rite Foundation."

Connie said she looks forward to the progress he will continue to make, thanks to the speech and language services provided by Marshall's Speech and Hearing Center. She said she hopes other families in the Tri-state region will come to understand how the Huntington Scottish Rite Foundation can serve as a resource for their child, just like they have been for Jonathan.

Information is kindly shared and provided by:

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