

INTRODUCTION

Scottish Rite welcomes all who care about children and are passionate about helping them to grow and develop as healthy, happy and capable members of our community. Scottish Rite recognized children's speech and language disorders to be a serious and neglected need in this country. It is a child health and development problem often neglected or excluded by insurance, government programs and other charities. Each Scottish Rite valley in the United States is encouraged to establish and fund its own RiteCare program. The Billings Scottish Rite valley began its speech and language charity with a single licensed clinician providing therapy at the Billings Scottish Rite Temple. It soon became clear that the need was much greater and more space and clinicians were needed. That required more money. The charity was reorganized as a Montana non-profit public service corporation and obtained charitable status under section 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Code. The corporation was named the Eugene F. Herman Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Clinic, Inc. in memory of the benefactor who left a generous bequest to establish the charity. This long corporate name is commonly shortened to "Billings Scottish Rite Children's Speech and Language Clinic" or simply the "Scottish Rite Clinic." Money was raised, space was leased and clinicians were hired but the waiting list grew longer. The number of children in need and the limitation of funds caused the charity to adopt a "Sponsorship" program to replace operating its own clinic. It funded clinical treatment for children in need at five existing local children's speech and language clinics. The "Sponsorship" program allocates the cost of clinical treatment between the treating clinic which grants a reduced fee, the parents who contribute according to their financial ability and the Scottish Rite paying the balance. This makes early intervention and long-term clinical treatment possible. The waiting list has been abolished and the number of children receiving clinical treatment has more than doubled. With the "Sponsorship" program working well and growing, it is now a constant struggle to continuously fund therapy for those in the program and to continue to add all children in need who continue to apply. Speech and language clinical therapy typically requires long term treatment. Sometime treatment continues for years. That is why you are asked to help financially. The "Sponsorship" program is efficient with every dollar donated spent for speech and language treatment for children reduced only by the cost of fund raising. Please consider the human consequences of not supporting these children. Read this entire brochure to appreciate the charity and decide if you would like to be a part of it.