

## ABOUT RITE CARE BILLINGS

Scottish Rite, southern jurisdiction, is one of the appended bodies of Freemasonry. Scottish Rite “Right Care” for clinical treatment of children’s speech and language disorders began in Colorado during the 1950s. Now there are more than 175 Rite Care clinics in the United States under the sponsorship of individual Scottish Rite, southern jurisdiction, valleys. In Montana, Rite Care clinical speech and language treatment is available in Billings, Missoula and Great Falls. While the Scottish Rite, southern jurisdiction, encourages its respective valleys to provide Rite Care speech and language clinical care for children, it does not participate in the management and control of the clinical services. The management and funding of the clinical care is left to each of its participating valleys.

The Billings Scottish Rite Speech and Language Disorder Clinic was founded in 1965 thanks to a generous grant from one of its members, Eugene F. Herman. The Billings Scottish Rite temple at 514 14<sup>th</sup> Street West was remodeled to accommodate its clinic facility. The need to use fund-raising to expand services for children led to the incorporation of the clinic as a Montana, non-profit, public service corporation in the year 2000. The corporation was named the Eugene F. Herman Scottish Rite Childhood Disorders Clinic, Inc. in honor of its founder and qualified as a Section 501 (c)(3) charitable organization under the Internal Revenue Code. High demand for this children’s charity caused the clinic to move to larger space to accommodate more clinicians. This model for providing direct clinical treatment for children proved unreasonably expensive and inefficient for its size and imposed inherent limitations on the number of children who could be treated. While operating a free clinic for children, the choices for dealing with applications were acceptance, rejection or placement on a waiting list which steadily grew.

The board of directors of the Scottish Rite charity devised a new and unique model for providing speech and language clinical services for children during 2009 which is described as a “sponsorship” system. The “sponsorship” system began with the Billings Scottish Rite clinic entering into a contract for clinical services with one private local clinic, which has since grown to the current five private clinics, each staffed with certified speech and language therapists. The clinics agree to accept the same discounted price for each clinical session provided to the children accepted into this Scottish Rite sponsorship program. The board of directors of the Scottish Rite charity reviews written applications by parents

followed by a “one-time” initial interview with at least one parent. The application and parental interview provides the basic information for determining whether the family income standards are met and allocating the discounted clinical charges between the family and Scottish Rite. An attempt is made by Scottish Rite to allocate clinical charges between it and parents according to the financial ability of the parents. The Sponsorship program requires the participating private clinics to bill Scottish Rite and the parents monthly for treatment sessions to Scottish Rite for the total of their respective shares set in the Treatment Plan. The interview also serves as an opportunity to explain the sponsorship programs and answer questions from parents.

Speech and language clinical services are sponsored by Scottish Rite on six month written Treatment Plans which are renewed as long as certified beneficial by the treating clinician until the child’s eighteenth birthday. Other speech and language needs are sponsored by Scottish Rite on a “case by case” basis including parent education classes, day camps for children and computer hardware and software programed for home speech and language therapy which are appropriate for the specific therapy prescribed.