

Making a Difference for Others !

By Deb Fazenbaker

I want to tell you today about an incredible service group called the Scottish Rite. Well, they actually are called the Scottish Rite Freemasonry but most folks just refer to them as the Scottish Rite. You'll find them throughout the United States but they aren't just limited there. You can actually find Scottish Rite Freemasonry on nearly every continent. There are currently chapters in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, England & Wales, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iran-In-Exile, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uruguay, and Venezuela. That's an extensive list with a lot of dedicated folks determined to serve!

The Scottish Rite IS a Service Organization. This is their creed: *Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal—The Scottish Rite Creed*

Members of the Scottish Rite profess that creed and dedicate themselves to serving others. A little more than fifty years ago, one of the chapters in Colorado, the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, took on an incredible service project. They initiated a program to help children with speech and language disorders. It was called the RiteCare program. The results obtained from the Colorado Chapter led to the establishment of many RiteCare clinics. These clinics provide diagnostic evaluation and treatment of speech and language disorders, as well as learning disabilities.



Today, there are 170 RiteCare® clinics, centers, and special programs operating or planned for children and therapists throughout the United States. Each facility is staffed by speech-language pathologists or other trained personnel. Through the support of Scottish Rite members, these clinics, centers, and programs continue to increase. The value of this philanthropy has long been apparent. Tens of thousands of youngsters across the United States have been helped significantly. With the good work of dedicated clinicians and parents, the Scottish Rite has achieved successes that could only be imagined a few years back. Children who might have remained educationally handicapped for a lifetime can now talk, read, and lead useful lives.

One of the most successful RiteCare clinics is in Kansas. In 2001, the Wichita Scottish Rite Chapter partnered with Wichita University, breaking new ground with the Wichita State University (WSU) Speech, Language & Hearing Clinic there in Wichita. This was the third RiteCare facility in Kansas. The key was not only in the financial and volunteer support offered to the WSU clinic but also the partnering between the clinic, the University's Communicative Disorders & Sciences Department, and the Wichita, Kansas, Scottish Rite Members.

Several Scottish Rite open house events were held at the Clinic beginning in the fall of 2001. Members and guests were invited to see what their contributions were doing to help children with speech, hearing, and language disorders. Free hearing screenings and hearing aid checks were offered to Scottish Rite members to familiarize

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them with the services available. It really helped them to understand the importance of the clinic's work. After that experience, each member dedicated themselves to helping ensure that their program stays funded and remains successful.

Our NRSFTC President, Don Beauchamp lives in Cheney Kansas— not far at all from Wichita. Don is not a member of the Scottish Rite Freemasonry but he has a good friend, Jerry Martin who is. Last year this gentleman asked Don to donate a puppy to an auction to help RiteCare. Don had puppies on the ground and it seemed like a good cause so he donated a female puppy without hesitation.

Don and Linda did attend the "Champagne & Chocolate Fantasy" auction last year. When it came time for their pup to be auctioned off, it was quite a show. The auctioneer would carry the puppy table to table. As folks "connected" and fell in love with it, they began bidding! Before it was over, Don's pup brought in \$800 dollars for the RiteCare program.

Here she is a year later. What a beautiful animal.



They call her Ruby and she is loved and adored by her owners Bill and Kathy Coufal. Dr. Kathy L Coufal is Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication

Sciences and Disorders at Wichita State University. Needless to say, she knows first hand how important this program is! For her, it is a WIN-WIN situation. She got a wonderful dog and she benefits from the generosity of the RiteCare program.

When you think about it, it's really a WIN-WIN for everyone. Don can claim the donation on his taxes and he can take satisfaction in knowing the difference he made simply by saying yes! A difference because every day the Wichita State University Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic offers a wide range of diagnostic and therapy services on behalf of individuals with speech,

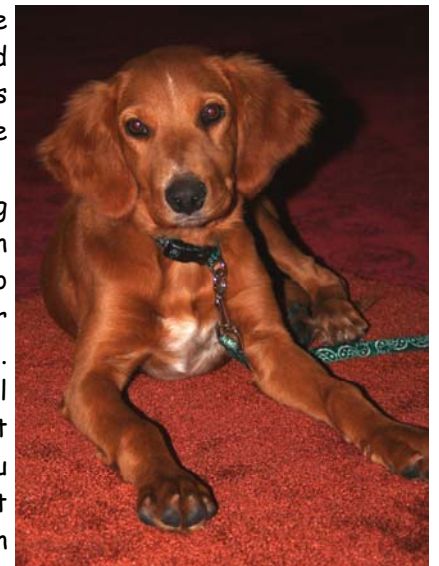
language, and hearing disorders. The clinic, is a non-profit organization that provides accredited educational experience and clinical training to graduate and post-graduate students enrolled in the Communicative Disorders and Sciences program at WSU. As a teaching clinic, the collaborative efforts of students and faculty result in the creation of "best practice" methodologies to be shared. Clients include infants, children, and adults who display mild to severe communicative disorders. In addition to individual and small-group services, the clinic also offers a licensed preschool program for children 2.5 to 5 years of age. Kaleidoscope is an integrated preschool for children learning to communicate. Children with specific language concerns and delays, children learning English as a second language, and children who are typically developing are invited to enroll in this program. This unique program promotes interaction of children with hearing, language, and learning challenges along with children who have typically developing language skills.

Well, needless to say, this year when it was time to set up the "Champagne & Chocolate Fantasy" auction again, Don's friend Jerry called again. This time Don donated a male pup out of Chaparral and Sizzlin Belle. Here's a picture of the little guy as he waited for the auction to begin.

Unfortunately, Don and Linda were unable to attend the auction this year. It must have been quite a show!!

The next morning Jerry Martin contacted Don to thank him again for donating the dog. Ron Capps a local businessman bought the puppy. Do you have any idea what value he placed on the little guy? Well,

Ron bought it for the amount of



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\$3100! That's right! In fact, this year's "Champagne & Chocolate Fantasy" helped raise funds in excess of \$25,000 for the WSU RiteCare Program. And although the WSU clinic has many facets, all Scottish Rite monies are directly used in support of children with speech, language, and hearing disorders. I've worked in Social Service the last ten years and know all too well how difficult it is to get funding for programs, no matter how vital or important they are. I've got to tell you— \$25,000 is the kind of funding that changes lives! I commend the Beauchamp's for their leadership and generosity. The National Red Setter Field Trial Club is proud of the contributions made by Don and Linda Beauchamp on behalf of Pine Hollow Ranch. We salute them for not only representing the best breed in America but the best of what America should be all about! Thank you so much for supporting this very important program.