

RiteCare. Right Now.

THE RITECARE CLINIC NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EVENTS

Greetings from the Chair

Happy spring! On behalf of the faculty, staff and students at the Marshall University Department of Communication Disorders and the RiteCare Clinic, I want to thank you for your continued support of the children in our program. As you can imagine, the past year has been quite a challenge for our program. While our clinic briefly closed in the spring of 2020, we quickly made a transition to offering telehealth services for all of our families in the summer of 2020, and we were open for business this past fall and spring while adhering to all the university and CDC COVID-19 guidelines. The same will hold true for this summer. According to Marshall University leadership, we will resume all face-to-face activities in the fall of 2021. We are looking forward to getting back to business as usual.

Despite the challenges students and faculty faced during COVID-19, our program has continued to thrive. With the continued shortage of speech-language pathologists working in the schools in West Virginia, the Department of Communication Disorders is committed to educating students to serve children with communication and swallowing difficulties. This year we have formalized a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate program. The SLP-A certificate program will provide a pathway for students to work as therapists in the schools under the supervision of a certified SLP. We are the only SLPA certificate program in the state of West Virginia.

Additionally, we began teaching online courses as part of a leveling up or bridge program. This will allow a path for students who have a degree in another discipline to take pre-requisite courses necessary prior to applying to graduate school.

The Marshall University Speech and Hearing Center is currently serving over 100 patients. This is the largest our clinic has ever been! We continue to offer specialty clinics including:

- Stuttering Clinic
- Voice and Swallowing Clinic
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Clinic
- KIDS Clinic- specializing in serving children and families exposed to opioids.
- Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing Clinic
- Tethered Oral Tissues
- AAC- Communication Devices Clinic
- Social Pragmatic Language Group

If you know of a family who could benefit from our program, please encourage them to call 304-696-3641.

JUNE 5, 2021

Scottish Rite Pig Roast
Club in the Valley

JUNE 19, 2021

WV Scottish Rite Annual Meeting
Wheeling, WV

JULY 10, 2021

Motorcycle Ride
Huntington, WV

JULY 24, 2021

Scottish Rite Picnic 4-H Camp,
Barboursville, WV

AUGUST 28, 2021

Royal Knight Out
MU Buskirk Field, Huntington, WV





PATIENT SPOTLIGHT

Leah and Norman Branch host a podcast called **The Biz with Normbeezy & Lady T**. For Autism Acceptance Month in April, they spotlighted their son Zaiden who comes to our clinic. This is what they had to say:

Zaiden Branch was born June 7th, 2013. He was diagnosed before the age of 2 on the Autism Spectrum. Because of Zaiden's early diagnosis, he has had access to therapies and interventions such as occupational therapy (OT), speech therapy (ST), ABA, and feeding that have aided in his current progress. Each week, Zaiden works to meet goals, but even the smallest victories like counting, recognizing objects, and spelling his name are celebrated. Zaiden's food choices do not always include vegetables and fruits, but the list has expanded. He continues to have frustrations due to communication, but vocalizations have increased and his ability to express wants and needs has improved.

There are so many adjectives to describe Zaiden, but three that come to mind are: helpful, happy and special. He has a contagious laugh, a smile that lights up a room and is sunshine to many on a cloudy day. Zaiden loves music, jumping, swinging, and swimming. He is like any other child; he just marches to the beat of his own drum.

Our hope and prayer for Zaiden is that he will be able to effectively communicate, be independent and will be afforded the same opportunities as any other child. One of our daily affirmations is: Zaiden is strong, he is powerful and will do great things!

- Norman & Leah Branch



NATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATION ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The National Stuttering Association hosted an Ice Cream Social on May 6th on the Marshall Campus.

The ice cream social encouraged all persons who stutter of all ages and their whole family, significant other, or friends to attend for ice cream and socialization. Attendees had the opportunity to get to know one another, enjoy delicious ice cream and create signs to raise awareness about stuttering and educate the public on how to respond appropriately when interacting with a person who stutters.

To learn more about the Marshall chapter of the National Stuttering Association, please contact Jamie Maxwell at maxwellja@marshall.edu.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



As you know, COVID-19 prevented us from hosting the Scottish Rite Picnic in July, but it didn't keep Tara Dyer from finding the perfect recipient for the Stephanie Dyer Memorial Scholarship. Congratulations Cammi Kerby!

Thank you to the Dyer family for continuously supporting our students. Stephanie would be so proud. Tara is the daughter of Larry Bolling, one of the founding Masons of the RiteCare Clinic. He will be missed by all.



Jim Lackey visited the RiteCare Clinic to provide two students with the West Virginia Scottish Rite Scholarship. Congratulations to Savannah McCormack and Madison Hopkins.



During the May board meeting, Jim Lackey also announced the West Virginia Scottish Rite has donated \$3000.00 to assist in student scholarships for the fall 2021.

NEW ADDITIONS



We welcomed Kelly Young to our faculty this year. Kelly Young, MA, CCC-SLP, is an Assistant Professor in the Marshall University Department of Communication Disorders. Professor Young received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in the field of communication disorders from Marshall University. She is licensed by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists and maintains her Certificate of Clinical Competence through the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association. Prior to joining the MUCD staff in 2020, she acquired 19 years of experience in a clinical outpatient setting and public school system. She has extensive experience diagnosing and treating developmental speech and language disorders and collaborating with interdisciplinary teams. Her area of specialty is providing Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Strategies to support children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Childhood Apraxia of Speech and moderate-severe language disorders. Currently at Marshall University she provides undergraduate instruction in the area of Speech Sound Disorders and graduate instruction in Augmentative and Alternative Communication. She provides both on and off-campus supervision and education to graduate clinicians. She also serves local public school systems by conducting AAC evaluations, as well as AAC training and support for IEP teams. When not working, Professor Young enjoys spending time with her family and being involved in her church community.

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

As you may know, because of COVID-19, we were unable to host our annual fundraising dinner in 2020 or in 2021, which meant we missed the opportunity to earn \$50,000.00 for our clients. I share this with you to encourage you to reflect on your role as a Scottish Rite Mason and consider how you can assist. Below are just a few ways you can provide financial assistance to the many children we serve.

AMAZON SMILE:

Did you know you can support us just by shopping through smile.amazon.com? AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose Huntington West Virginia Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Foundation Inc.

KROGER:

Did you know you can support Us Just by Shopping at Kroger? Create a digital account. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shoppers Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the Huntington WV Scottish Rite of FreeMasonry. Once you are logged into your digital account through the Kroger App or Kroger website, visit your "settings" then click on "Rewards" and then click on "Community Rewards." Once you select Huntington WV Scottish Rite of FreeMasonry, click, "Save" and your selected organization will display in the Kroger Community Rewards section of your account. Need Assistance? Message us on our Facebook page and we will walk you through it or visit www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards/

FACEBOOK FUNDRAISERS:

Encourage Supporters to Create Fundraisers
With this link, people will be able to easily create a fundraiser for The Huntington Scottish Rite Foundation. Share it with supporters and encourage them to help you raise money on Facebook. www.facebook.com/fund/scottishritehuntington/

FOOD FAIR SUPERMARKETS SHOPPERS:

Did you know you can designate Huntington West Virginia Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Foundation Inc as your charity of choice when signing up for your shopper's card? Food Fair is great about giving back to our local community and they donate a small percentage of your purchases to our organization. Who knew a trip to the grocery store could make such a difference in the lives of so many? Sign up today by completing Food Fair's **Community Enrichment Program Application** found on our scottishritehuntington.org website.

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/scottishritehuntington 
Donate online: www.scottishritehuntington.org

We are excited to share the news of our newest fundraiser: a RiteCare Royal Knight Out!

Young boys and girls are invited to dress up in fun princess ball gowns and knight costumes. We will treat them to a royal presentation on Buskirk Field, where they then can play carnival games and other activities on the field. Children will have an opportunity to participate in a photo booth, dance classes, decorate swords and shields, crowns, capes and chalice cups. If we're lucky, Marco will be there in Royal Attire. More information to come. For questions about sponsoring an activity at the event, please contact holland@marshall.edu.

Admission Cost:

- \$50 for children outside of the clinic
- \$25 for children in the clinic and their siblings



SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION, INC.
P.O. Box 294 • Huntington, WV 25707