



The Eagle's Voice

Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado

- a 501(c)(3) public charity -

A Newsletter For Our Valued Partners

The Scottish Rite Masons and Friends Who Care

Issue 10 – Summer 2008

What Colorado RiteCare Did in 2007

In 2007 the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado provided financial assistance enabling 1,133 children in Colorado to receive speech-language care. This is more children receiving care than in any previous year of the Foundation's 55-year history. The Foundation provided \$1.4 million to help parents pay for the expense of this care.

Children Served in 2007

Speech-Language Therapy.....	934 children
Treasure Chest Program.....	199 children
Total Children Served in 2007.....	1,133 children
Valley of Denver.....	652 children
Valley of Colorado Springs/Pueblo.....	118 children
Valley of Grand Junction.....	363 children

At the end of 2007 the Foundation's net assets reached an all-time high of \$29.1 million. This was made possible by more than 2,700 gifts made to the Foundation since January 2000. Of particular significance are the more than \$2.6 million in estate bequests made during this period. These gifts were instrumental in helping our net assets grow while at the same time providing \$10.4 million in assistance to families. And, the Foundation continues to manage and administer the RiteCare Childhood Language Program at a very low overhead rate. In 2007, this rate was 1.7 percent.

The following articles provide information regarding the Treasure Chest Program.

Lestate's Speech is Improving by Elizabeth, Lestate's Mom

My son Lestate was enrolled in the "Treasure Chest" program all year. We received five boxes this year of family fun and learning. My son has a speech problem, and this program has helped him



**Lestate, A Head Start
Treasure Chest Boy**

so much in his speech growth that I am amazed. Carmen [Western Slope Head Start's Treasure Chest Coordinator] is an amazing person who sincerely cares about us and the program. Carmen mentioned that the funding on this program could end at any time. I ask not just for my child but for all the children who need help in learning that you please continue funding. Especially since this program has helped my family, I would like to see other families benefit as much as mine has. Thank you for everything!

The Treasure Chest Program is Making a Difference

by Carmen Marsh, Early Literacy Specialist
Western Slope Head Start

The Treasure Chest Program helps Head Start families learn better ways to become the primary educators of their children. Through home visits with tubs of educational activities, the program's curriculum is a parent friendly approach for teaching young children early language and literacy skill development. The program also screens children from birth through age five for possible speech

delays, allowing parents an opportunity to seek early intervention prior to preschool and kindergarten.

In the preceding article you were introduced to Lestate. Based on his limited speech, Elizabeth his mom felt the Treasure Chest Program could help him, along with receiving speech services through the local school district. During my home visits, I noticed multiple drawings of Lestate's hung throughout her home. The drawings were from the activities in the Treasure Chest. She was so proud of his accomplishments and so was Lestate. She also said the activities in the Treasure Chest created family time as well as a valuable learning experience. Elizabeth said that by the end of the program, Lestate was able to better communicate with his teachers and friends.

As always, the success of the Treasure Chest Program is due to the continued interest, funding, and support of the Scottish Rite Foundation. On behalf of the families and the Head Start staff, thank you.

What is the Treasure Chest Program?

The Treasure Chest Program is an early language and literacy program for promoting speech, language, and learning. It is based on age-appropriate materials including books, games, and toys that are organized into theme-based groups and placed in bags, boxes, tubs, or backpacks for parents to check out. Parents are taught how to most effectively use these materials in the home.

Since inception of the program in 2000, more than 800 children have been enrolled. Children in the following six communities are now participating in the program: Cortez, Dolores, Dove Creek, Grand Junction, Mancos, and Towaoc on the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation. The program is managed and coordinated by The Piñon Project, a not-for-profit childhood development agency in Cortez and by Western Slope Head Start, located in Grand Junction.

The Piñon Project's Treasure Chests Help Provide Focused Family Time by Valerie Hernandez Special Assistant to Dr. Deborah Hayes The Children's Hospital

In May Dr. Deborah Hayes, Vern Ingraham, and I traveled to Cortez for the annual review of the Treasure Chest Program managed by The Piñon



Ethan & Dad Playing With Treasure Chest Materials

Project. We met with Virginia Howey, Director of The Piñon Project, and Kathi Sutton, The Piñon Project's Treasure Chest Coordinator.

Kathi is doing an excellent job in managing this program; coordinating with several pre-schools, Head Start programs, and the Cortez public library; and providing parent training and education on use of the Treasure Chest materials.

In testimony to Kathi's dedication and ability, she recently saw a mother of a child in the program while shopping at the grocery store in Mancos. The Mom gave her a big hug and thanked Kathi for having provided this program for her son. The Mom said that the program gave them opportunity to work with books and age-appropriate materials – an opportunity they would not have otherwise had.

Ethan, the boy in the above photo, looks forward to his treasure chests. His Dad says, "The treasure chests contain a wealth of focused family time. Immeasurable value!" His Mom says, "We set aside a special time for them after bath time each evening. Ethan cries when it is time to return them and has on occasion hid a favorite book or even the entire Treasure Chest in a closet or under the bed. Thank you for this valuable resource."

Last year, The Piñon Project and the agencies it collaborates with in five communities served 160 children in the Treasure Chest Program. The families that seem to be most successful are those in a very structured environment, i.e., children enrolled in pre-school and with stay-at-home moms. In one of the communities a child with speech and language delay and her family were actively involved with the program. Her teachers and Mom report that the program has been very helpful in her progress.

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity dedicated to funding speech-language therapy for children in Colorado who have childhood language disorders. Please remember the Foundation when considering charitable giving and making estate plans. For more information visit us on the web at www.scottishritefoundation.org or call us at 303-861-2410.