# RITE UP

# Moving On Stepping Up and Into the Future





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**On cover:** Patient Anna moving on from high school graduation and into a bright future; **Above**: Anna working on walking and balance with her physical therapist Kayla Clem, D.P.T., A.T.P.

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



**ROBERT L. WALKER** President/CEO

Recent months have brought unexpected and unparalleled changes to our world. With the COVID-19 global pandemic and the protests triggered by racial tensions and violence, the attention of our nation has shifted. Scottish Rite for Children remains dedicated to meeting the challenges that lie ahead. For almost 100 years, our board of trustees and staff have been guided by our core belief – **giving children back their childhood.** Regardless of the obstacles we face, every decision we make hangs on that guiding principle, drives our actions and sustains our purpose.

As COVID-19 began to spread throughout the country, our team focused on the safety of our patients, families, staff and volunteers. Within one week, we transitioned the majority of our staff to working from home, and with this new normal, we welcomed **innovation**. Our telemedicine program, which had been steadily growing, became a necessity for telehealth, and this led to wider usage by our physicians and care teams. We appreciate our staff and patient families for their enthusiastic collaboration, planning and flexibility that allowed us to successfully implement and streamline this process. We continue to deliver expert care with an unfailing dedication to serving our patients.

In a letter to staff in early June, Chief of Staff Dr. Daniel J. Sucato and I shared our thoughts about the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and our hope for our community and others across the nation. **Scottish Rite for Children condemns racism, bigotry, discrimination and violence of any kind.** We believe in the right for all people to peacefully express their concerns, helping to bring attention to their frustration, anger and hopelessness. Since opening our doors in 1921, we have been committed to caring for children and families compassionately, equally and respectfully. We are mindful of our responsibility and proudly uphold that commitment daily.



In support of our staff and community and to honor the memory of George Floyd, our staff in Dallas and Frisco gathered at 1 p.m. on June 4 to share a moment of silence lasting 8 minutes and 46 seconds.

Through these transitions, **we remain focused on our ability to advance positive outcomes for those we treat.** In this *Rite Up*, you will learn about our patient Anna. She was able to accomplish her goals with resilience and determination while receiving expert care, sometimes through telemedicine, from her multidisciplinary team.

Scottish Rite for Children has been blessed with the support of many individuals throughout the years. Our patients and their families, our staff, volunteers, donors and friends are truly amazing. Thank you all for contributing to our culture of compassion and caring and for impacting the lives of those we are privileged to serve.



# **DONOR SPOTLIGHT**

Sewing Ladies' volunteer Carolina Moreno expertly sews a mask to help protect our patients

## Fun Food Fridays

Scottish Rite for Children loves our community, and with COVID-19 stay-athome orders, our friends in the restaurant business are experiencing uncertain times. They have stepped up for our staff and supported our events many times, and we wanted to return the favor and give encouragement to the establishments that have given so much to us.

At the height of the pandemic, our team partnered with several restaurants to provide delicious meals to our onsite staff every Friday. "It was a win-win situation because it helped the restaurants that have been so generous to us throughout the years, and it gave our staff a fun treat," says Stephanie Brigger, vice president of Development.

Other community restaurants reached out to Scottish Rite wanting to get involved and show support for our staff and health care workers. "People looked forward to Friday," Brigger says. "They were extremely appreciative of the opportunity to enjoy a tasty, fresh meal. They felt valued for the work they do at Scottish Rite for Children, and they knew people in the community recognized their contributions." «



Along with other local restaurants, Raising Cane's showed their support by providing lunch for our staff.



## Sew Thankful for Our Volunteers and Friends

Masks are a critical component of protecting our staff and patients from the COVID-19 virus and complying with state and federal safety guidelines. Scottish Rite for Children is overwhelmed by the support and generosity shown by our volunteers and donors who have handcrafted hundreds of cloth masks for patients and their families to wear at our Dallas and Frisco campuses.

"We are so grateful for the beautiful masks that have been made and donated," says Chief Medical Officer B. Stephens Richards, M.D. "They are an important commodity for us and are in short supply as we strive to protect our employees and patients coming for clinic visits."

Initially, we asked the talented Sewing Ladies — a group of volunteers who create custom-made bed linens and patient gowns — to shift their focus and utilize their skills to fulfill our supply of cloth masks. It wasn't long before our friends throughout the community reached out to Scottish Rite looking for inventive ways to support our operations that the handmade mask project quickly became something much greater.

"Even though our volunteers remain safely at home, this has been an outlet for them to continue to serve and a great way to stay connected to Scottish Rite," says Ashley Givens, vice president of Development/Events. "The best thing is seeing the joy on their faces when we pick up each batch!" **«** 

olunteer Luigi Mungioli upports the Sewing adies by cutting abric patterns or the masks ney sew.

# **CAMPUS CONNECTION**



## **Reverchon Roundup**

# We celebrated another year of Reverchon Roundup's "Tree-

**mendous" success!** On Saturday, March 7, the Dallas Park & Recreation department, Friends of Reverchon Park, Scottish Rite for Children and 350 hardworking volunteers brought their best to beautify and clean the historic Reverchon Park. From the plant beds to the baseball field, the group spruced up the park with bright flowers, fresh mulch and new sod. We're grateful to all the volunteers and sponsors who have supported this special event — and our community year after year. **«** 

A volunteer group from Lakehill Preparatory School helping clean up the park at this year's roundup.

### Safely Supported

Due to safety precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic, Scottish Rite for Children's spring and summer events were canceled, but we still found ways to safely show community support and staff appreciation together. **«** 



**Above:** President/CEO Robert L. Walker and Chief of Staff Daniel J. Sucato, M.D., M.S., tied white ribbons on trees throughout the campus in support of health care workers.

Bottom left: On May 6, the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels delighted onlookers flying over Dallas/Fort Worth to show appreciation for medical staff, first responders and essential workers.

**Bottom right:** Scottish Rite for Children celebrated its annual Nurses Week and Hospital Week in May.





# **DR. SUCATO REPORTS**



DANIEL J. SUCATO, M.D., M.S. Chief of Staff

#### Keeping Our Commitment

At Scottish Rite for Children, providing world-renowned care remains at the forefront of what we do. Throughout this pandemic, our organization has continued practicing safe and expert care for our patients and families. We remain dedicated to excellence, and we hold fast to our commitment to innovation and education.

As our staff strives to learn more about the impact of this pandemic, care teams throughout Scottish Rite actively search for creative ways to continue serving our patients, local providers and the community. Challenging some of those novel ideas with new research opportunities, we hope to show how the results can refine the care our teams provide to patients.

Scottish Rite launched three research studies — all focused on how COVID-19 is affecting our patients, our staff and the community. Each project includes a short, voluntary questionnaire that has given our teams the ability to better understand the changes the pandemic has made in our patients' lives and, in turn, the lives of families across the country. These studies dig for answers about the effects of social distancing on physical activity levels, how children are coping with increased stress and also how COVID-19 is affecting young athletes spending time away from the social interaction, structure and discipline of their favorite sport.

As leaders in pediatric orthopedics, Scottish Rite for Children continually educates and supplies resources to the local medical community. Our monthly educational lecture series, *Coffee, Kids and Sports Medicine*, transitioned from live to recorded due to the current situation. In May, we launched an on-demand learning page on our website for this series, and more educational activities are planned for the future.



Parents Chris and Andrea with their three daughters, patients Marlee, Ellie and Chloe, benefit from Scottish Rite for Children's COVID-19 research studies.

In addition, to continue our ongoing education for our community providers, our medical staff have conducted virtual lectures with local pediatricians, advanced practice providers and school nurses. These meetings offer high-quality, instructional content to bolster our efforts to improve care for children through educating our pediatric colleagues.

Even during a pandemic, our mission to conduct research, educate and provide world-renowned patient care has and will endure as we move into the future. **«** 



Patient Yuvin and his mother undergoing constraint-induced movement therapy during our Therapy Together research program.

## Research Program for Patients with Cerebral Palsy Goes Virtual

In February, staff from our Neurology & Rehabilitation Medicine and Occupational Therapy teams initiated a research program for patients with cerebral palsy (CP) called Therapy Together. This new program focuses on younger children — 3 months to 4 years old — and is an extension of the original program, Pirate Camp, which is designed for older kids with CP.

Established to help identify and begin intervention at an earlier age, Therapy Together works specifically with children diagnosed with hemiplegic (one side of the body) CP. Throughout the eight-week program, the child's stronger arm is placed into a splint to foster increased use of the affected arm for daily activities, also known as constraint-induced movement therapy (CIMT).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the families involved needed a new way to support and encourage each other while staying home, so Therapy Together went virtual. Each Friday during the course of the program, occupational therapists Angela Shierk, Ph.D., and Heather Roberts, Ph.D., provided education and support via video meetings with the various families. Caregivers kept a log of the work they completed at home, and during the weekly call, they were given additional instructions and the opportunity to ask questions.

"As a team, it was exciting to think outside the box and take this program virtual," Shierk says. "Our goal was to do everything we could to proceed as usual, and we did just that. Creating this new way of teaching allowed us to enhance our skills — making us better at our job while also giving these families the tools and support they needed to help their child." «

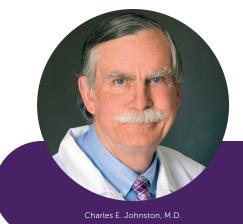
# **MEDICAL UPDATES**

### Staff Continue Strong Presence at National Meeting

In May, the annual Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA) launched its first virtual meeting. POSNA is one of the most prestigious medical organizations within pediatric orthopedics, and Scottish Rite for Children is actively involved at the conference each year.

Usually a four-day, in-person meeting, POSNA 2020 restructured its annual conference to facilitate presentations online with a live session to kick off the event. Scottish Rite for Children remains a strong presence in POSNA, and for this new format, our staff prerecorded their presentations — an impressive 23 projects that represent almost every pediatric orthopedic specialty — to be made available to specialists around the nation.

Scottish Rite was also recognized for earning a clinical and basic research grant from POSNA. And we're proud to announce, Charles E. Johnston, M.D., received the Humanitarian Award, an honor presented to one pediatric orthopedic surgeon who has shown exemplary, lifelong dedication to the care of children in underdeveloped areas worldwide. Congratulations, Dr. Johnston! **«** 



# MOVING ON Stepping Up and Into the Future

by Hayley Hair

Anna's dreams are big, and when she talks about them, her assured tone makes it sound like she's telling her story instead of speaking about possibilities in her future. Moving that tassel on her graduation cap from one side to the other triggered the beginning of her next journey, and Anna, class of 2020 graduate, can't wait for what's coming.

"I'm really excited to see where I'm headed in this new chapter of my life," Anna, of Waxahachie, says. "We all need growth in our life to feel like we are fulfilling our dreams, so I'm ready."

This upcoming change moves Anna to Tarleton State University in the fall, and that will be quite a transition for her mother, Carla, and her family. When Anna was a toddler, Carla visited numerous doctors to share her concerns about her daughter mainly crawling and having difficulty walking. She did not get the answers she needed about Anna's mobility, so Carla's father, who was a Mason, directed his daughter to Scottish Rite for Children. Their first appointment introduced them to Chief of Staff Daniel J. Sucato, M.D., M.S., and during that visit, Anna was diagnosed with cerebral palsy (CP).

"We couldn't figure out what was wrong, and everyone just kept saying it's because she was born premature," Carla says. "Then we came here, and by the time we left that day, we had a walker for Anna, and she was already walking."

Getting around her school and family farm, Anna continues to use a walker and sometimes a wheelchair for longer distances. She speaks openly about having CP and what she's been able to accomplish with her strong Christian beliefs and unyielding determination.

"I don't let CP stop me from enjoying my life and doing the things I want to do," Anna says. "If there's an obstacle in my way, I always find a way to overcome it."

Sucato remains Anna's doctor, and their near 16-year relationship is collaborative and built on mutual trust.



Chief of Staff Daniel J. Sucato, M.D., M.S., examining Anna's gait.

Her appointments are hyper-focused on determining what support she needs to meet her goals. As children diagnosed with CP grow, their muscles do not keep pace with their bone growth due to increased spasticity, leading to tightness and stiffness. Together, Anna and Sucato addressed her growth disparities through two earlier surgeries, requiring Anna to relearn to walk both times.

"He's the best!" Anna says about Sucato. "He always knows the next steps to take in order to get me to where I want to be. Because of his help, I'm confident that one day I will be able to walk by myself. He's excellent at what he does." Anna helps around her family's farm and takes care of their animals. She's trained for and competed in two special-needs cheerleading competitions, taking home first-place trophies each time. Recently she learned to swim, and with those goals met, now college is at the forefront of her mind.

During her visit last year, Sucato heard Anna say that she desired more independence in her college experience, and that led to a discussion about what medical interventions could turn her wishes into reality.

"I really want to be able to ditch the walker and be on my own," Anna says. "Although I know it will always be in my life somehow, I'm going to be fully independent, walking on my own and doing things by myself."

In February, Anna had multiple procedures during one surgery to straighten and adjust her right leg and foot to boost her long-term walking success. In planning for these surgical adjustments, Anna knew her recovery and rehabilitation would be intense and require extensive physical and occupational therapies. It was after her surgery recovery stay at Scottish Rite that COVID-19 surged in the United States, and in order to follow stayat-home orders, Anna's care would need to go virtual.

Pediatric physical medicine and rehabilitation physician Fabiola I. Reyes, M.D., and her team, as well as physical therapist Kayla Clem and occupational therapist Ronni Rowe spent the next few weeks working with Anna daily through telehealth visits.

"Scottish Rite was able to quickly provide the infrastructure and guidance, both locally and nationally, regarding regulations and restrictions for telemedicine visits," Reyes says. "I was able to fill a need in terms of my outpatient practice and also with several other patients going through a similar rehabilitation to Anna's."

During this pandemic, Scottish Rite for Children has conducted more than 1,400 video visits with patients. For Anna's rehabilitation, that included two weeks of meeting virtually with Reyes three times a week and physical and occupational therapies both twice a week. Everyone's primary goal was to get Anna out of her wheelchair and onto her feet using her walker. Anna's multidisciplinary team also met internally via video to review Anna's progress and to stay on the same page.

Anna is thrilled with the result of the surgery and the hard work she and her team at Scottish Rite have put in to get her stronger and fully mobile. "Even though my interactions are different during this time, the level of care feels the same," Anna says. "It's still as amazing and helpful, and the core values haven't changed. Scottish Rite is still here to help me get better."

Anna has decided to study nursing, which will help fulfill one of her biggest dreams – becoming a nurse practitioner and working at Scottish Rite for Children.

"It's been an absolute privilege and honor to work with Anna and her mom during the past 16 years," Sucato says. "We truly worked as a team in all of her care, and it has been fun to watch her grow up into the outstanding young lady she is today. I look forward to following her nursing career."

Through the excellent care Anna's received, she hopes to show other patients that anything is possible. "I want to inspire others by being an example that they can still accomplish whatever they want in life regardless of the barriers they face," Anna says. "It's what makes them exceptional! You don't have to let your condition stop you. And it doesn't matter what anyone says, you define your life." «

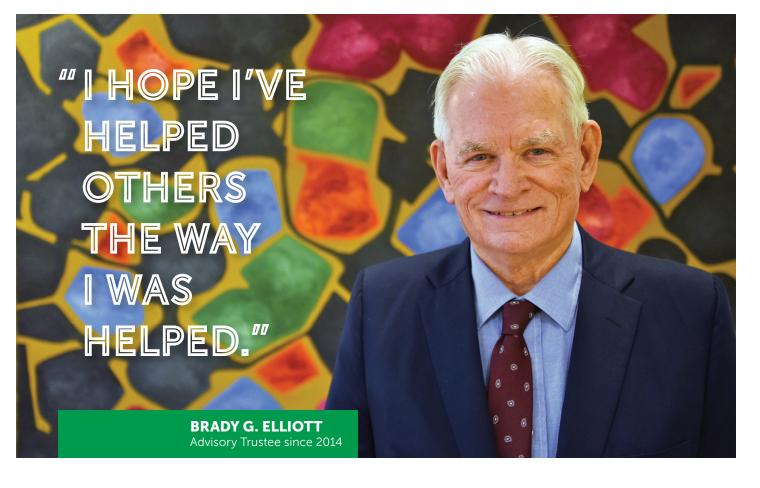


## **Cerebral Palsy Facts**

- » For children diagnosed with cerebral palsy, Scottish Rite for Children uses a multidisciplinary pediatric care team from Orthopedics, Neurology & Rehabilitation Medicine, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Patient Services and several others.
- » Our pediatric experts have contributed to hundreds of research studies that have helped the medical community throughout the world understand CP and how it affects motor control in children.
- » A CP diagnosis occurs when there is an unchanging, static brain injury at or around the time of birth that affects motor development and movement.
- » CP is the most common motor disability in childhood, affecting on average 3.1 children out of 1,000. It ranges from mild to severe and can affect just one, some or all of the limbs and other parts of the body.

Statistic Credits: CDC.gov; Cerebralpalsyguide.com

## TRUSTEE PROFILE



Advisory Trustee Brady G. Elliott says his mentors have shaped him into the man he is today. Through those mentors, Elliott learned what he considers the most significant lesson — the importance of giving back to the community. As a lawyer and later on as a judge, his career surrounded him with opportunities to mentor and lead others.

He used his position and experience in the judicial system to raise awareness and improve treatment for various societal issues, such as mental health and drug abuse. Whether through his career achievements or in his role as a trustee at Scottish Rite for Children, his life's work to continually give back and make a difference has helped build a brighter future for countless individuals.

Outside of the courtroom, Elliott has always craved adventure. "I was a scuba diver at age 12," he says. Elliott also learned to fly airplanes with his father, who operated a flight school. While studying at the University of Houston, he completed his pilot's license. He later joined the U.S. Air Force, and while serving, he started jumping out of airplanes. "I ended up liking skydiving so much that I became the West Texas area safety officer for the United States Parachute Association," Elliott says.

Although his stepfather was a Mason, it was later in Elliott's life that Masonry piqued his interest. He gained respect for the organization and its lodge members through his involvement in various service organizations, and those encounters made him desire to learn more and become a Mason himself.

"Meeting with other Masons, learning the work and applying it has impacted me in a long-term way in my career, as well as with my family," Elliott says. "Mentors help you focus where you need to be putting your attention, and I hope I've helped others the way I was helped."

Elliott's mentors led by example and showed him ways his talent practicing law could ultimately be used to give back to his community. He believes that as a lawyer he was a servant to others, and much like physicians, his giving spirit could help people through their rough times. "People come to us at the worst times in their lives," Elliott says. "Our training allows us to help them when they need it the most." «

## PATIENT SPOTLIGHT

Philadelphia Eagles fans patient Banks and Ray Kleposki, M.S.N., CPNP

#### He fakes left and then right. Oh no! That didn't feel good.

A game of wrestle tag between friends needed a time-out when Banks, of Dallas, took a tumble and landed the wrong way on his wrist. Usually ready with a funny joke and a playful laugh, Banks' fall had him feeling down for the count. Banks is a big fan of the Philadelphia Eagles and football in general. Once he met the experts at the Fracture Clinic at Scottish Rite for Children Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Center in Frisco, he knew this setback wouldn't keep him on the sidelines for long.

Banks' fall fractured the left radius bone in his wrist. "It hurt, and I felt so sad that I couldn't move my arm," Banks says. "I was nervous to get it fixed, but when I met Mr. Ray, I liked him a lot." Ray Kleposki is a certified pediatric nurse practitioner at our Fracture Clinic, and the two made a great pair, especially when Banks discovered Ray cheers for the Philadelphia Eagles, too!

"When Mr. Ray said he was an Eagles fan, just like me, I felt better," Banks says. "I was comfortable with him, and he made me feel like everything was going to be okay." When Ray asked Banks what color he'd like for

 FRACTURE CLINIC INFORMATION
» Open Monday through Friday
» Walk-in Hours: 7:30 - 9:30 a.m., and open for appointments until 4:30 p.m.
» Call 469-515-7200 for more information or to make an appointment.



his custom cast, they both already knew the answer – green, of course – in support of their beloved Philly Eagles.

Kristen, Banks' mom, was relieved as well hearing of her son's fondness for Ray and the clinic team during a scary, uncertain time. "Having the convenience of Scottish Rite was amazing," Kristen says. "I marveled at the level of care we received."

The clinic remains open weekdays to care for patients experiencing situations just like Banks' sudden fall and fracture. "We never once felt unsafe," Kristen says. "I feel like every possible precaution was taken." Scottish Rite for Children is committed to the continued safety of our patients and staff and strictly follows CDC guidelines for all interactions. **«** 

Patient BANKS



2222 Welborn Street Dallas, Texas 75219-3993 **Electronic Service Requested** 





Scottish Rite for Children is a world-renowned leader in the treatment of Scottish kite for Children is a world-renowned leader in the treatment of orthopedic conditions such as scoliosis, clubfoot, hand differences, hip disorders, sports injuries and fractures, as well as certain related arthritic and neurological disorders and learning disorders, such as dyslexia. Patients receive treatment regardless of the family's ability to pay. For more information about services available at our Dallas or Frisco campuses, visit scottishriteforchildren.org.

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