

# RITE UP

SCOTTISH RITE



Santiago  
Braves Limb  
Reconstruction  
Like a Comic  
Book Hero



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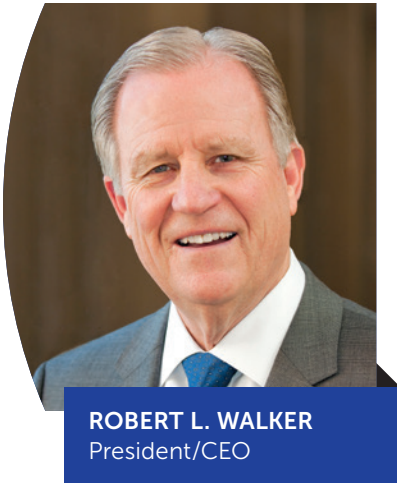
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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



**ROBERT L. WALKER**  
President/CEO

At Scottish Rite for Children, our values define what we are, what our organization stands for and what we want to become. These guiding principles shape the decisions we make to continue the culture of care at Scottish Rite.

Scottish Rite is child-focused. Our priority is to identify with our patients and take care of their every need. We take accountability for our actions. Respect is ingrained in our culture. We strive for excellence, which drives our world-renowned care. Our pioneering research builds a better tomorrow. Integrity is the foundation of our character. Education expands our impact. Transforming the lives of children gives them hope for a life never thought possible.

Often, children who come to Scottish Rite have conditions or injuries that are highly complex. Patient families frequently share experiences of their desperate feelings as they searched for the specialized treatment needed for their child's diagnosis. At Scottish Rite, families find hope and healing.

When Kai was 6 months old, a fall resulted in a broken arm. An X-ray revealed that the middle of his forearm bone was missing. His family visited multiple health care providers searching for answers but only received options to amputate or do nothing.

They were told that Kai would never play sports and that he would be disabled for the rest of his life. After meeting Scottish Rite's outstanding multidisciplinary medical team, his future brightened. He received multiple surgeries, a cast and then a brace, and Kai's arm began to heal. When he was in kindergarten, his parents signed him up for wrestling and football. Years later, Kai was starting quarterback for his junior high school football team. His mother, Aubrey, says, "Without Scottish Rite, our son's quality of life would be nothing like the way it is now. We owe everything to Scottish Rite."



In a clinic visit with Scott Oishi, M.D., FACS, Kai demonstrates the extraordinary difference that Scottish Rite made in his arm after successful treatment.

It is our privilege to transform the lives of children like Kai. In this issue, we share more stories of transformation from Santiago, Marley and Lino, and know that behind these children, there are thousands more who have found life-changing care at Scottish Rite for Children. Thanks to each of you for your support in helping us give children back their childhood.

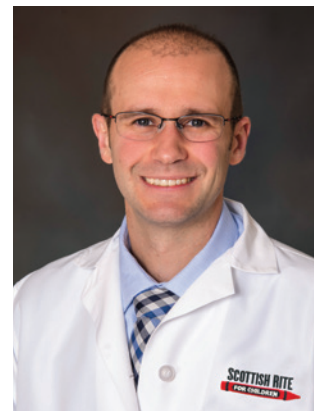
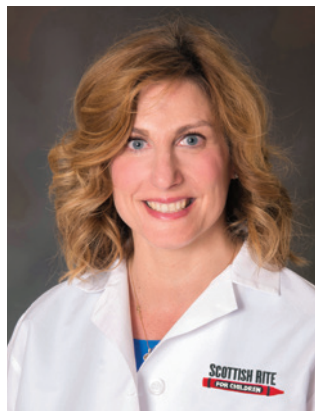
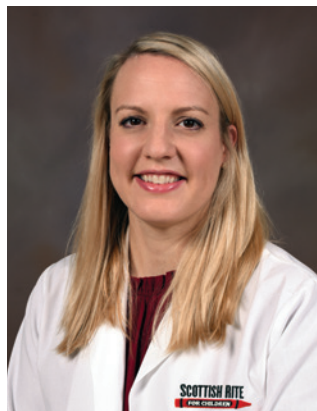


Scan the QR code to watch Kai's story.



Dallas Stars Roope Hintz (left) and Mason Marchment (right) share a moment with Jaxon, Justus and Brayden.

« The **Dallas Stars®** took time out of their mid-season schedule to visit Scottish Rite for Children. Our patients got to meet the players, and together, they played games, took photos and exchanged autographs.



**Megan E. Johnson, M.D.**, (left) was appointed program director of the **Dorothy & Bryant Edwards Fellowship in Pediatric Orthopedics and Scoliosis** at Scottish Rite for Children.

The **Scoliosis Research Society (SRS)** selected **Megan E. Johnson, M.D.**, and **Amy L. McIntosh, M.D.**, (center) to join the prestigious 2023 – 2024 cohort of L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Education And Development). The international program prepares the next generation of leaders to make significant contributions to SRS and the field of spinal deformity.

**Brandon A. Ramo, M.D.**, (right) was named a **2024 POSNA Traveling Fellow**. One of only three physicians selected by the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA), Dr. Ramo will tour health care institutions across Europe where he will learn new techniques, exchange ideas with international colleagues and participate in conferences.

# CONNECTED TO THE CARE

Texas Woman's University (TWU) fashion design and merchandising students created a custom clothing line for our inpatients who are undergoing halo-gravity traction for scoliosis. Garments like a T-shirt made with hidden snaps and zippers can easily be put on without having to stretch it over the halo. Thank you to TWU for designing both practical and fun clothes for our patients. »



Inpatient Makenna, of Lake Bluff, Illinois, enjoys her new lion top.



Preston with colleague and former patient Chase Bradshaw as well as current patient Max, of Marble Falls

« YouTuber Preston of **PrestonPlayz** visited Scottish Rite during the holidays, bringing loads of toys and a check for \$30,000 to support patient care. Thank you to PrestonPlayz and his team for inspiring joy and giving back to our mission.



Each year, the **Dallas Cowboys**® spread holiday cheer at Scottish Rite for Children, delighting our patients by visiting with them and taking photos. »

Patient Serenitee meets Dallas Cowboys® Zack Martin, Brandin Cooks and Donovan Wilson as well as Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders® Chandi and Kylie.



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

## Outstanding Care Comes Full Circle

When children and their families receive care at Scottish Rite for Children, we are delighted to hear about how their experiences have immeasurably impacted their lives.

Many of our patients have conditions or injuries that require complicated surgeries and months of rehabilitation, or chronic conditions that require years of treatment. These courageous and resilient patients grow up at Scottish Rite. From the clinic to the operating room, our multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, therapists and specialists become not only our patients' trusted expert providers but also a second family. As a result, many of these children are inspired to emulate their medical heroes when they become adults.

We follow patients who have been touched so deeply by their Scottish Rite experience, that they want to give back by helping others. Our patients go on to become medical professionals, researchers and innovators in the health care field. Some patients return to Scottish Rite to complete internships. Others have graduated from our prestigious fellowship program. Some even return to work at Scottish Rite full time. Dr. John Arvesen is a prime example.

John E. Arvesen, M.D., is a sports medicine orthopedic surgeon at our Frisco campus. Years ago, he was a patient at Scottish Rite for a benign tumor on his knee.

Dr. Arvesen says that the care he received had a tremendous influence on his life. The experience shaped his decision to become a pediatric surgeon, and it led him back to Scottish Rite to care for his own patients. Growing up as a high-level athlete who played on his high school and college tennis teams, Dr. Arvesen relates to young athletes and their families. He understands the importance of returning kids to their sports safely and quickly, and he treats each patient as he would a professional athlete.

Receiving a diagnosis or suffering from an injury is scary for anyone, especially a child. At Scottish Rite, we care for children as if they were our own. We get down on

our knees, look them in the eye, and we are honest. We wipe away tears, provide leading-edge medical care and celebrate with high fives. We give children back their childhood, so they can thrive and inspire hope for tomorrow. «



Sports medicine orthopedic surgeon and former Scottish Rite patient John E. Arvesen, M.D., consults with patient Jason, of Little Elm, during his clinic appointment.

# MOMENT OF IMPACT

## A Winning Prosthesis for Kaysin

"I'm wearing your leg, Dak!" 9-year-old Kaysin, of Dallas, says while grinning from ear to ear. He has just received a brand-new prosthetic leg sporting a custom design created by Dallas Cowboys® quarterback Dak Prescott and his friend Jeremiah Jhass. The design features several of Dak's tattoos, allowing patients like Kaysin to share the style with their favorite athlete. This collaboration was spearheaded by Hance Taplin of By Way of Dallas, a local artist who aims to create connections in our community. Through this project, Taplin connected Dallas-area artists with the Orthotics & Prosthetics team at Scottish Rite for Children to design a series of patterns to be displayed on prostheses.

Kaysin was the first patient to choose the design featuring Dak's tattoos, and his prosthetist Sara Martinson was ecstatic to see him trade his previous Cowboys-themed leg for this new one. She even made sure his favorite shoes fit just right. After checking the fit, Kaysin practiced walking and running on his new leg, and he beamed with pride as the staff cheered him on.

Scottish Rite took a video of Kaysin to send to Dak, and the star quarterback quickly sent a video response. "That's truly humbling to see that some of my tattoos from right here are right there on your leg," Dak says as he shows his forearm tattoos on camera. "You're inspiring me."

A video from Dak wasn't the end of Kaysin's journey with his hero and favorite team. Later, he was invited to tour The Star in Frisco where he visited the Cowboys headquarters. His dream came true when Dak Prescott and wide receiver CeeDee Lamb stopped by after practice to meet him. The players chatted with Kaysin about his leg and shared smiles while they autographed a jersey for him. Dak didn't stop there — he even signed Kaysin's prosthetic leg! The Cowboys left their meeting with a special connection and a new appreciation for the amazing feats our patients can accomplish. As for Kaysin, he left with something nobody else has — a prosthetic leg signed by Dak Prescott and the story of a lifetime. «



Scan the QR code to watch Kaysin receive his prosthetic leg.



## Santiago Braves Limb Reconstruction Like a Comic Book Hero

by Kristi Shewmaker

**Santiago is an artist, creator and prop maker.** An eighth grader from Josephine, he became an artist at a young age when his older brother Esteban inspired him to draw. Later, his parents, Alejandro and Maricela, surprised him with a desk and art supplies, which he fashioned into an art studio in his room. Over time, Santiago's work has evolved from creating 2D to 3D art forms beginning with origami, which he used to begin making props based on movies.

"Drawing a character is fun, but being that character is really special," Santiago says. A fan of Marvel Comics® and various movies, Santiago has created wearable props including the Batman® Cowl, Iron Man® Arc Reactor and

Daredevil® helmet, which was signed by Daredevil film actor Charlie Cox. Santiago's prop making mediums have advanced from using paper to cardboard to foam to 3D printing, and now, he is trying his hand at metal.

Through his school, Santiago has received multiple accolades for his art. In seventh grade, he won the regional University Interscholastic League (UIL) visual arts competition for his 3D miniature theme park (pictured above) based on Ant-Man®. The year before, at his sixth grade end-of-the-year awards ceremony, his school named him Artist of the Year. It was a significant award to the whole family because just a few months before, they had experienced the unimaginable.



On a usually empty road near Santiago's home, it was dusk when a car took a wide turn and veered into the wrong lane toward him. Riding his dirt bike, Santiago swerved, but a mailbox was in the way, and the car struck him causing a severe traumatic injury to his left side.

"I was shocked," Santiago says. "I didn't feel anything, but I had an idea of what happened, and I didn't want to look down." The neighbor called 9-1-1. Then, Esteban arrived. "I felt bad for my brother," Santiago says. "He saw everything." While lying on the driveway, Santiago asked Esteban if his dirt bike was OK. "I tried to make a joke to brighten the mood, to bring a little light into this dark situation," he says.

Santiago was taken by helicopter to Children's Medical Center Dallas, where he underwent numerous surgeries. "We couldn't believe this was happening," Maricela says. "We have never had anybody in our family go through an accident like this." After receiving initial treatment for his injury, Santiago was referred to Scottish Rite for Children under the care of pediatric orthopedic surgeon David A. Podeszwa, M.D.

"Santiago sustained a very severe leg injury — as bad as they come," Dr. Podeszwa says. "His femur was shattered. We call it comminuted, meaning it was broken into dozens of pieces. He also had a segmental loss, a large portion of bone in his femur was missing." The break in his femur also disrupted his knee joint, and his tibia was fractured. Santiago's leg would need complete reconstruction.

In surgery, Dr. Podeszwa inserted a spacer with antibiotics into Santiago's femur where the bone was missing. Then, he secured an external fixator onto Santiago's leg that spanned from the femur across the knee to the tibia to hold everything in place. "With an injury to the bone, there is always a huge soft tissue injury associated with it," Dr. Podeszwa says. "We needed his soft tissues to heal before we could reconstruct the bone in his leg."

Santiago would continue to receive specialized care through Scottish Rite's Center for Excellence in Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction (CELLR). Led by CELLR Clinical Director Dr. Podeszwa and CELLR Research Director Mikhail Samchukov, M.D.\*. Santiago's multidisciplinary team of experts also includes CELLR Director of Clinical Implementation and Outcome Studies Alexander Cherkashin, M.D.\*\*; Emily Elerson, R.N., and pediatric psychologist Whitney Herge, Ph.D.

For more than 30 years, Drs. Samchukov and Cherkashin have pioneered research and development

\*Medical degree from Khabarovsk State Medical School, Russia

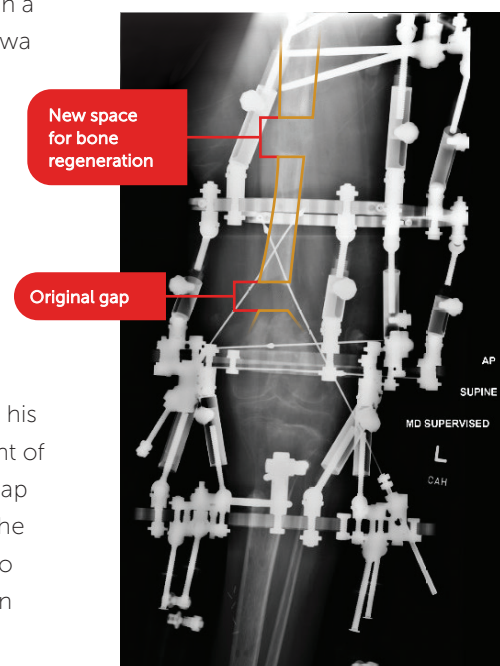
\*\*Medical degree from Novosibirsk State Medical University, Russia



With an external fixator secured to his left leg, Santiago performs therapeutic exercises with physical therapist Brenda House.

for limb lengthening and reconstruction techniques at Scottish Rite. Having studied under Gavril Ilizarov, M.D., in Russia, Drs. Samchukov and Cherkashin along with Scottish Rite researchers modified Ilizarov's original external fixator and developed and patented the TRUE/LOK™ External Fixation System. Scottish Rite's innovation and continual advancement, in collaboration with Orthofix® Medical Inc., has revolutionized limb lengthening and reconstruction methods through this system that is implemented by surgeons around the world. Santiago was the first patient at Scottish Rite to receive the TrueLok™ EVO, the latest generation in the series of circular external fixators.

After four months of healing, Santiago underwent femur reconstruction surgery in which Dr. Podeszwa initiated a technique called bone transport, a procedure that encourages new bone to grow. Because Santiago had lost 3 inches of bone and bone cannot regrow in a gap that large, Dr. Podeszwa cut his femur creating a segment of bone above the gap and a new space where bone could regenerate. Over many months, Santiago turned pins on the outside of his external fixator. The pins were connected to wires inside his leg that pulled the segment of bone down to fill in the gap caused by the injury. As the bone was transported into the gap, new bone grew in the space created above.



*Continued on  
the next page*

"Of the 8-centimeter gap that he lost initially, we reconstructed a solid 7 centimeters of it," Dr. Podeszwa says. "He basically grew himself a new 3 inches of thigh bone."

"It was absolutely amazing to us," Maricela says. "We cannot believe Santiago was able to do that."

Bone transport is an uncommon procedure. "Fortunately, at Scottish Rite for Children, we not only have the support of the institution to manage very complex, labor-intensive treatment but also a team that is highly specialized and can help kids who suffer from complicated injuries or conditions," Dr. Podeszwa says.

After a few more surgeries and a lot of healing, Dr. Podeszwa removed Santiago's external fixator in August

of 2023. Now, Santiago wears a knee-ankle-foot-orthosis, a brace designed to improve mobility, increase bone and muscle strength, and enhance independence.

"Because of the magnitude of his injury and

the damage to his knee and thigh muscle, Santiago will require rehabilitation to recover his knee motion and strengthen his quad," Dr. Podeszwa says.

At Scottish Rite for Children Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Center in Frisco, Santiago undergoes weekly physical therapy, rotating between land and aquatic therapy. He works on endurance in the AlterG® Anti-Gravity Treadmill™ which uses technology originally developed for NASA astronauts. It allows him to walk with less weight on his muscles, joints and bones as he builds strength. In the HydroWorx® therapy pool, Santiago works on mobility, knee range of motion and strengthening. "Santiago has exceeded our early expectations regarding rehab," Dr. Podeszwa says, "and we look forward to seeing continued improvement over the next six to 12 months."

Santiago has endured a long, difficult journey since the injury, but he says that now, he feels more relaxed, more free. "In my opinion, the hard part is over," he says.

Maricela is happy to see Santiago progress. "I think God specifically put Dr. Podeszwa in our lives and now, slowly, we can see that Santiago is going to be OK. He has



In aquatic therapy, Santiago focuses on strengthening and mobility exercises.



Dr. Podeszwa (right) uses a goniometer to measure the amount of flexion in Santiago's knee as Dr. Cherkashin (left) observes.

the best doctors working with him, and that's a blessing. We've learned to accept what's going on and enjoy the fact that he's here."

According to Dr. Podeszwa, Santiago is a role model for kids who go through this type of complex treatment after a traumatic injury. "It's amazing what adversity can do," Dr. Podeszwa says. "Some people champion it. Others are wrecked by it. Fortunately, Santiago has championed it. He has an incredible artistic mind and has put his energy into maintaining his academic and personal growth in spite of all that he's been through. It's been impressive to see."

"Scottish Rite is a symbol of hope," Santiago says. "I've learned that I can be strong when it comes to most things going on around me and with me, and I can find light in every dark place." <<



Santiago displays the Batman Cowl he created in his home art studio.

# ON THE MOVE



## Comprehensive Care With Every Step

Three-year-old Marley, of Palmer, pulls up to her physical therapy appointment at Scottish Rite for Children in her self-propelled wheelchair, lovingly named Marley's Moo. "Marley has never met a stranger," says her mother, Christina. "Everyone becomes her friend, and her presence fills the room."

When the family got the wheelchair, Christina decorated it like a cow to encourage Marley to use it. Now, she maneuvers easily, wherever she wants to go. When she is not in her wheelchair, she gets around by crawling, but in physical therapy, she is learning how to walk using a gait trainer — an assistive device similar to a walker.

Marley was born with myelomeningocele, a form of spina bifida in which a fluid-filled sac containing neural tissue protruded from her back because the neural tube in her spine did not close completely. When she was 2 days old, a surgeon closed her back, and at 2 months old, a specialist referred her to Scottish Rite for Children where she receives comprehensive care through the Spina Bifida clinic.

While spina bifida primarily affects the nervous system, it can also impact related body systems, such as bowel, bladder and mobility. Marley's multidisciplinary team includes experts from Pediatric Developmental Disabilities, Orthopedics, Urology, and Physical and Occupational Therapy. "They see her from head to toe," Christina says. "Scottish Rite has become our hub, and it's convenient because they line up all of our appointments on one day."

Spina bifida affects Marley's mobility, causing developmental delay. She started crawling at age 2. Then, the family built parallel bars to help her learn to stand and walk. "She was doing great on that, but for some reason she did not want to be in her walker," Christina says.

At Scottish Rite, physical therapist Meredith Porteous found creative ways to motivate Marley to use her gait trainer. She also recommended adjustments, providing armrest attachments to help keep Marley upright and more comfortable. "Meredith has been great with Marley," Christina says. "She's on her hands and knees right along with her, helping her. Marley has really come around and asks to be in her walker. It's been a game changer."

After moving forward in her gait trainer, Marley is learning how to turn. "Scottish Rite has been a guidepost for us every step of the way," Christina says. "We're really hopeful for Marley's mobility journey. We're ready to see her conquer the world." «



Physical therapist Meredith Porteous helps Marley learn to walk using her gait trainer.



Lino demonstrates charging his cellphone with his patent-pending invention, Kinetic Kickz 2.0.

## Beating Scleroderma and Actualizing Invention With Grit

**Lino is an inventor who is set on changing the world.** “Problems without solutions inspire me to invent,” he says. “I’ve been tinkering with stuff since I was little, but I didn’t realize all this problem-solving was called inventing until I was in the fourth grade.” That was when Lino, of Frisco, invented the String Ring, an adjustable band worn as a ring that protects your finger while playing a stringed instrument. Lino played the cello and wanted to find a way to keep his fingers from blistering without changing the sound. “When you finally solve a problem that is personal to you and that affects a lot of other people, it’s the best feeling in the world,” he says.

His mother, Sharon, says that Lino has never met a challenge he does not want to conquer. “Lino is kind, smart and positive, but ‘grit’ is the perfect word for him in everything he does — at school, in sports and through his journey at Scottish Rite,” she says. “How he handled his diagnosis is how he handles his inventions.”

When Lino was 12, his hands began swelling. He could not make a fist, and when it got cold, his hands changed colors, turning red, even purple. His pediatrician referred him to Scottish Rite for Children where he was evaluated by orthopedic hand surgeon Chris Stutz, M.D. Dr. Stutz found nothing wrong with the bones in his hands but suspected a rheumatic condition and referred him to rheumatologist Lorien A. Nassi, M.D.



Rheumatologist Lorien A. Nassi, M.D., and Lino

Dr. Nassi diagnosed Lino with juvenile systemic scleroderma, a rare, chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system causes inflammation and tissue changes that lead to a tightening and thickening of the skin. The condition affects approximately 3 per 1 million children. There is no cure, and it can progress, affecting the internal organs, such as the heart, lungs and kidneys.

"It felt like an out-of-body experience," Sharon says. "We walked in with a healthy child, and all of a sudden, we got a diagnosis of something we didn't understand." Dr. Nassi and her team, including a psychologist and a child life specialist, consulted with the family, explaining that Lino would need to take a weekly injection. "They told him not to search it on Google," Sharon says, "that he could take the day off from school, but he was like, 'No, I have to go to school. I have to give a presentation.'"

Lino began taking injections as well as receiving physical and occupational therapy to increase manual dexterity, flexibility and range of motion. "The hardest part was getting the injections and then learning how to administer them myself," Lino says. "I didn't like needles, but I got over that, and I feel better now that I'm doing it myself because I feel more in control."

After four years, Dr. Nassi is tapering off the medication. "Lino has had a remarkable trajectory," she says. "Unfortunately, so often rheumatology diagnoses are only seen as severe, lifelong conditions with significant limitations. I love that Lino shows us that even some of the more serious rheumatologic diagnoses can have great outcomes."

Lino hopes to finish treatment this summer. "I'm lucky they caught it so early, and now it's better," he says. "I'm really thankful for that."

"We will be forever grateful to Scottish Rite, Dr. Nassi and Dr. Stutz for diagnosing Lino right away," Sharon says. "Thanks to them, against many odds, Lino has no more

symptoms and will be medicine-free, an outcome that is as rare as the disease itself."

But, Lino does not want his success story to be a rarity. He is pursuing becoming a scleroderma advocate who shares his story, creating awareness to raise funds for research, and one day, a cure. He aims to ensure that other kids find the right doctors, get diagnosed early and know that there is hope.

Scleroderma has not stifled Lino's creativity. By the time he was in eighth grade, he had masterminded four inventions. His most recent — Kinetic Kickz 2.0 — has a patent pending. An improvement on his original Kinetic Kickz, 2.0 is a shoe with a generator built into the sole that collects energy from walking, allowing the wearer to power a device with their shoe. The idea came to him one day after school on the soccer field. He needed to call his mom to come pick him up, but his phone was dead, and he did not have a charger. "I spent months trying to light an LED bulb to prove that I could create enough energy to charge something," he says.

Invention Convention Worldwide recognized Lino's genius, awarding him first place in his age group for Kinetic Kickz 2.0 at the 2021 Globals competition presented by Raytheon® Technologies, now RTX. *TIME* magazine noticed and selected him as a 2021 Kid of the Year finalist.

The 17-year-old continues to improve his inventions as he conceives of new ones. His Scottish Rite journey has inspired him to consider medical-based inventions, and he is debating whether he wants to be a doctor or an engineer. "I'm not sure yet," Lino says, "but I am sure of one thing. I want to be a world-changer — someone who helps make the world a better place through their actions, or for me, through my inventions." <<



Lino showcases his four inventions, including the String Ring, Sole Solution, Kinetic Kickz and Kinetic Kickz 2.0.

## TRUSTEE PROFILE

“SMILES ARE EVERYWHERE, AND CHILDREN LOOK FORWARD TO VISITING THE DOCTOR.”

### DAN W. TURNER

Advisory Trustee Since 2013

**Dan W. Turner** is even-keeled, unruffled and easygoing. “I never really get mad,” he says. “There’s always a way to solve a problem, and getting excited about it never helps.” His mantra: “It will be all right.”

Turner’s positive life philosophy has served him well through a more than 40-year career, 33 years in Masonry and volunteerism that has woven throughout his life.

Born in West Virginia, Turner’s family moved to Long Island, New York, where he played football and tennis in high school. He graduated from the State University of New York at Farmingdale in 1971 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in mechanical technology. Turner began his career at New York Telephone Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of AT&T at the time. He also certified as an EMT-paramedic, serving as a volunteer firefighter in Nassau County for almost 10 years. He saw both the end and the beginning of life, helping to deliver three babies.

Through an intercompany transfer in 1978, Turner moved to Dallas to work for Southwestern Bell. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in economics from The University of Texas at Arlington and joined Electronic Data Systems (EDS) as a network engineer in 1984. After several years of designing computer networks, he transitioned to strategic sales and supported many successful multinational requests for proposals in locations around

the world, including Mexico, Australia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, China, Japan and Argentina.

Along the way, Turner became interested in Masonry through a colleague. Since 2012, he has served as state secretary for the Scottish Rite in Texas. Turner says that this position and his appointment to the Scottish Rite for Children Board of Trustees have been the highlights of his Masonic tenure.

“Scottish Rite for Children is a place where you can see the amazing ability of our young patients to meet and overcome their challenges while maintaining a positive attitude and an appreciation of life,” says Turner. “It is a place where smiles are everywhere, and children look forward to visiting the doctor.”

In addition to his board service, Turner volunteered at Scottish Rite for Children once a week for five years. He donated hundreds of hours, calling first-time donors to personally thank them for their support. But, Turner says his favorite part of serving at Scottish Rite is seeing children’s lives improve every day. “It is important to continue our work of making the world a better place for all,” he says.

An avid runner and golfer, Turner lives in Murphy, Texas, with his wife, Susan. They have two children and seven grandchildren. Enjoying their retirement, the Turners have embarked on numerous cruises, having recently celebrated their 400<sup>th</sup> day aboard a ship. ◀

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## Innovative Gift Advances Patient Care

**John Martinson is equal parts venture capitalist and philanthropist.** A software industry leader for more than 45 years, he lives in Pennsylvania where he is chairman of Martinson Ventures and founder of the Martinson Family Foundation. His passion is guiding and investing in entrepreneurs. From the investment gains, Martinson recycles the proceeds into philanthropy.

"Twenty-five years ago, I realized that my firm, Edison Partners, was going to sustain its success, and I was creating wealth that my family and I did not need," he says. In 2022, Martinson joined Bill Gates, Michael Bloomberg and Warren Buffett, among others, in "The Philanthropy 50," a list of America's top 50 donors published by *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*.

Scottish Rite for Children is grateful to be a recipient of Martinson's extraordinary generosity. In the fall of 2022, he gave more than \$300,000 to fund a Vorum Forma ST Robot Carving Machine and portable scanning system, which is used by our Orthotics & Prosthetics (O&P) team to create custom orthotic and prosthetic devices for our patients.

Martinson prioritizes giving in three areas — university programs to improve K-12 STEM instruction, college honors programs and the performing arts. However, a visit to Scottish Rite for Children where he toured the campus and specifically learned about the work accomplished in the O&P department peaked his interest. "I could immediately see that Scottish Rite was filled with people who are bright, enthusiastic and eager to help children, as well as a godsend to parents," he says. "I decided to make an exception to my donor specialties and determined that Scottish Rite was extremely worthwhile."



The state-of-the-art 7-axis Vorum carver was only the second one built in the world. The O&P team had been using an earlier 3-axis version to create scoliosis braces when they learned that the model would no longer be supported. Martinson's innovative gift was the perfect solution. "The new carver is highly precise and efficient," says Senior Director of O&P Don Virostek. "Unlike the old one, it can carve any shape and smaller sizes, which means we can create a variety of custom devices, serve more children and fit our youngest patient population."

Last year, the equipment aided in the treatment of 435 children. "We are honored to receive this remarkable gift that is revolutionizing care for our patients," says Vice President of Development Stephanie Brigger. "John's support helps keep Scottish Rite at the forefront of technology."

Martinson underscores the importance of philanthropy, emphasizing that we should have a nation of volunteers and givers who support worthy programs and leaders. To potential donors, he says, "Scottish Rite for Children is a place that you'd feel your hard-earned money would be well utilized and that you would be proud of what was being accomplished." <<



Orthotics and Prosthetics Technical Supervisor Bob Rowan, C.T.O., creates a customized scoliosis brace using the 7-axis Vorum carver, a generous gift funded by John Martinson.

## STAY IN THE KNOW

### Sign Up for Our Newsletter

At Scottish Rite for Children, we are committed to giving children back their childhood. When you sign up for emails, you will receive inspiring patient stories, news from our experts, invitations to events, updates on how you can support our mission and so much more.

Stay connected with us by signing up today at [scottishriteforchildren.org/email](https://scottishriteforchildren.org/email).

### And Follow Us on Social



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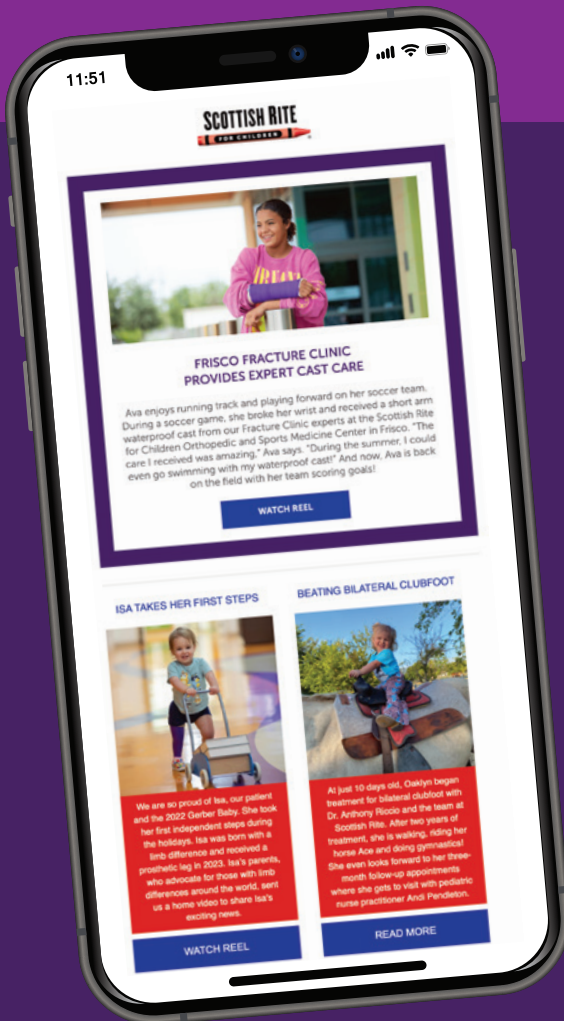
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#### ABOUT SCOTTISH RITE FOR CHILDREN

Scottish Rite for Children is a world-renowned leader in the treatment of pediatric orthopedic conditions, such as scoliosis, clubfoot, hand differences, hip disorders, limb lengthening and reconstruction, 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 the Dallas or Frisco campuses, visit [scottishriteforchildren.org](https://scottishriteforchildren.org).

Are you receiving duplicate mailings or need to correct your name, title or address? Please send corrections to P.O. Box 199300, Dallas, Texas 75219-9842 or call 214-559-7618.

Scottish Rite for Children is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

