

# RITE UP

2025 | ISSUE 2



## Excellence & Expertise in Spine Care Putting Scoliosis in Its Place





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LETTER FROM



THE PRESIDENT

ROBERT L. WALKER  
President/CEO

When patient families walk through the doors of Scottish Rite for Children, they are immediately greeted by an individual with a kind and friendly face, a helping hand and a servant heart, someone who makes a tremendous difference — a volunteer!

At Scottish Rite, our guiding mission is giving children back their childhood. This goal is the same for every staff member and volunteer. We are one united team that does everything possible to provide love and care to every patient and family to ensure the best possible outcomes. Our volunteer program gives us the depth of care and service that would not be possible without the thousands of hours of service provided by these amazing and passionate individuals.

The volunteer program was founded in 1921, the same year that Scottish Rite opened its doors more than a century ago. Volunteers serve our patients and their families as greeters, clinic pathfinders, popcorn poppers, gift shop attendants, mail room assistants, crafters and seamsters, special event assistants and so much more. As an integral part of who we are, volunteers represent the generous spirit of Scottish Rite and impact the lives of children and families every day.

To thank our volunteers for their extraordinary support, we recently celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Week with events held at our Dallas and Frisco campuses. In Dallas, we honored Luann Jones with the Samson Wiener Volunteer of the Year Award. Luann has volunteered since 2011 and has given more than 4,000 hours of service. Lisa Prideaux received the Paul Taylor Trailrider Award. She began volunteering 34 years ago when she was in college. Don Barto earned the Spirit of Frisco award. He started volunteering in Dallas in 2005 and transferred to Frisco when the facility opened in 2018. Finally, for 50 years of unwavering service, we recognize Sandra Thompson, the longest serving volunteer at Scottish Rite.

All of our remarkable volunteers are shining examples of generosity in the purest sense. They simply want to help children. With a sticker and a smile, a volunteer puts a child at ease and calms anxious parents. The volunteer's reward is a deep sense of joy that comes from serving others.

Bob

During Volunteer Appreciation Week, Scottish Rite honored Don Barto with the Spirit of Frisco Award.

In Dallas, Lisa Prideaux received the Paul Taylor Trailrider Award, and Luann Jones received the Samson Wiener Volunteer of the Year Award.



L to R: Director of Volunteer Services Jane Mullins; Volunteer Sandra Thompson; Vice President, Development/Events Ashley Givens; Robert Walker; and Senior Vice President, Public Relations and Communications Mark Riordan





CONNECTED TO THE CARE



**YouTube star PrestonPlayz** visited Scottish Rite for Children to meet and greet patients and their families. Preston brought his wife and collaborator, Brianna, and friend and former patient Chase Bradshaw. They spread joy and shared laughs, played interactive games with the children, signed T-shirts, took photos and made memories.

L to R: Brianna; Chase; Kasaiya, of Dallas; and Preston



**Brandon A. Ramo, M.D.**, has been promoted to Assistant Chief of Staff.



**Kris Keever-Smith** has been promoted to Senior Vice President and Chief Investment Officer.



**Stacy Miller** has been promoted to Vice President of Human Resources.



Welcome our new Vice President of Revenue Cycle **Alex Paraison.**



**Frances, of Dallas**, and occupational therapist **Amy Sitabkhan** enjoyed interacting with Mr. Potato Head at the **Hand in Hand Support Group** held at Scottish Rite. The group strives to improve the lives of caregivers and their children 8 years of age and younger with congenital hand or upper limb differences who are patients at Scottish Rite. Hand in Hand promotes acceptance, provides knowledge, facilitates connections and fosters independence.

Pediatric orthopedic surgeon and Medical Director of Clinical Research **Henry B. Ellis, M.D.**, traveled to Brazil to share his expertise by serving as an instructor of a Pediatric Sports Medicine course at Centro de Treinamento Medico, a medical training center in Belo Horizonte. Current and future pediatric sports medicine surgeons from across South America convened for hands-on learning, engaging case discussions and valuable collaboration.



**Lorena, of Forney, Texas**, displayed her drawings and paintings in an art gallery organized by her team of child life specialists to showcase the work she created while receiving care in the Inpatient Unit. Lorena's care team, her friends, fellow patients and Scottish Rite staff attended the show to admire her work. This was made possible thanks to the **Junior League of Dallas** that supports the **Child Life Art Therapy Program**.

Lorena (center) with child life specialists (L to R) Samantha McCune, Ericka Gonzalez and Lauren Newman



**Emily Elerson, R.N.**, has been named a 2025 DFW Great 100 Nurse. Congratulations, Emily!



**Sheila Maldonado, B.S.N., R.N.**, and **Sherri Posey, B.S.N., R.N.**, were honored with *D Magazine's* 2025 Excellence in Nursing Award. Congratulations, Sheila and Sherri!



# THE CHIEF OF STAFF REPORTS

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



## Sharing Expertise and Leading-Edge Insight Advances Treatment

To be recognized as leaders in pediatric orthopedic care begins with a culture rooted in collaboration. At Scottish Rite for Children, collaboration serves as the engine that fuels our experts to seek opportunities to learn, grow and stay connected within their community. This translates into a collective effort to close gaps in care and improve outcomes for every child. By prioritizing professional development, we increase our ability to enrich the lives of children at Scottish Rite, as well as those far beyond our walls.

As part of this pursuit of continuous growth, pediatric orthopedic surgeon Brandon A. Ramo, M.D., was recently promoted to assistant chief of staff. Dr. Ramo is internationally known for his clinical and research work in spinal deformity with a special interest and world-class expertise in early-onset scoliosis. Dr. Ramo also serves as our chief quality officer, leading efforts to maintain the highest quality and safety in all we do at Scottish Rite. In addition, pediatric orthopedic surgeon Jaysson T. Brooks, M.D., was named associate program director for the residency program in the division of Orthopaedic Surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW). All 22 Scottish Rite pediatric orthopedic surgeons hold faculty appointments at UTSW. We are fortunate to have exceptional leaders at Scottish Rite whose expertise and vision continue to strengthen our mission.

Scottish Rite hosts a myriad of educational conferences led by our specialists who share leading-edge insight with medical professionals in the community, such as pediatricians, family practitioners, physician assistants, advanced practice providers and allied health professionals. Scottish Rite hosted the Pediatric Orthopedic Education Symposium (POES) and the Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP)

Conference. POES, chaired by Dr. Brooks, focused on best practices for diagnosing and managing common pediatric musculoskeletal conditions that affect the back, hip, knee and foot. Sheryl Frierson, M.D., M.Ed., medical director of the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders, led DBP. This conference educated participants about techniques to identify and manage developmental and behavioral problems in children. By sharing our expertise through POES and DBP, Scottish Rite enhances medical professionals' ability to diagnose and treat various conditions.



Certified physician assistant Jessica Landson, P.A.-C., and certified pediatric nurse practitioner Emily Chapman, APRN, CPNP-PC, provided a hands-on demonstration on managing pediatric foot conditions at the Pediatric Orthopedic Education Symposium (POES).

Scottish Rite's worldwide reputation as a pediatric orthopedic leader is built on its collective expertise and a shared commitment to continuous development. This unified dedication drives advancements in treatment, ensuring patients everywhere receive the highest level of care — today and for generations to come. «

## No Distance Is Too Far for Myron's Miraculous Care

"Everyone knows Myron, and everyone loves Myron," says Martha, describing her 7-year-old son. Myron, of Lawton, Oklahoma, is full of life. Whether he is playing with his older brother or enjoying strategy video games, like Minecraft, he always finds ways to stay active.

At age 3, Myron began experiencing pain in his joints. These flare-ups would continue for years, eventually leading to Myron's eyesight worsening and becoming extremely blurry. An ophthalmologist in Oklahoma diagnosed Myron with uveitis, a condition that causes chronic inflammation of the eye, redness, pain, light sensitivity and, in unchecked cases, blindness. Because uveitis is a symptom of

an autoimmune disease, Myron was referred to Scottish Rite for Children to find solutions.

Under the care of pediatric rheumatologist Elizabeth E. Sloan, M.D., and nurse practitioner Stephanie Armendariz, APRN, FNP-C, Myron was diagnosed with oligoarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). In four or fewer joints, oligoarticular JIA causes swelling, stiffness and limited movement. In children, arthritis may also cause growth problems. Currently, Myron's condition is treated with injectable medicine, such as adalimumab and methotrexate, to reduce inflammation and the occurrence of flare-ups.

"A big challenge for a lot of children with arthritis is that they don't have access to pediatric rheumatologists in their area," Dr. Sloan says. "Families must rely on other physicians who know the symptoms of a condition they may have rarely or never treated before. Our focus for Myron is providing a treatment plan that helps him live a normal life."

According to the Arthritis Foundation, a child with a rheumatic condition must travel an average of 57 miles to be seen by a pediatric rheumatologist. Currently, there are no pediatric rheumatologists in Oklahoma. Scottish Rite treats children for various rheumatic conditions in Texas and neighboring states, bridging this gap for patients in need of specialized care.

"The whole team at Scottish Rite is great," Martha says. "If Scottish Rite was in San Antonio, I would make that drive. As parents, it brings a smile to our faces, knowing that we are getting answers and the care our child needs."

Today, Myron is back on the right path. He is enjoying his favorite activities to the fullest, and Martha states that Scottish Rite's care is paramount to his overall well-being. "If you know in your heart that something is wrong with your child, don't give up until you've found an answer," Martha says. "To receive this level of care is important, especially when you come from a small town in Oklahoma. To us, Scottish Rite is a lifesaver." «





# Excellence & Expertise in Spine Care

## Putting Scoliosis in Its Place

by Kristi Shewmaker

Meet **Hanna**, a 12-year-old of Flower Mound, Texas, who loves listening to music while drawing; **Bella**, a 13-year-old all-around athlete of Lewisville, Texas, who enjoys soccer; and **Coleman**, a 17-year-old of Navasota, Texas, who is a three-time junior world champion rodeo calf roper.

These amazing kids do not know each other, but they share something in common. They all have scoliosis — adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS) to be exact. However, each of them has received different treatments tailored to their specific, individual needs. What is more interesting than their condition is the way they are handling it — with resilience!

With no known cause, AIS is the most common type of scoliosis in children and teens. It develops between the ages of 10 and 18, is found in as many as 4 in 100 adolescents and is more prevalent in girls. It is a progressive condition affecting the spine in which the scoliosis curve typically worsens during a child's rapid growth period. The diagnosis can surprise parents as their child may have passed one or more scoliosis screenings.

Scoliosis is defined as a curve that measures more than 10 degrees on an X-ray. A straight spine is zero degrees. Children with curves less than 20 degrees are monitored. For curves between 20 and 45 degrees, bracing is recommended. For those above 45 to 50 degrees, surgery is recommended, which may include various types, such as a spinal fusion or vertebral body tethering (VBT). Spinal fusion is a procedure in which the vertebrae in the spine are fused together, creating a single, solid bone that is immediately straightened. Metal rods attached by screws are used to hold the spine in place until the bone heals. In a VBT procedure, a surgeon attaches a flexible cord to the spine, which slows the growth on one side of the curve while allowing growth on the other side, to straighten the spine over time.

Hanna's curve measures 23 degrees. She wears a brace 20 hours a day with the goal of halting the progression so that when she stops growing, she will not need surgery.

Bella has two curves. Her thoracic curve, or upper spine curve, measured 61 degrees, and her lumbar curve, or lower spine curve, measured 52 degrees. Working with a pediatric orthopedic surgeon, she opted for a hybrid surgery that included a spinal implantation and fusion at the top and VBT at the bottom.

Coleman underwent a spinal fusion for two thoracic curves, with the largest measuring 83 degrees going into surgery.

"An important message for patient families to know is that their children are going to live long, healthy, happy lives with this condition," says pediatric orthopedic surgeon and Assistant Chief of Staff Brandon A. Ramo, M.D. "Whether they need a brace or surgery, that shouldn't stop them from achieving their goals."

Orthotist Christina Gambrell custom made Hanna's brace.



## Hanna

In sixth grade, Hanna was referred to Scottish Rite for Children by her family chiropractor who noticed the curve in her back. This news came after she passed her first scoliosis screening at school in fifth grade. At Scottish Rite, she was diagnosed with AIS.

"I was devastated," says Taylor, Hanna's father, "not only for Hanna having to go through this, but I also felt colossal amounts of guilt for not catching it." Kelly, Hanna's mother, explains that she was thankful they caught it when they did and not a year later when children get tested at school again in seventh grade. "We would've lost a year, and who knows how bad her curve would've been by then," Kelly says. "We might've been having a very different conversation — one about surgery instead of a brace."

Hanna chose a brace with a tattoo design that was custom made in-house by orthotist Christina Gambrell. "If I'm going to wear something for this long, then I'm going to make sure it looks cool," Hanna says. She wears the brace night and day, taking only a four-hour break before bedtime. Because Scottish Rite's Orthotics and Prosthetics team is onsite, they can measure, cast, mold, fit, align and fabricate braces without having to place an order with an outside company.

At her appointments, Hanna receives adjustments to her brace as she grows to ensure that she is comfortable.

"Bracing is the one treatment we have that is proven with multiple studies to prevent surgery," says Amy L. McIntosh, M.D., pediatric orthopedic surgeon. "Hanna is the perfect candidate for a brace. She's going through peak height velocity, so it's a great time to wear a brace to prevent progression of her curve."

Based on her growth projection, Hanna has about a year to a year-and-a-half left of wearing her brace. In the meantime, Hanna is handling her treatment with grace. For kids with scoliosis who must wear a brace, she gives this advice: "Don't make yourself think that you are weird for wearing it. It just proves that you have the strength to overcome it."

Regarding the care that Hanna has received at Scottish Rite, Taylor says, "There's not enough praise or kind words that we could dream up to describe it. On a scale of 1 to 10, it's a 200! In terms of children's health care, I couldn't imagine anything better."



Dr. Brooks and Bella show the before and after X-rays of her scoliosis curve.



## Bella

Bella plays sports year-round, but soccer is her favorite. “It’s really fun, it relieves all my anxiety, and it makes me feel happy,” she says.

The first indication that Bella had scoliosis came in the form of a letter from her fifth grade school nurse. Then, her family noticed the difference in her shoulders — one was sticking out and the other seemed to be inverted. Brittanie, Bella’s mother, took her to their pediatrician who referred them to Scottish Rite.

Initially, Bella saw Dr. Ramo, who diagnosed her with AIS. “He showed us the degrees of her curves, and we were in total shock,” Brittanie says. Bella was scared. “I didn’t know if I could play soccer again,” she says. With a 61-degree thoracic curve and a 52-degree lumbar curve, Bella would need surgery. Dr. Ramo explained that she had options, including spinal fusion, VBT or a hybrid procedure that uses both. He suggested that she see pediatric orthopedic surgeon Jaysson T. Brooks, M.D., who performs the VBT procedure to discuss the possibilities.

Scottish Rite for Children has six pediatric spine surgeons who are leaders in their specialties and are laser-focused on providing the best evidence-based care. From the straightforward to the most complex spinal deformities, Scottish Rite surgeons practice team medicine, in which every child’s surgical plan is reviewed by not only their doctor but all six spine surgeons.

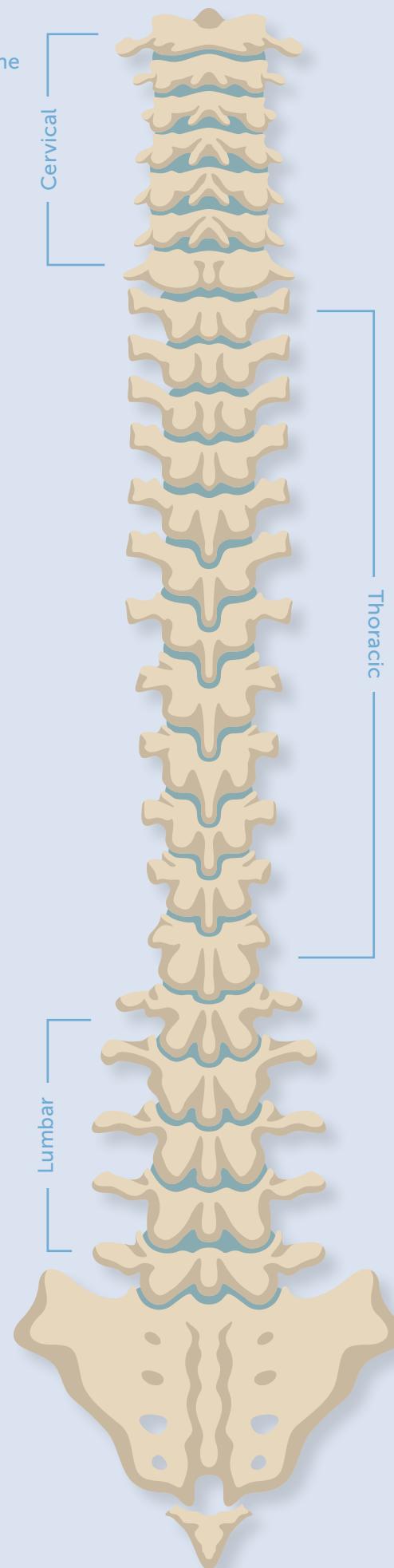
Dr. Brooks presented the options, and after having a long discussion with the family, they decided to proceed with the hybrid surgery that would fuse Bella’s upper spine and tether her lower spine. “Because most of your flexibility comes from your lower back, we try to avoid that area when it comes to fusing,” Dr. Brooks says. “If the lumbar curve is small enough, we leave it alone, but with Bella, the numbers weren’t adding up, so tethering was the best option for her to maintain her flexibility.” He emphasizes that every spine surgery is a shared decision-making process that depends on the patient’s individual needs and the family’s personal values.

After surgery, Bella stayed home from school for a month to heal. After three months, she began easing back into sports, and after six months, she was fully back. Reviewing her X-ray from her one-year follow-up, Dr. Brooks says, “Bella is rock-solid straight. She’s had about as great of an outcome as you can ask for.”

Brittanie describes Bella’s care as outstanding. “The whole team is so confident in what they do that it takes away your fear as a parent,” she says. For kids facing surgery for scoliosis, Bella’s advice is to trust in the process.

“There is no technique related to scoliosis that we can’t offer at Scottish Rite,” Dr. Brooks says. “Our nurses and surgical staff — all they do is pediatric orthopedics. With a highly specialized team that focuses on one thing, you’re bound to get better outcomes.”

## Parts of the Spine



## Coleman

Coleman roped his first calf off a horse when he was 4 years old. For years, he has competed in the rodeo tie-down event. “You nod your head, they release the calf, you swing your rope, rope ‘em, jump off the horse, run down there, flank ‘em, and then you tie three out of the four legs,” he says.

With four or five horses saddled in an arena at his house, Coleman practices three to four hours a day. He earned junior world champion titles in 2017, 2018 and 2023. Just before his 2023 win, he was referred to Scottish Rite by an orthopedic surgeon who treats rodeo athletes. Coleman’s scoliosis was already past the surgical threshold when Dr. Ramo diagnosed him with AIS. “His curves were pretty big,” Dr. Ramo says. “He had a double thoracic curve pattern, which is uniquely difficult and one of the stiffest curve patterns that we treat.”

In order to flank and tie a calf, it is imperative to be agile and flexible enough to bend over easily. “I was afraid I wouldn’t be able to rope again,” Coleman says.

Dr. Ramo stresses the importance of individualized care for each patient. “We plan a treatment strategy that matches their needs — not just the needs for their back but also the

needs for what they’re doing in their lives,” he says. Coleman wanted to finish the rodeo season before having surgery. “We planned his spinal fusion to fit his timeline and ensured that we maintained every bit of motion we could offer him with his active lifestyle and competitive spirit,” Dr. Ramo says.

At age 16, Coleman scored his best time at 7.4 seconds, a remarkable feat. But, the time to beat is 6.3 — the world record set by none other than his father, Ricky, who is in the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame and a 15-time National Finals Rodeo qualifier. Despite having major spinal surgery on a double thoracic curve, Coleman is on his way. He recently received a full scholarship to Southwest Texas College in Uvalde where he will compete on their rodeo team. Ultimately, he hopes to compete professionally in about 100 rodeos a year with the goal of making the National Finals Rodeo, often called “the Super Bowl of rodeo,” which features the top 15 in the world.

“There are misperceptions about people with scoliosis, that they can’t do sports or participate in certain activities,” Dr. Ramo says. “Coleman is a prime example of how that is absolutely not true — that you can live a very healthy, active life with this condition and be a world champion at what you do.” <<

Four months after Coleman’s surgery, Dr. Ramo gave him permission to resume calf roping. In celebration of his care, Coleman gave Dr. Ramo a photo of his 2023 Junior World Champion win in Las Vegas, Nevada.







## Dental Team Delivers Specialty Care to Children

The scarcity of dental providers who are equipped to care for children with special needs presents an enormous challenge for families in North Texas and beyond. Scottish Rite for Children's highly skilled dental team understands the medical complexity and behavioral management needs of children with complex conditions.

Scottish Rite is committed to treating the whole child by providing comprehensive, individualized care. For existing patients who receive pediatric orthopedic treatment, the Dental Clinic at the Dallas campus offers services ranging from routine cleanings and checkups to medical immobilization and complex surgical procedures. For example, a full mouth dental rehabilitation helps combat the

risk of infections patients may otherwise experience from a musculoskeletal surgery.

The Dental Clinic serves children with conditions, such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, neuromuscular scoliosis, osteogenesis imperfecta, juvenile idiopathic arthritis and many more. The dental staff collaborates with a patient's medical team, including physicians, nurses, pulmonologists, anesthesiologists, dietary, therapy services and more to design the best treatment plan for the child. In addition to Scottish Rite's dental team, residents from Texas A&M College of Dentistry's Pediatric Residency Program rotate through the clinic to learn this specialized form of care so that they may transfer their knowledge to private practice in the community. «

L to R: Dental hygienists Aubry Weatherred, Jordynn Palmer and Rowana Moreau; dental assistant Anabel Zuniga; and dental hygienist Cristy Arce



## Catching His Second Chance: Ethan's Triumph Over Elbow Injury

Ethan, of Richardson, Texas, has a deep passion for sports, especially baseball. As a dedicated catcher, the 11-year-old transforms into the reputable "Monster," a nickname he earned for his fearless and determined presence behind the plate.

"The nickname 'Monster' just stuck with his teammates," says Erin, Ethan's mother. "To me, Ethan is sometimes serious, sometimes a goofball and plays for the love of the game."

After practicing throwing with his friends, Ethan's passion for baseball was tested when he felt pain in the inner part of his right elbow. Their pediatrician referred Ethan and his family to Scottish Rite for Children Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Center in Frisco for care.

"His injury is one of the most common areas of pain for baseball players," says sports medicine physician Jacob C. Jones, M.D., RMSK. "Since Ethan is not skeletally mature and is still growing, it was important to consider the different potential diagnoses than those typically seen in adults."

While Ethan's X-ray showed no sign of injury, Dr. Jones used ultrasound technology, which detects injuries that might not appear on a standard X-ray. It revealed Ethan's diagnosis was a subapophyseal avulsion fracture of his inner elbow. This injury occurs when a small piece of bone attached to the ligament is pulled away from the main part of the bone.

"It was a radiographically hidden fracture since it was not seen on the kind of imaging we normally use to look for fractures," Dr. Jones says. "Because of the ultrasound, we were able to give Ethan the correct diagnosis."

To help his small fracture heal, Ethan wore a cast for a month. The ultrasound technology would also confirm that Ethan's fracture had healed, allowing him to begin physical therapy. His sessions with physical therapist Kristyn Morrison at Scottish Rite for Children at The Star in Frisco focused on regaining the full range of motion in his elbow through various exercises, such as elbow extensions and forearm stretches. Once his strength was at an ideal level, Ethan began Scottish Rite's Throwing Program — a patient education guide that focuses on baseball-specific strengthening exercises needed to gradually return to the sport.

After a month, Ethan officially completed all of his physical therapy sessions and uses the exercises he learned from his sessions and the Throwing Program to continue throwing pain free. Now, Ethan is back on the field with his teammates, knocking his recovery out of the park!

"At Scottish Rite, you can feel the care when you walk in," Erin says. "You're not a number or a piece of paper. Your child is treated like an individual, and I attribute the fact that my son can play his sport to the care he received at Scottish Rite." «





"SCOTTISH RITE'S  
PURPOSE IS TO  
HELP KIDS."

GLEN WHITLEY  
Trustee Since 2024

Glen Whitley has never been one to sit on the sidelines. "I've never been bashful about asking questions," Whitley says. "They tend to be ones that others are afraid to ask. People appreciate that I dig into the details to get things done, which gave them confidence in me to be in leadership roles."

Growing up in Grand Prairie, Texas, Whitley became a leader as a young teen. His father was a Mason and instilled in him the tenet to "give back to the community that gives to you." At 14, Whitley joined DeMolay, an international youth leadership organization, where he rose through the ranks to be elected head of his chapter and eventually Texas DeMolay president. Whitley credits DeMolay and Masonry — which he joined as soon as he could — with preparing him for his future in business, politics and family.

A graduate of The University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, Whitley launched his career at Ernst & Ernst and then moved to Rylander, Clay and Opitz LLP. In 1983, Whitley started his own firm with longtime friend and current Scottish Rite for Children Board Trustee Jim Penn whom he met through DeMolay. They founded Whitley Penn and grew the Texas-based firm into one that now has a global reach and employs more than 1,000 people. Whitley specialized in medical practice management and served on the Harris Methodist Hurst-Euless-Bedford (H-E-B) Hospital Board and then on the Texas Health Resources

board and its executive committee. He also was approached to run for the H-E-B School Board and was elected to serve from 1993 to 1996. He was then urged to run for Tarrant County Commissioner, which he did and took office in 1997, serving until 2006.

"As a leader, it is critical to listen and build consensus," Whitley says. "It's important to serve your constituents and be open to hearing all sides of an issue." As Tarrant County Judge from 2007 to 2022, he did just that through extremely challenging times, including the Ebola crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. "It was an opportunity to see people willing to put everything aside and work for the best of the whole," he says. "In the 26 years that I was on the Commissioners Court, I could have counted on one, maybe two hands the number of times our votes were not unanimous." During that time, Whitley also served on the National Association of Counties and from 2010 to 2011, was president.

Whitley connected with Scottish Rite for Children through fellow board member and lifelong friend Ken Curry whom he knew from DeMolay and Masonry. "Serving on the Scottish Rite board is an opportunity to give back for the impact that Masonry has had on my life," Whitley says. He describes the institution as a place where experts accomplish treatments that others have said could not be done. "I can't think of anything I would rather do than be involved with an organization whose purpose is to help kids," he says. «

## Giving That Begins With Gratitude

"The care we received is a debt we can never repay, but we want to give that opportunity to other families," says Linda Carter, describing why she and her husband, Dale, give to Scottish Rite for Children. Years ago, their son, Paul, sustained a traumatic injury in a motorcycle accident. He received a limb reconstruction from Assistant Chief of Staff Emeritus John G. Birch, M.D. Inspired by the level of care from Dr. Birch, in addition to the plentiful friendships made with other patients and their families, the Carters decided to support Scottish Rite through the President's Club. This giving opportunity calls for members to pledge \$1,000 per year for five years.

Since 1993, the Carters have donated to Scottish Rite. Each year, their donation has turned into a family tradition during the holiday season, reminding their family of all the things for which they are thankful. "Without Scottish Rite, our son's life would've been very different," Dale says. "There's not enough words to describe how thankful we are for the doctors and staff members at Scottish Rite."

### THE CALL TO GIVE AND SERVE

Giving Clubs feature two giving levels, the President's Club and 500 Club, and both provide a powerful way for individuals to support Scottish Rite's ability to offer life-changing care to children. The 500 Club calls for members to pledge \$500 per year for five years.

When Bert and Marjorie Ehrmann got married, Bert was already a volunteer at Scottish Rite and a member of the organization's 500 Club. For 10 years, Bert volunteered in the Inpatient Unit. Marjorie began volunteering with the Development department and in the research lab of pediatric orthopedic surgeon Harry Kim, M.D., M.S. "I can't tell you how many times

I would talk to patient families in the cafeteria and find out how far they came for their appointment," Marjorie says. "People were coming in from all over the state. Knowing that those families had the opportunity to get the help they needed at Scottish Rite was just great."

The Ehrmanns have given more than \$21,000 to Scottish Rite, and they reflect on nothing but positive memories of their volunteer days. "You see firsthand that no matter what health issue a child may have, the staff moves in a manner that gives them the best, long-lasting help," Marjorie says. "I think that's really wonderful."

### INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF PEDIATRIC CARE

To commemorate every five years of support, Giving Club members receive personalized keepsakes, and pediatric nurse practitioner Chuck Wyatt, M.S., CPNP, RNFA, showcases his in his office. Wyatt serves patients at Scottish Rite for Children Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Center in Frisco. For him, philanthropy became a natural addition to his job. "Being able to see firsthand our level of care gives you absolute faith that your donation is going to a fantastic mission," he says.

Chuck and his wife, Kim, have given to the President's Club for 10 years. They have given in support of the Center for Excellence in Sports Medicine and through Lend Our Hand, an annual staff and volunteer giving campaign that furthers the mission of the organization. Wyatt shares that he hopes his generosity allows Scottish Rite to continue providing top-notch care. "Scottish Rite does not turn anyone away," Wyatt says. "I'm really blessed to be part of this sort of organization and to be surrounded by the best pediatric orthopedic surgeons in the world." «

For more information  
or to join a Giving Club  
to benefit patients like  
Sami, please contact  
Development Officer  
Kelsy Burrows at  
214-559-8464.





# SCOTTISH RITE



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**Sarita and Jake Francis**

Honorary Event Chairs:

**Sue J. Hubbard, M.D.**

**Karl E. Rathjen, M.D.**

**Anthony I. Riccio, M.D.**

#### 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).

Do you receive duplicate mailings or need to correct your name, title or address? Please send corrections to P.O. Box 199300, Dallas, Texas 75219-9842, call 214-559-7618 or email [tsrhdv@tsrh.org](mailto:tsrhdv@tsrh.org).

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

