RITE UP

SCOTTISH RITE FOR CHILDREN

2026 | ISSUE 2

Preparing for Takeoff: Bradley's Runway to Soar

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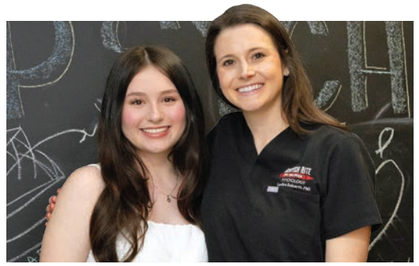

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

ROBERT L. WALKER
President/CEO

Scottish Rite for Children is centered around one promise: giving children back their childhood. Since its founding in 1921 to help children recover from polio, our culture of providing compassionate care for children still permeates our way of life more than 100 years later.

At a time when many organizations are navigating burnout and cultural drift, Scottish Rite's culture shapes hiring, retention, multidisciplinary collaboration and even clinical decision-making. Surgeons, researchers, therapists and staff collaborate as one integrated team with a shared purpose: What does this child need to get back to being a kid?

This single-minded, kind-hearted philosophy allows the hospital to focus on doing what is best for the child. Our clarity of mission has created a way of thinking that is increasingly rare in modern healthcare — long-tenured staff, cross-team collaboration and an environment where innovation is purposeful rather than commercial.

We recently held our Spring Service Awards to celebrate the work anniversaries of our staff members. We host this important ceremony twice a year, honoring staff who have faithfully served for 5, 10, 15, 20, all the way up to 40 years! The loyalty and longevity of our staff is also reflected in their relationships with our patients and their families.

Prosthetist Dwight Putnam has worked at Scottish Rite for 19 years — 17 of which, he has cared for Levi, of Granbury, Texas. When Levi was 3, he received his first prosthetic leg that Dwight customized just for him. With his new leg, **Levi took his first steps as Dwight held his hand,** and his family watched in amazement. Over the years, Dwight has designed multiple legs for Levi as he has grown from a toddler to a teen into a successful young adult.

Our staff is encouraged to build long-term careers and relationships in an atmosphere shaped by purpose, stability and respect for their contributions. This alignment between mission, culture and leadership has resulted in an engaged workforce dedicated to delivering expert, high-quality care for children and their families.

At Scottish Rite for Children, caring is in our DNA. It is who we are, and servant leadership is how we operate. Giving children back their childhood is simply what we must do, and we love doing it!

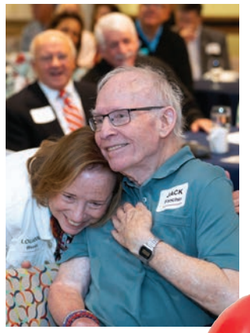
Levi's collection of legs grew as he did.

Levi, of Granbury, Texas, with prosthetist Dwight Putnam, C.P., L.P.

Back L to R: Vice President of Development/Events Ashley Givens, Dallas Stars and President/CEO Robert L. Walker
Front L to R: Dallas Stars Ice Girls with mascot, Victor E. Green, center, and patient Jacob, of Celina, Texas

The **Dallas Stars** visited Scottish Rite for Children, bringing joy to patients, their families and staff. The Stars took photos with patients and signed autographs, and the patients challenged the Stars to corn hole, coloring and even hockey!

Dana Greenberg



Jack Fancher

Academy President Gerald E. Stark, Ph.D., MSEM, C.P.O./L, FAAOP(D); Don Cummings, C.P., L.P.; and Academy President-Elect Tiffany Graham, MSPO, C.P.O./L, FAAOP(D)

The American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists honored prosthetist **Don Cummings, C.P., L.P.,** with the 2026 Distinguished Practitioner Award at the 52nd Academy Annual Meeting & Scientific Symposium in Nashville, Tennessee. As director of prosthetics, Cummings served patients and families for 38 years at Scottish Rite for Children. He recently retired in March.

Bill Counts

Scottish Rite for Children celebrated its volunteers with fun-filled Volunteer Appreciation events at the Dallas and Frisco campuses. **Dana Greenberg** received the Samson Wiener Volunteer of the Year Award, presented annually to an individual or group that has demonstrated exemplary commitment to Scottish Rite patients through meritorious service. **Jack Fancher** received the Paul Taylor, D.D.S., Trailrider Legacy Award. A Scottish Rite Mason, Fancher has volunteered at the hospital for 27 years. **Bill Counts** received the Spirit of Scottish Rite Frisco Award. He serves as a volunteer tour guide and pops delicious popcorn for patients and their families in Frisco.

CONNECTED TO THE CARE

D Magazine honored Scottish Rite for Children nurses **Wendi Endres, R.N., David Sooter, R.N.,** and **Heather Benham, D.N.P., APRN, CPNP-PC,** with the 2026 Excellence in Nursing Award. Endres and Sooter were recognized in the direct care category, and Benham was recognized for education and research. Local hospitals, doctors, nurses and patients nominated outstanding nurses who have impacted lives, communities and their profession. Congratulations to our amazing nurses!

The Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA) inducted **Benjamin Stephens "Steve" Richards, M.D.,** into the POSNA Hall of Fame at the annual meeting in Orlando, Florida. The POSNA Hall of Fame honors POSNA members who have displayed dedication to POSNA, teaching and mentoring, studying musculoskeletal conditions in children and caring for children with musculoskeletal conditions.

Dr. Richards served patients and families at Scottish Rite for Children for 35 years. He graduated from Scottish Rite's prestigious Dorothy & Bryant Edwards Fellowship in Pediatric Orthopedics and Scoliosis in 1987 and joined the Scottish Rite staff. A decade later, he became assistant chief of staff, and in 2012, he was appointed chief medical officer. Dr. Richards served as POSNA president from 2008 to 2009. During his distinguished career, he became an internationally respected expert in pediatric orthopedics. Dr. Richards retired in 2021.

Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA) President Kevin Shea, M.D., (right) presents Benjamin Stephens "Steve" Richards, M.D., (left) with a certificate to commemorate his induction into the POSNA Hall of Fame.

Vice President of North Campus Jeremy Howell; Director of Special Events Christy Liles; patient Zion, of Frisco, Texas; Zion's mother, Kendra; and Zion's great aunt Michelle.

Scottish Rite for Children Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Center in Frisco was the sole beneficiary of the inaugural **McKinney Historic Half Presented by BMW**. In addition to a half marathon, the successful event included a 5K and a kids' 100-meter dash. Through this celebration that showcased McKinney's historic downtown, scenic neighborhoods and park system, the race brought the community together to run and benefit patients and families at Scottish Rite.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF REPORTS

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

Devoted to Children Today and in the Future

As the No. 1 institution in the nation for pediatric orthopedic care*, Scottish Rite for Children is renowned for providing best-in-class treatment for patients and their families. The exceptional caliber of our medical staff is due not only to their superb intellect, depth of experience and genuinely caring bedside manner but also their leadership in pioneering research and education. Their dedication to improving care is evident on national and international stages through presenting research published by Scottish Rite that advances the way pediatric orthopedic care is practiced around the world.

This past year, Scottish Rite for Children received the most prestigious awards in pediatric orthopedic research from three of the world's most recognized scientific meetings in the field. The Pediatric Research in Sports Medicine (PRiSM) Annual Meeting presented the Hank Chambers Award for Best Scientific Paper to the Research in Osteochondritis of the Knee (ROCK) group, represented by Scottish Rite Assistant Chief of Staff **Henry B. Ellis, M.D.** The Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) honored **Amy L. McIntosh, M.D., Karina Zapata, Ph.D.,** and **Charles E. Johnston, M.D.,** with the Russell A. Hibbs Award. The Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America (POSNA) awarded the POSNA Best Clinical Research Paper Award to myself and **David A. Podeszwa, M.D.,** as we teamed to perform a 15-year randomized trial on a challenging hip condition. In addition, the Pediatric Spine Foundation presented **Megan E. Johnson, M.D.,** with the Best Poster award for her research at the International Congress on Early Onset Scoliosis (ICEOS). Earning these awards in the same year is a rare and extraordinary recognition of the impact our physicians are making on children's health.

And, the impact continues. This year, PRiSM honored Scottish Rite again by presenting the Hank Chambers Award to sports medicine physician **Jacob C. Jones, M.D.,** for his work in pediatric musculoskeletal ultrasound. Also, **Shane M. Miller, M.D.,** won the PRiSM Research Champion Award for his work predicting and preventing post-concussive problems. The list goes on.

It is a privilege to be surrounded by such a distinguished group of people who are devoted to helping children and ensuring that future generations receive the best possible pediatric orthopedic care through our groundbreaking research. «

Henry B. Ellis, M.D.

Amy L. McIntosh, M.D.

Karina Zapata, Ph.D.

Charles E. Johnston, M.D.

David A. Podeszwa, M.D.

Megan E. Johnson, M.D.

Jacob C. Jones, M.D.

Shane M. Miller, M.D.

**U.S. News & World Report ranked Scottish Rite for Children No. 1 in the nation for pediatric orthopedic care, in collaboration with Children's Medical Center Dallas and UT Southwestern Medical Center.*

For Ivette, Healing and Hope Are in Full Bloom

Much of life is about blossoming into the person you are meant to be. For 17-year-old Ivette, her experience with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) has shaped that journey. JIA is a condition that can cause persistent joint pain, swelling and stiffness.

"I remember turning 14 and feeling a pain in my wrist," Ivette says. "After that, it wasn't just my hand anymore. It was my fingers and my feet. I was scared."

Determined to understand what was causing her pain, Ivette's parents found answers when they were referred to Lorien A. Nassi, M.D., pediatric rheumatologist at Scottish Rite for Children.

"Before, we felt like no one was really listening," Ivette says. "We got to Scottish Rite and finally felt heard. I didn't think it was possible to have arthritis at such a young age."

Each year, JIA is diagnosed in about 4 to 14 out of every 100,000 children. For her parents, Ivette and Jaime, the diagnosis validated the concerns their daughter had for years. "It was strange — it almost felt like happiness because at least now we knew there was a treatment," her mother, Ivette, says.

Today, Ivette manages her pain with injectable treatments, including naproxen and methotrexate.

The pain from JIA is not just physical though — it has taken a toll on Ivette's emotional well-being, too.

"Mental health is a vital part of overall health, especially for patients navigating chronic medical conditions," says pediatric psychologist Caroline M. Roberts, Ph.D. "I'm so proud of Ivette's strength and resilience throughout her journey. Watching her grow has been truly inspiring."

With guidance from Dr. Roberts, Ivette has planted seeds of resilience that are already blooming, as her treatments have allowed her to run a flower business.

"Flowers are a special thing," Ivette says. "For me, it's not about the money. I just love seeing how happy people get." What started out as a thoughtful gift to one friend, turned into a passion project. Now, Ivette creates dozens of unique bouquets each year. "Even though I have this condition, I now have the ability to work," she says. "That's something I didn't have before."

Looking ahead, she is eager to graduate high school and pursue a degree in business so she can dedicate herself to creating bouquets full time — a dream her family knows is entirely within reach. "She has no limits," says her father, Jaime. "If she wants to do something, she will." «

Preparing for Takeoff: Bradley's Runway to Soar

by
Kristi Shewmaker

Bradley shows his airplane and helicopter to Dr. Corey S. Gill, who evaluates him during an appointment.

At 1 o'clock in the morning, doctors and nurses scrambled around the hospital room getting everything ready. Bradley was arriving early.

"When Bradley was born," his father, Ryan, says, "they took him over to the table to clean him up and then pulled me over and said, 'Hey dad, you know about his leg, right?' And I was like, 'What?' I had no idea what they were talking about."

Ryan remembers looking down at Bradley's right leg and seeing that he seemed to have no thigh and that his knee sat near his hip. When everyone finally left the room, he told his wife, Tracey.

"It was one of the darkest points of my life," Tracey says. "We didn't know ahead of time. We didn't know what this meant. We didn't know what his future would hold, and we didn't know if anything else was wrong."

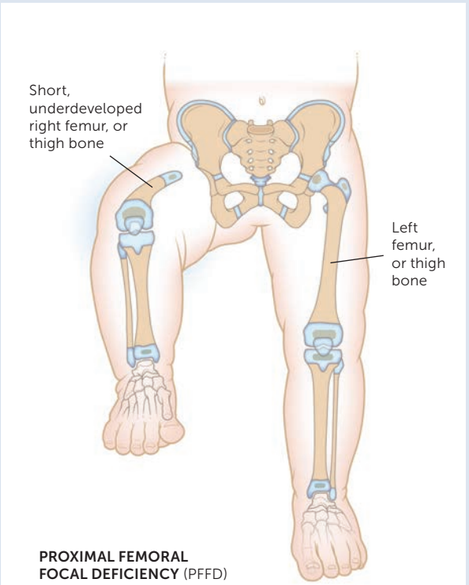
The hospitalist had never seen anything like it. She and the family's pediatrician referred the family to Scottish Rite for Children.

Pediatric orthopedic surgeon Lane Wimberly, M.D., diagnosed Bradley, at 3 weeks old, with proximal femoral focal deficiency (PFFD). PFFD is a rare congenital limb difference of the femur, or thigh bone. The affected thigh bone is shorter than the other leg and may be crooked. The severity of the leg length difference and deformity varies across a spectrum for each child and can affect the stability of the hip and knee. The cause of PFFD is unknown, and it is often missed during prenatal sonography due to its rarity and the tendency to measure just one femur length.

"Dr. Wimberly let me cry through the entire appointment," Tracey says. "He was very reassuring, and though he didn't end up being our doctor, he played a critical role in our story because up until then, we just didn't know what was wrong."

After Bradley was diagnosed, Dr. Wimberly — who specializes in neurological disorders associated with pediatric orthopedic conditions — referred the family to two different multidisciplinary teams that presented various treatment options to help the family make the best decision possible. They saw Director of the Center for Excellence in Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction David A. Podeszwa, M.D., as well as pediatric orthopedic surgeon Corey S. Gill, M.D., M.A., in the Limb Difference Clinic. The couple learned that Bradley's right thigh bone is significantly shorter than his left. Essentially, his right foot only came to the length of his left knee. They also discovered that Bradley has no ball-and-socket joint in his hip.

Depending on the severity of PFFD, families may choose between various treatment plans that are customized for each child. If the femoral deficiency is mild, a child's leg may be lengthened through surgical procedures. If the femur is too short for lengthening, the child may wear a prosthesis. One prosthetic option allows the child to slide their foot into a prosthesis. Another option requires an amputation of the foot so that the child may fit into a prosthesis better and have more mobility.



PROXIMAL FEMORAL FOCAL DEFICIENCY (PFFD)

The family met with Dr. Podeszwa and his team to learn about the care involved in limb lengthening, as well as Dr. Gill and his team to learn about the care involved in a prosthesis, with or without amputation. They also met with the Prosthetics team, Psychology, Physical Therapy, Nursing and, through the Peer Support Program, other families whose children have similar conditions.

"One of my biggest fears was making the wrong choice," Tracey says. Ryan agrees. "It's not like picking out a paint color," he says. "We were making a life-changing, life-altering decision for Bradley on his behalf."

"Bradley has a pretty severe femoral deficiency," Dr. Gill says. "Our goal is for him to be as functional as possible with the least number of surgeries. To lengthen his leg, he was going to require many

Continued on the next page

surgeries over the course of childhood with a still unpredictable result that would likely not be as functional as an amputation."

After considering the options, Bradley's family realized that limb lengthening and even a prosthesis without an amputation were not the best treatment plans for Bradley. "Once we made the decision to do the amputation, we never doubted it for one second," Ryan says.

Though PFFD is very rare and not completely understood, families from across the country seek expertise at Scottish Rite for Children for this condition. "We have a long history of treating kids with congenital differences of all kinds," Dr. Gill says. "We see more kids with limb differences and amputations or needing prostheses than probably anywhere else in the country."

Bradley practices walking with his prosthetic leg.

Last August, just after Bradley's first birthday, Dr. Gill performed the amputation. A month later, prosthetist Eddie Krische, M.S., C.P.O., L.P.O., casted Bradley to create a customized prosthetic leg. In October, Bradley received his prosthetic leg, complete with an animal design featuring lions, giraffes, monkeys and more. "I wanted a happy design," Tracey says. "I wanted something that had happy faces that I could point to and also use as a teaching tool."

Today, Bradley is passionate about airplanes. His parents take him to Founders' Plaza at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport to watch them take off and land. He also has toy planes that he takes wherever he goes. He even insists on sleeping with them!

In March, at a follow-up appointment with Dr. Gill, Bradley brought a blue plane, a white plane and a red helicopter. While playing with them in the waiting room, he stood on his prosthetic leg without holding onto anything for more than 30 seconds — a record. He also walked in his prosthesis while holding onto tables and chairs.

"He's taken a few independent steps," Tracey says. "He's not walking independently yet, but I know he's capable. I just don't know if he knows that he's capable yet."

Even so, Tracey and Ryan describe Bradley with one word: tenacious. "When he learned to sit up, crawl, roll over, even when he figured out how to walk on his stump after his amputation, going up and down the stairs, we didn't teach him any of that," Ryan says. "He did it all on his own."

After seeing Bradley's progress, Dr. Gill says, "He's smiling, he's happy, he's playing, he's wearing his prosthesis, and he's getting around doing normal kid stuff, which is the goal and just what we would expect."

As Bradley grows, Dr. Gill will follow his progress. Regarding Bradley's future treatment plan, Ryan shares that Dr. Podeszwa may perform a "super hip surgery" when Bradley is between the ages of 3 and 5, depending on his rate of growth and bone development. The goal of surgery will be multifaceted, including strengthening his hip and reconstructing his leg so that his knees line up with no leg length disparity.

"From the beginning, everyone has welcomed our family," Tracey says. "We feel like we're part of the team. They think of us as people, not just patients."

Ryan adds, "They never once made us feel like our feelings were insignificant or that our fears or worries were questionable, and they never rushed us."

The couple shares that the experience has strengthened their family. "Just when you thought something was hard or that you couldn't take anymore, you really are stronger than you think," Ryan says. "We attribute that strength to our faith in God."

"We didn't choose this path," Tracey says. "It was given to us, and Scottish Rite was placed in our lives. We couldn't be more thankful because without them, Bradley doesn't walk. With them, he walks, and he can run, play sports and have as much of a normal childhood as anybody else. 'Thank you' just isn't enough. Scottish Rite has given Bradley everything." «

Bradley, center, with his mother, Tracey, and his father, Ryan

A Labor of Love: Sewing Compassion With Every Stitch

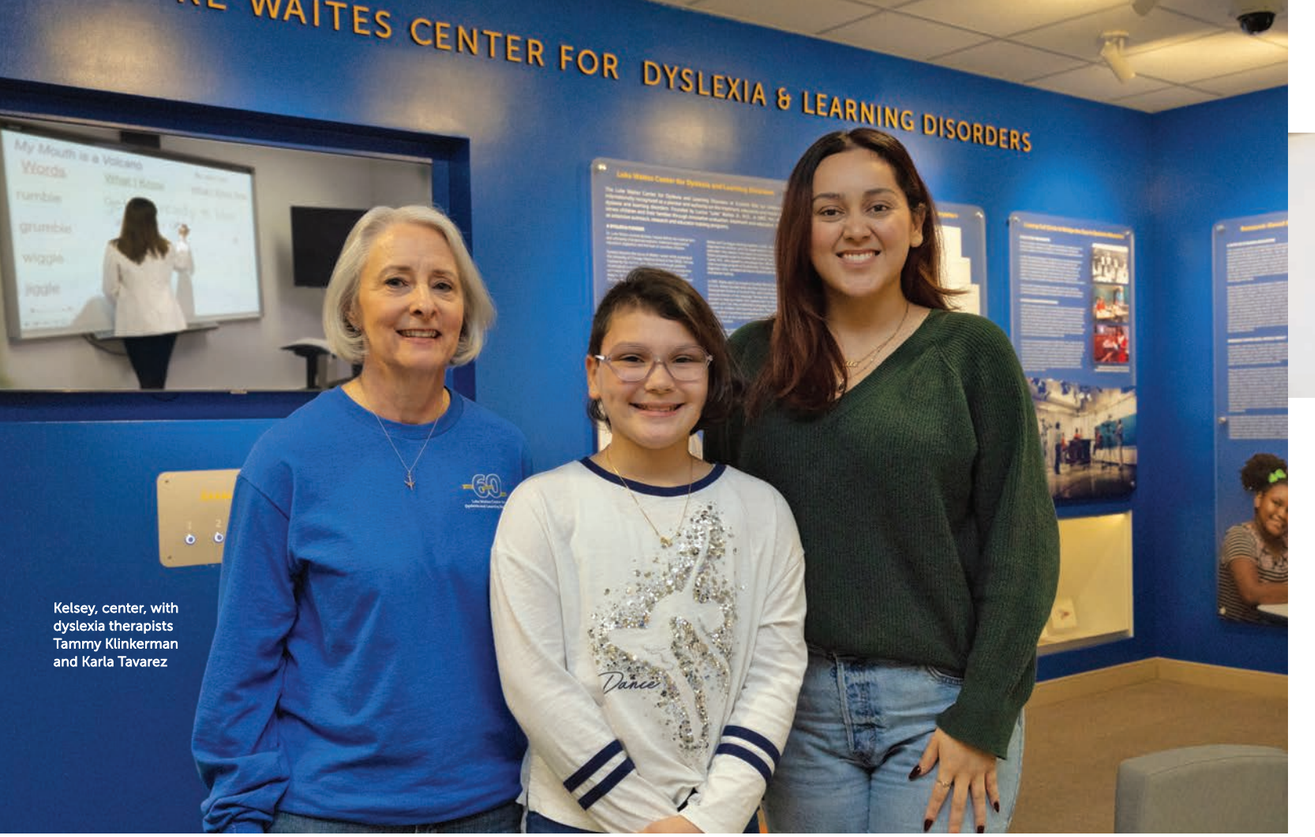
Tucked away on the fourth floor of the Scottish Rite for Children Dallas campus, longtime volunteers chat and laugh together over the hum of traditional Singer sewing machines. Affectionately known as the "Sewing Ladies," sewing volunteers have been an essential part of the fabric of Scottish Rite's history since the beginning. They sew each week because they care deeply about Scottish Rite's mission, and especially, the children.

The team's handiwork is felt every day. They carefully select brightly colored fabrics, cut patterns and sew soft patient gowns and cotton clinic exam sheets that are added to the thousands in circulation, ensuring a fresh supply and allowing older items to be retired. The group also designs adaptive clothing and alters clothing and plush toys for adaptive use. The volunteers sew privacy garments for scoliosis research photo sessions and repair volunteer uniforms. With the extra scraps, they make quilts and scrub caps to sell at the annual holiday bazaar. Proceeds from the bazaar help fund the Wish List, which supports patients and families.

The Sewing Ladies' love of mending continues Scottish Rite's tradition of hope and healing. The results of their cathartic craft help a child feel comfortable, easing jitters and bringing a smile. «

This feature is dedicated to Nora Betancourt, a beloved Sewing Lady who dedicated more than 40 years of service to Scottish Rite for Children.

Front row L to R: Carol Moreno, Carolyn Buckner, Mary D'Etienne
Middle row L to R: Linda Shibata, Ida Smith, Marilyn Wachsman
Back row L to R: Jackie Novotnak, Karen Reynolds, Kay Thiessen



Kelsey, center, with dyslexia therapists Tammy Klinkerman and Karla Tavarez

Kelsey's Road to Reading Confidence at Scottish Rite

When Kelsey was 8 years old, reading felt impossible. The homeschooled Forney, Texas, student struggled to grasp the basics of recognizing letters and forming words. Her mother, Erin, had taught Kelsey's three older siblings to read, but with Kelsey, nothing was sticking. They would practice the letter A at breakfast, return after lunch, and Kelsey would stare at the page and ask, "What letter is that?"

"She seemed so frustrated," Erin recalls. "She would tell me she didn't think she'd be able to read. As her mom, it was heartbreaking because I wasn't sure how to help her."

Something clicked for Erin one afternoon when she contacted a friend whose daughter had dyslexia, a learning difference that makes reading, writing and spelling a challenge. After researching options, Erin discovered the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders at Scottish Rite for Children and submitted the paperwork for a diagnostic evaluation. Kelsey was officially diagnosed with dyslexia and a writing-related learning difference called dysgraphia.

"Once we had the label of dyslexia, it was such a relief," Erin says. "We knew how to move forward."

The center has served as a path forward for children like Kelsey for six decades. Founded in 1965, the center has built a reputation as a national leader in dyslexia identification, treatment and education. Its signature dyslexia curriculum, *Take Flight*, is used by schools, therapists and educators in 48 states and internationally, making it one of the most widely implemented evidence-based programs.

"Our expertise in dyslexia and related learning disorders is recognized because we set a high standard for creating effective programs and training educators to provide guidance for children with dyslexia," says Sheryl Frierson, M.D., M.Ed., medical director of the center.

Dr. Frierson also emphasizes the importance of their research-driven approach. "What sets us apart is that our programs are not just evidence-based but research-validated, which means that we have conducted formal studies that show our programs improve students' reading and learning capabilities," she says. "We rigorously test every curriculum to ensure it truly makes a difference in children's lives."

Kelsey learns to connect sounds and letters with sound pictures during *Take Flight* lessons.

Kelsey uses the interactive board for spelling.

Kelsey creates new words with a bubble sheet.

In the fall of 2024, Kelsey joined the center's Dyslexia Laboratory School, a free program offering specialized instruction for qualifying students in small groups at the Dallas campus. She was placed in *Take Flight*, a two-year, Orton-Gillingham-based curriculum that uses multisensory methods to address phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling, fluency and comprehension.

Kelsey's teacher, dyslexia therapist Karla Tavarez, B.A., was eager to take on her first group of students while also studying to become a *Take Flight* therapist. For Tavarez, the experience was as much about helping her students grow as it was about learning from them. She recognized early on that Kelsey's greatest challenge was not just decoding words. It was believing she could.

"Kelsey was aware she was struggling, and we had to first build that confidence," Tavarez says. "What I try to maintain in the classroom is working on the emotional side, alongside learning how to read. I want to make them feel comfortable and let them know they are able to do hard things."

Kelsey and her mother commuted 40 minutes, four days a week, for two years to the Dyslexia Laboratory School where she attended a 90-minute class. She never complained and rarely missed a class.

In Kelsey's second year, a pilot program called *Write Idea* was introduced to complement the *Take Flight* curriculum. Designed specifically for students with dysgraphia, *Write Idea* is a 15-minute program led by Tammy Klinkerman, M.Ed., L.D.T., CALT-QI. The curriculum focuses on improving handwriting, spelling, orthography and written expression. By addressing these areas, *Write Idea* works hand-in-hand with *Take Flight* to provide a comprehensive approach to supporting students with both dyslexia and dysgraphia.

Although writing in cursive was daunting at first, Kelsey embraced the challenge. Cursive handwriting, a cornerstone of the Dyslexia Laboratory School's approach, plays a key role in helping students connect letters and sounds more effectively. "I wanted to give the program everything I had," Kelsey explains. "I try to do better every day."

"We instill in the students that they are in a safe environment and can feel comfortable taking risks," says Klinkerman, who also coordinates the Dyslexia Laboratory School. "We give students a lot of support within the classroom." Kelsey's confidence grew steadily as she mastered the techniques taught in both *Take Flight* and *Write Idea*, demonstrating just how impactful these programs can be.

Reflecting on the center's mission to meet the growing needs of children with dyslexia, Dr. Frierson shares, "Our goal is not just to address students' immediate challenges but to empower them for a lifetime of success. As we continue to expand our programs, we are committed to ensuring that every child, regardless of where they live, has access to the support they need to unlock their full potential."

Today, Kelsey is a confident, eager reader, and she intends to use her skills to continue her homeschool curriculum. Outside the classroom, she competes in archery and has her sights set on becoming a veterinarian someday — a goal that anyone who knows her would not doubt for a second. «

In May, Kelsey graduated from the Dyslexia Laboratory School and received her certificate at the graduation ceremony with her teachers Tammy Klinkerman and Karla Tavarez.

Crayon Club: Investing in the Future of Scottish Rite

Volunteerism, education, philanthropy and fun characterize Crayon Club, an influential group that furthers the mission of Scottish Rite for Children, giving children back their childhood. Members include individuals who are early in their careers, new to Dallas or simply enjoy serving the community by investing their time, energy and treasures into Scottish Rite to make a difference in the lives of patients and their families.

Scottish Rite for Children Board Trustee Michael Pickens founded Crayon Club in 2003. It began as an informal social gathering that he called Supper Club. Because of his steadfast belief in Scottish Rite, he invited as many people as possible to attend. His friends invited their friends, and together they filled tables, learned about the cause and supported the mission. The club grew so successful, it thrives decades later.

that includes drinks, hors d'oeuvres, a speaker and a tour of Scottish Rite. A beloved tradition, Character Breakfast serves as Crayon Club's signature fundraiser. The event brings patient families together, inviting children to not only dress up as their favorite princesses or superheroes but also to meet them and get their autographs!

Each year, Crayon Club designates funds raised to an important project, such as supporting patients who see clinicians in Prosthetics or Movement Science. This year, funds raised will benefit patients and families who attend Scottish Rite therapeutic camps.

Samantha de Figueiredo, Katherine Whitlock and Emily Smith create Valentine's Day activity kits for patients while chatting at Crayon Club's Winter Social.

Kyle Ratliff serves jambalaya at Crayon Club's annual Crawfish Boil.

In 2025, Emily Smith joined Crayon Club. "I was looking for ways to get involved in the Dallas community and give back," Smith says. "Scottish Rite is a natural fit because it helps people like me." Born without her right hand, Smith came to Scottish Rite as a patient and fondly remembers attending various social events. A corporate attorney in Dallas, her connection to Scottish Rite continues today as an adult.

Crayon Club hosts meaningful, fun-filled events throughout the year, including social functions like the Winter Social, Crawfish Boil and the Fall Pickleball Tournament. At the Winter Social, members created Valentine's Day activity kits for patients while enjoying food and beverages at a local restaurant. Members also attend Crayon Club Connect, an educational evening

Kyle Ratliff joined Crayon Club in 2023. A corporate accounting director at a healthcare institution, he emphasizes the importance of planning for Scottish Rite's future by planting seeds early among those rooted in the community. "Fundraising will sustain Scottish Rite for years," he says. "Probably the largest donors today were young professionals who were not sure where to invest their time or resources. Crayon Club is a joy to be a part of and where I want to invest my time." «

Join Crayon Club Today!
Contact Development Officer Sloan Townsend at 214-559-8464 or sloan.townsend@tsrh.org.

"SCOTTISH RITE FOR CHILDREN HAS SET THE STANDARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEDICAL TREATMENT."

M. DOUGLAS ADKINS
Vice Chairman Since 2009 | Trustee Since 2005

M. Douglas Adkins is a faithful man. A long-standing board member and vice chairman of the Scottish Rite for Children Board of Trustees, Adkins says, "God has had his hand on this hospital and on its leadership since it was created."

For two decades, Adkins describes serving on numerous board committees with great pleasure because of the sincerity of the trustees and the skill and dedication of the surgeons and staff. "Their joy is to see joy in the face of the children and their parents," he says. "We've got the finest pediatric orthopedic doctors in the world, and they don't walk around bragging about it. They just do it. We have set the standard for extraordinary medical treatment."

A Shongaloo, Louisiana, native, Adkins graduated from a high school class of 11 people. His humble beginning led to playing basketball at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and earning his law degree from Tulane University. Adkins embarked on an illustrious law career at Jackson Walker LLP for 18 years and served on the Executive Committee. He became a managing partner at Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP that later merged with Foley & Lardner LLP where he retired.

Along the way, Adkins has made a difference in his community. He met his wife, Carole, at First Baptist Dallas where he has served on many committees, including church building committees for 22 years, deacons, prayer partners and Dr. Robert Jeffress' Pastor's Council. He also served on the board of GuideStone Financial Services, an organization that provides financial resources to ministers, staff and their families in retirement.

A Mason since 1959, Adkins became chairman of the Dallas Scottish Rite Valley in 2005. The Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in Washington, D.C., asked him to lead the Scottish Rite Masons in Texas, a position known as the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Texas, which he held for 10 years.

Adkins' impact on the city of Dallas is still felt today. He co-founded the Dallas Mavericks NBA team and served as vice chairman, secretary and general counsel. He also co-founded the first NBA Chaplain program as an Alternate Board of Governors member and was instrumental in the committee that established the first salary cap in professional sports. He was co-founder and vice president of the Dallas Sidekicks, an indoor soccer team that historically competed in the Major Arena Soccer League. He also served as vice president, secretary and general counsel of Home Interiors and Gifts. He co-founded and was chairman of the board of Mary Crowley Cancer Research — a non-profit, and he is a former chairman of the board of Dallas Baptist University.

Of his time on the Scottish Rite for Children board, Adkins says, "To see what we have been able to accomplish as a hospital has been a great fulfillment in my life."

Scottish Rite for Children is No. 1 in the nation for pediatric orthopedic care, and Adkins recognizes the challenge to remain at that level. "Do you grow complacent or feel this is something that naturally occurs?" he asks, rhetorically. "Our doctors, leadership and trustees don't believe that! We strive to improve and continue to bring happiness to children and their families with the Lord's blessings." «

SCOTTISH RITE FOR CHILDREN

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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.

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