RITE UP

2026 | ISSUE 3

SCOTTISH RITE FOR CHILDREN



Eman's Quiet Confidence Shines Through the Reconstruction of Her Leg

SCOTTISH RITE FOR CHILDREN

BOARD OFFICERS

Lyndon L. Olson, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

M. Douglas Adkins
Vice Chairman

Harold D. Carter
Vice Chairman

Ronald L. Skaggs
Vice Chairman and Secretary

James E. Laney
Vice President and Treasurer

STAFF OFFICERS

Robert L. Walker
President/CEO

Matt Chance
Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Lori L. Dalton
Senior Vice President and General Counsel

Michelle Hays
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Kristina L. Keever-Smith
Senior Vice President, Chief Investment Officer

Stephanie Brigger
Vice President, Development

Angie Buckmeier, M.H.A., B.S.N.
Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer

Leslie A. Clonch, Jr.
Vice President and Chief Information Officer

Matt Ferguson
Vice President, Research

Ashley Givens
Vice President, Development/Events

Jeremy Howell
Vice President, North Campus

Donald E. Katz
Vice President, Facilities & Process Design

Stacy Miller
Vice President, Human Resources

Alex Paraison
Vice President, Revenue Cycle

EXECUTIVE MEDICAL STAFF

Daniel J. Sucato, M.D., M.S.
Chief of Staff

Henry B. Ellis, M.D.
Assistant Chief of Staff

Brandon A. Ramo, M.D.
Assistant Chief of Staff

Karl E. Rathjen, M.D.
Assistant Chief of Staff

Philip L. Wilson, M.D.
Assistant Chief of Staff

EMERITUS

John. A. Herring, M.D.
Chief of Staff Emeritus

J. C. Montgomery, Jr.
President Emeritus

FOUNDATION

Robert L. Walker
Executive Chairman

Karl E. Rathjen, M.D.
President

CONTENTS



08 **COVER FEATURE**
Eman's Quiet Confidence Shines Through the Reconstruction of Her Leg





07 **ON THE MOVE**
Cameron's Milestone Moment: A Testament to Early Intervention

12 **FRONT AND CENTER**
Kingston Is the First to Have U.S. Surgery With Growth-Friendly Spinal Implant

03 **LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**
04 **CONNECTED TO THE CARE**
06 **THE CHIEF OF STAFF REPORTS**
11 **MOMENT OF IMPACT**
13 **TRUSTEE PROFILE**
14 **DONOR SPOTLIGHT**

PUBLICATION CREDITS

Senior Editor: Hayley Hair

Editor: Kristi Shewmaker

Designer: Peter Henry

Photographers: Roy Ortiz, Sarah Sawyers, Allison Slomowitz and Madeline Yeaman

Writers: Jackie Hensler and Kristi Shewmaker

Contributors: Communications and Development staff

Send editorial comments to: RiteUp@tsrh.org

Rite Up is a publication of Scottish Rite for Children. If you no longer wish to receive communications from Scottish Rite, send a written request or call:

HIPAA Privacy Officer
Scottish Rite for Children
2222 Welborn Street
Dallas, Texas 75219
214-559-8510 | privacyofficer@tsrh.org

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, TSRH and Scottish Rite for Children are trademarks of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. All other trademarks, logos and brand names are the property of their respective owners. All company, product(s) and service(s) names used in this publication/website are for identification purposes only. Use of these names, trademarks and brands does not imply endorsement.

©2026, Scottish Rite for Children®

Scottish Rite for Children is accredited by The Joint Commission and is a member of: Children's Hospital Association, American Hospital Association, Texas Hospital Association and Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council.

Scottish Rite for Children does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, religion or age in admission, treatment or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.

For further information about this, please contact:
Scottish Rite for Children Civil Rights Coordinator: Compliance
Call: 214-559-8510
TDD or State Relay Number: 800-735-2989

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-855-293-8133 (TTY: 1-800-735-2988).

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1-855-293-8133 (TTY: 1-800-735-2988).

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



ROBERT L. WALKER
President/CEO



On October 10, 2026, Scottish Rite for Children will celebrate its 105th birthday, an extraordinary milestone. Stanford Graduate School of Business has noted how rare it is for any organization to endure for more than 100 years. But, longevity alone is not what makes Scottish Rite remarkable. What matters most is what has happened during those 105 years: Generations of people have dedicated themselves to one enduring purpose — giving children back their childhood. Today, that purpose is carried forward by our world-class medical team and an extraordinary staff who share a passion for our mission.

Numerous staff members have served Scottish Rite for more than 20 years. They work in every area of our organization, supporting our mission every day. Their experience and commitment are an important part of the foundation upon which Scottish Rite's excellence has been built. That standard continues today. For the 10th time, NRC Health has honored Scottish Rite for Children with its Excellence in Patient Experience Award in the nationwide pediatric category. ***U.S. News & World Report* ranked us No. 1 in the nation for pediatric orthopedic care for the second year in a row,** in conjunction with Children's Medical Center Dallas and UT Southwestern Medical Center. These accomplishments reflect the commitment of each and every staff member.

For 105 years, Scottish Rite has also been blessed by the generosity of our donors, volunteers and friends. Their support allows our physicians and staff to pursue excellence in patient care, research and education while ensuring that children receive the treatment they need regardless of a family's ability to pay. Sometimes, that generosity is reflected in the simplest moments. Recently, Project Pinball Charity donated a Pokémon-themed pinball machine to Scottish Rite. Seeing one of our young patients, Aylin, enjoying it was a wonderful reminder that caring for children is also about bringing joy to their lives.

This fall, we will celebrate another important tradition. On October 22, Treasure Street will mark its 30th anniversary. What began as a small gathering has grown into an annual celebration, raising more than $16 million to date for our patients. We hope you will join us.

One hundred and five years is a remarkable history, but our responsibility is to look forward — to the next child, the next discovery and the next generation. To our physicians, staff, volunteers, donors and friends: Thank you. You are the reason Scottish Rite has endured for 105 years and why its future is so bright.



Project Pinball Charity donated a Pokémon-themed pinball machine to Scottish Rite for Children.



The **Frisco RoughRiders** visited Scottish Rite for Children to spend quality time with patients and make memories together.

L to R: Mascot Deuce; Zach Bryant; Marcus Lee Sang; Estella, of Rockwall, Texas; Jonathan Brand and Cole Stasio





Scottish Rite for Children's Therapeutic Recreation team partnered with Jasmine's Beat to host **RITE Moves,** an inclusive dance camp for patients ages 8 to 16. The camp encouraged children of all abilities to build confidence, express themselves through movement and have fun while learning a variety of dance styles.

Camp participants Deborah, of Dallas, Texas, and Sa'Raya of Fort Worth, Texas, perform with the Therapeutic Recreation team on the Dallas campus.



Brittney Wells painted a work of art during Summer Colors.



Summer Colors co-founder Jenny Grumbles poses next to one of her donated pieces.

At the 15th annual **Summer Colors**, talented artists and art lovers filled the Atrium to mingle and bid on an eclectic range of artwork from oil paintings to photography. A joyous night was had by all, and many took home fabulous works to adorn their walls.



Fine art mixed media artist Erica Pepper displays her work.



Scottish Rite for Children hosted the **Pre-Brandon Carrell Symposium** for nurses and allied health professionals. The educational sessions included topics on pediatric therapy, trauma-informed communication, orthotics and prosthetics, and more.



L to R: Hardy Evans, M.D., Michael Kutschke, M.D., Vivek Abraham, M.D., Visiting Professor Kevin G. Shea, M.D., Taylor Johnson, M.D., Matthew Siebert, M.D., Laura Bess, M.D., and Assistant Chief of Staff Philip L. Wilson, M.D.

At the **48th Annual Brandon Carrell Visiting Professorship**, physicians from across the country shared the latest research, treatment protocols and best practices in pediatric orthopedics. The theme of the symposium was Innovation in Sports Medicine and featured **Visiting Professor Kevin G. Shea, M.D.,** an orthopedic surgeon from Stanford University Medical Center and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

Years ago, Tony Herring, M.D., began the tradition of kicking off the Brandon Carrell Visiting Professorship by cycling with fellow colleagues.

L to R: Harry Kim, M.D., M.S.; Jason Petrasic, M.D.; Michael Kutschke, M.D.; Cadie Wernecke, FNP-C; Vivek Abraham, M.D.; Tony Herring, M.D.; Jaysson T. Brooks, M.D.





In a solemn display of solidarity, The North Texas Nurse Honor Guard presented a **Nightingale Tribute** and **Last Call to Duty Service** in memory of Scottish Rite nurse practitioner **Consepcion "Connie" Pachicano**. Connie is remembered for her strong faith, her deep love for her family and her unwavering dedication to the mission of Scottish Rite for Children.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF REPORTS



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

Educating Future Pediatric Orthopedic Leaders

Scottish Rite for Children is world-renowned for its tremendous commitment to educating the next generation of pediatric orthopedic surgeons. The faculty at Scottish Rite are selected not only because they are excellent surgeons but also because they are excellent educators. From a total of 21 pediatric orthopedic surgeons, 12 are former fellows. They have returned to Scottish Rite to serve on the faculty because they are passionate about teaching the fellows at the highest level.

The Dorothy & Bryant Edwards Fellowship in Pediatric Orthopedics and Scoliosis is the largest pediatric orthopedic fellowship in the world. Since 1978, 200 fellows have graduated from our program and practice across the U.S. and in other countries. Led by **Program Director Megan E. Johnson, M.D.,** and mentored by expert surgeons, fellows receive hands-on experience in the operating room, performing 300 to 350 cases per year. At the weekly Monday night conference, a two-hour preoperative meeting, fellows review more than 3,800 cases with faculty annually. Fellows also interact with patient families in clinic, diagnosing and managing a wide variety of pediatric orthopedic pathology.

Seeking a fellowship at Scottish Rite is highly competitive. Our surgeons wrote the book — *Tachdjian's Pediatric Orthopedics* — considered the gold standard pediatric orthopedic reference guide by practitioners worldwide. With more than 200 years of combined experience, our surgeons hold faculty appointments at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Our fellows also participate in rotations at Children's Medical Center Dallas, a Level 1 pediatric trauma center.

Led by **Program Director Henry B. Ellis, M.D.,** and **Associate Program Director Philip L. Wilson, M.D.,** the **Orthopedic Sports Medicine Fellowship** is among only a few subspecialty training programs in the nation dedicated to the care of young athletes. The program offers in-depth training for managing common to complex conditions. Fellows are frontline members of the sports medicine care team at Scottish Rite for Children Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Center in Frisco.

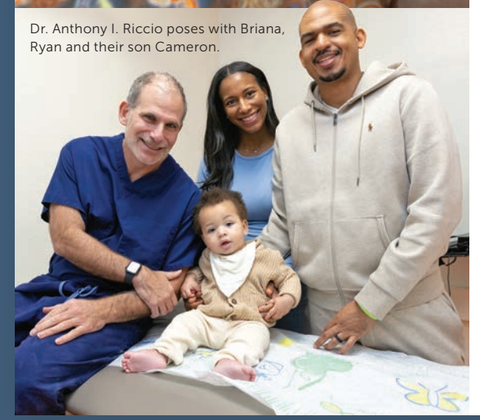


L to R: Orthopedic Sports Medicine Fellow Landon Rosevear, D.O., from OPTI West Valley Hospital Medical Center with Dorothy & Bryant Edwards Fellows Zhi Li, M.D., from McMaster Orthopedic Surgery; Emma Berube, M.D., from New York Presbyterian Hospital Columbia; Molly Hulbert, M.D., University of California, San Diego; Emily DeMaio, M.D., from McGaw Medical Center; and Elizabeth Nadeau, M.D., from Medical University of South Carolina

Scottish Rite invests in its fellows not only as medical professionals but also as people who are balancing their careers and lives. The faculty is a close-knit family that extends to former fellows around the world. When fellows are looking for their first job, being a part of the Scottish Rite family is invaluable. Many of our fellows go on to hold esteemed leadership positions at prestigious institutions. These impressive individuals carry on the distinguished legacy of excellence that is the hallmark of fellowship at Scottish Rite. «



Ryan holds his son Cameron, who wears a boots and bar brace, for his appointment.



Dr. Anthony I. Riccio poses with Briana, Ryan and their son Cameron.

Cameron's Milestone Moment: A Testament to Early Intervention

At 16 months old, Cameron, of Irving, Texas, reached a milestone his parents have been eagerly anticipating — he walked independently for the first time. For parents Briana and Ryan, watching their son take those confident first steps represent more than a typical toddler achievement. It is a testament to early medical intervention and consistent treatment from a care team that has been there from the start.

Cameron's story began before he was born. During a prenatal ultrasound at 20 weeks, Briana discovered her son would be born with bilateral clubfoot, a condition in which the feet are rotated inward and fixed in a downward position at the ankles. Clubfoot ranges in severity, and it is treatable with early intervention.

"When I looked online and saw babies with full leg casts, it looked very jarring," Briana says. "I didn't know if he would be able to walk."

Pediatric orthopedic surgeon and Director of the Center for Excellence in Foot Anthony I. Riccio, M.D., evaluated Cameron just nine days after he was born. Cameron received follow-up care with nurse practitioner Libby Powell, FNP-C. The team applied the Ponseti method, using weekly casting to gradually manipulate the foot outward.

"Clubfeet, such as Cameron's, are expected to correct nicely with careful and proper application of the Ponseti technique," Dr. Riccio says. "When applied successfully, children never realize their foot is different than any other child's."

One challenging aspect of treatment is correcting the tight, shortened Achilles tendon, which often requires an Achilles tenotomy, a surgical procedure to release the tendon behind the ankle. Dr. Riccio performed this procedure, and Cameron recovered for three weeks in a cast. Then, he transitioned to wearing a boots and bar brace for 23 hours a day. The brace is composed of two shoes attached by a bar to hold the feet at an outward-rotated position.

"I was worried about whether he'd hit his milestones and how delayed he might be," Ryan says. "But, I always felt confident he'd ultimately be OK."

Fourteen months later, Cameron progressed to wearing the brace only at night. Physical therapists focused on strengthening his core and legs. About three weeks into therapy, he began to walk.

"The key to success with clubfoot is consistent brace wear," Powell says. "As long as families are compliant, most children don't require any other interventions."

Early diagnosis, consistent treatment and a dedicated care team put Cameron firmly on the move. "We were very happy with his care at Scottish Rite," Briana says. "We felt like we were in great hands the entire time." «



Eman meets with Dr. Scott Oishi and Dr. David A. Podeszwa for her six-month postoperative appointment.

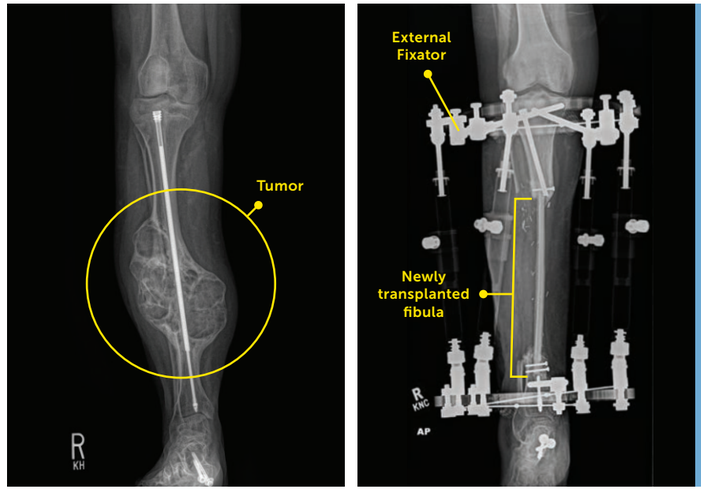
Eman's Quiet Confidence Shines Through the Reconstruction of Her Leg

by Kristi Shewmaker

The night before her surgery at Scottish Rite for Children, Eman found a quiet place to sit, reflect and pray. "I let go of all the anxieties and fears that were going through my head, and a wash of ease came over me," she says. "I was able to put full faith in what was ahead of me, in my doctors and their plan."

From Ontario, Canada, Eman is 17 years old and lives with her mother Samia in Houston. They came to Scottish Rite for another opinion after Eman had undergone various unsuccessful treatments from multiple healthcare institutions for her leg.

At the age of 3, Eman fell out of bed and fractured her right tibia, or shin bone. X-rays revealed her bone was not normal, with what appeared to be a benign bone tumor weakening her bone. She was diagnosed with osteofibrous dysplasia (OFD), a rare bone disorder in which normal bone is replaced with abnormal bone and fibrous tissue that forms a slow-growing benign tumor. OFD tumors can become worse over time, cause the bone to change shape and increase the risk of fractures. Additionally, as a child gets older, the tumor may become malignant, or cancerous.



The left X-ray shows Eman's right leg with the tumor before her surgery at Scottish Rite for Children. The right X-ray shows Eman's leg after the tumor is removed. The fibula from her left leg is transplanted into the gap, and an external fixator is applied.

Unfortunately, Eman fractured her right tibia a second time, and when she was 6, surgeons in Canada placed a rod in her leg to decrease the risk of recurrent fractures and guide bone growth. After surgery, Eman experienced a known complication from tibia rod placement called compartment syndrome, a painful condition that affects circulation, causing muscle weakness and loss of sensation in the nerves. She spent months in the hospital and later at a rehabilitation center receiving physiotherapy. "I wasn't able to walk," Eman says. "I had a very hard time regaining my walking ability and gaining back sensation that I lost in the bottom of my foot."

After that experience, Samia and Eman moved to the Middle East to spend time with family. "We took a break from the negative experiences and emotional toll that we had endured in Canada," Eman says. "We spent a lot of time with family, which was really nice."

A few years later, they moved back to Canada. "What had been surfacing was my limb length discrepancy, which caused a pretty pronounced limp in my gait," Eman says. Her right leg had become shorter than her left leg, and she started wearing high-top sneakers with a shoe lift. "Because of the leg length discrepancy, I put a lot of pressure on my shorter leg," Eman says. "I was not confident in my ability to walk, and I felt emotionally exhausted."

After reevaluating her leg at multiple treatment facilities and feeling ignored, Samia and Eman moved to the United States. Eman underwent another surgery that improved the position of her foot, but she did not see a significant change in her gait or the pain she experienced while walking. The doctors recommended amputation or shortening her left leg to equal the length of her right leg. Discouraged by these options, Samia asked for another opinion and was referred to Scottish Rite for Children.

At Scottish Rite, Eman saw David A. Podeszwa, M.D., pediatric orthopedic surgeon and director of the Center for Excellence in Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction. "Eman has by far the most extreme case of OFD we've ever seen," he says. "She had a tumor the size of a cantaloupe. In addition to the cancer risk, the growing tumor caused a massive deformity in her leg, affecting the shape of her leg, the length of her leg and the function of her foot and ankle."

After a long list of negative healthcare experiences, Eman says she felt on edge about seeing someone else. But, in her first conversation with Dr. Podeszwa, he discussed something she says no other doctor had addressed before — her tumor. "Every other doctor I'd seen was too worried about damage that could happen if they touched my tumor," she says. "Dr. Podeszwa and his team immediately wanted to get rid of what had been in my leg my whole life, and they opened my eyes to see something that I didn't realize was the core of all my issues."

Hand surgeon and microvascular specialist Scott Oishi, M.D., FACS, collaborated with Dr. Podeszwa to define a customized treatment plan for Eman that would begin with a 12-hour surgery. Before the procedure, Eman had a series of visits with pediatric psychologist Whitney M. Herge, Ph.D., who not only prepared her for treatment but also helped her confront her past experiences.

"I was overwhelmed and reluctant to put my trust in something else after having done that before and not seeing a positive outcome," Eman says. Over many months, she discussed with Dr. Herge what had happened to her, who she was and what she wanted. "Dr. Herge made me feel comfortable and in control of my health."

Continued on the next page

Eman emphasizes that no other hospital had cared for her mental health. "It was a game changer to see that there was a team of people at Scottish Rite who were looking out for my mental health as much as they were looking out for my physical health," she says.

In January, after a time of reflection and prayer, Eman, at ease, entered the operating room. An expert, multidisciplinary team of surgeons performed the operation, including pediatric orthopedic surgeon and musculoskeletal oncologist Alexandra K. Callan, M.D., pediatric orthopedic surgeon Elizabeth W. Hubbard, M.D., Dr. Oishi and Dr. Podeszwa. Dr. Callan removed the tumor from Eman's right leg, which removed a large segment of shin bone, including part of her tibia and fibula because both were damaged by the tumor. To close the large gap in her bone, Dr. Oishi performed what is called a free vascularized fibular transfer. He took the fibula, or small leg bone, from her left leg with its blood supply and transplanted it into the gap in her right leg. Drs. Podeszwa, Callan and Hubbard fixed the transplanted fibula into the remaining tibia to reconstruct a new leg using screws. After stabilizing the bone, Dr. Oishi connected the veins and arteries under a microscope. Dr. Oishi says that, over time, the fibula will hypertrophy, or remodel itself, to look like a new tibia.

"Wherever you put the fibula, it remodels itself to become the bone it replaces," Dr. Oishi says. "If you put it in the femur, it grows to be a femur. If you put it in a tibia, it remodels to look like a tibia." He clarifies that Eman will not need the portion of fibula in her left leg that was removed because enough was left to keep her ankle stable. To finish the procedure, Dr. Hubbard and Dr. Podeszwa applied an external fixator to Eman's leg to stabilize the bone and help bear the weight of her leg as the bone heals.

"Eman's condition is a very unique problem that required a large reconstruction and a team with the expertise of three subspecialties within orthopedics to make this happen," Dr. Podeszwa says. "We are fortunate at Scottish Rite to have the people and the resources to offer these complex reconstructions that are fairly rare." In addition to the surgical team and psychologist, Eman receives nursing, physical therapy and occupational therapy services at Scottish Rite.

After a successful surgery and months of recovery, Eman and her mom traveled to Canada for a summer vacation. Using her walker, Eman walked around in her fixator visiting her friends. "The external fixator is designed for Eman to walk and bear weight, which stimulates healing," Dr. Podeszwa says. Eman will wear the fixator until her fibula gets thicker and stronger, like a new tibia, to support her full weight. "Eman is an amazing kid and a wonderful patient," Dr. Podeszwa says. "She's highly intelligent and highly motivated. Her attitude, outlook and engagement makes our job easier."

"I'm so grateful that I have a team like the one I have at Scottish Rite," Eman says. "I'm in awe of how much they've put into my care. They've shown me what it means to be a resilient and positive person. Scottish Rite has filled me with hope for what is to come." «

Eman's Multidisciplinary Care Team



DAVID A. PODESZWA, M.D.
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon

SCOTT OISHI, M.D., FACS
Hand Surgeon and Microvascular Specialist

WHITNEY M. HERGE, PH.D.
Pediatric Psychologist

ALEXANDRA K. CALLAN, M.D.
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon and Musculoskeletal Oncologist

ELIZABETH W. HUBBARD, M.D.
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon

Lyda Hill Philanthropies Recognizes Sophia Ulman, Ph.D., for Transforming Sports Science

Lyda Hill Philanthropies and the IF/THEN Initiative recognized 26 extraordinary women from across the nation who are transforming science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and through their efforts, empowering the next generation of women in STEM. Among these trailblazers are **Sophia Ulman, Ph.D.,** division director of the Movement Science Lab at Scottish Rite for Children Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Center in Frisco. Using advanced 3D motion capture technology, Ulman analyzes how young athletes run, jump and land. Her goal is to identify risky movement patterns early and help athletes adjust to prevent injuries before they happen.

Ulman was honored during the 2026 FIFA World Cup Fan Festival in Dallas as part of the #IfThenSheCan — The Exhibit: Game Changers, which featured life-sized 3D-printed statues of women leaders in STEM.

"This recognition is incredibly humbling, especially being included alongside such accomplished women," Ulman says. "Each of us is contributing to sports and STEM in unique ways, and being part of this exhibit allows us to share our paths with the next generation."

Nicole Small, CEO of Lyda Hill Philanthropies and co-founder of IF/THEN, says, "Sophia's leadership in movement science represents the kind of innovative thinking that can improve health outcomes and keep more young athletes healthy, active and in the game."

For Ulman, this recognition highlights a career built on blending science, sports and medicine to make an impact. In 2019, she became the leader of the Movement Science Lab in Frisco, transforming it into a state-of-the-art research and clinical hub. "It is my dream job," she says. "There are so many different ways you can be involved in sports rather than playing the sport yourself." Today, the Movement Science Lab focuses on both injury prevention and patient care through research that impacts Scottish Rite patients and young athletes everywhere. The lab is among only a few across the country using advanced motion capture technology to investigate injury prevention.

Currently, Ulman's team is spearheading a research training study focused on female athletes, exploring the link between the menstrual cycle and ACL injury risk. "Females are up to eight times more likely to tear their ACL than males, and we believe the menstrual cycle plays a role," Ulman explains.

Her team is working to develop training protocols tailored to different phases of the cycle, empowering young athletes to reduce their risk of injury. "Seeing these athletes improve in real time and knowing our research is making an immediate impact is incredibly rewarding."

Through outreach and speaking engagements, Ulman emphasizes the importance of exposing young people to STEM careers. "If someone knows a career exists, it's easier to dream about it," she says. «



Sophia Ulman, Ph.D., poses with her 3D-printed statue, part of Lyda Hill Philanthropies' #IfThenSheCan – The Exhibit: Game Changers that debuted at the 2026 FIFA World Cup Fan Festival in Dallas.

Kingston Is the First to Have U.S. Surgery With Growth-Friendly Spinal Implant

Kingston has a way of making people smile. The 7-year-old of Crossroads, Texas, has a personality that lights up every room. "He's so witty to be so young," says his mother, LaCrecia. "At school, kids from every grade know him and ask to push his wheelchair. He's that kid that draws people in."

Shortly after birth, Kingston was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) type 1. SMA is a rare genetic condition that affects nerves in the spinal cord, which makes it problematic for muscles to work and causes challenges with movement, breathing and swallowing.



Dr. Amy L. McIntosh with Kingston, of Crossroads, Texas

At 18 months old, Kingston developed neuromuscular scoliosis, a condition that affects the spine and is a common complication of SMA. By early 2026, his curve had progressed significantly, and LaCrecia faced the difficult decision of whether to proceed with a traditional rod surgery, which would require frequent adjustments, or explore a new and less invasive option. Pediatric orthopedic surgeon and Medical Director of Clinical Safety Amy L. McIntosh, M.D., presented an alternative: the Spring Distraction System (SDS), a newly FDA-cleared spinal implant developed in the Netherlands. The device, which uses springs instead of traditional rigid rods, allows for growth without the need for frequent surgeries.

"The SDS was an excellent choice for Kingston because it gave me the ability to control his spinal deformity while allowing his spine to continue growing," Dr. McIntosh says. "Growth preservation is particularly important in children with neuromuscular conditions as it supports overall development and quality of life."

In April, Scottish Rite for Children made history as Kingston became the first U.S. patient to receive the SDS implant. Dr. McIntosh collaborated with surgeons from the Netherlands to perform this groundbreaking procedure, marking a significant advancement in scoliosis treatment.

"The SDS does not require frequent lengthening procedures, which reduces the number of clinic visits over time," Dr. McIntosh says. "This results in a less burdensome treatment plan for Kingston and his family."

Since Kingston's leading-edge surgery, four additional patients at Scottish Rite have received the implant successfully. The treatment offers hope to children with early-onset scoliosis or those facing complex spinal deformities.

"Children with complex medical conditions already spend a great deal of time interacting with the healthcare system," Dr. McIntosh says. "By minimizing the ongoing demands of treatment, we allow children like Kingston to spend more time focused on being children rather than seeing themselves primarily as patients."

For LaCrecia, Scottish Rite for Children has been instrumental in Kingston's progress. "Kingston is a fighter, and with Scottish Rite by our side, I know he'll keep thriving." «



Ronald L. Skaggs has two favorite hospitals in the world: Scottish Rite for Children and Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. Chairman Emeritus of HKS, Inc., Skaggs was instrumental in the design of both.

"Bringing these two projects to fruition were the greatest accomplishments I was involved in," he says. "Scottish Rite for Children is the epitome of caring for those in need. Hadassah Medical Center is the epitome of caring for all nations, whether they be Jewish, Muslim or Christian."

A leader in architecture for more than 50 years, Skaggs founded and grew the healthcare practice of HKS Architects to become one of the top health design firms in the nation. He joined HKS in 1972, later became partner, and in the 1980s, was named Chairman and CEO. A Lifetime Achievement Award recipient from the American Institute of Architects, Skaggs has led the design of preeminent healthcare facilities around the world.

"Hospitals are one of the most complex building types an architect can design," Skaggs says. He specialized in planning hospitals and coauthored the book "Building Type Basics for Healthcare Facilities," a reference guide for designing hospitals. Skaggs emphasizes, "It's architecture by team, not one individual."

In 1974, Scottish Rite broke ground on a 400,000-square-foot facility located across the street from the original hospital. Skaggs led the design of the child-friendly building at 2222 Welborn Street that patient families still call a place of hope and healing today. In 1977, the hospital celebrated the opening of the new building. Founder of HKS, Harwood K. Smith, shared the podium with then Chairman of the Scottish Rite for Children Board of Trustees Allan Shivers and Chairman of the Building Committee Jim Chambers. "I attended as a proud architect," Skaggs says, "not realizing I would be on the board of the hospital in the future."

Skaggs joined the Scottish Rite for Children Board of Trustees in 1990. A leader on the board for decades, he became a vice chairman this year. "I have served on many boards, but Scottish Rite is my favorite," he says. "The trustees are fiduciaries who uphold the strength of the hospital in perpetuity."

With a lifetime of service to others, Skaggs' calling applies to the community, business and his family, which includes his wife Sondra, three sons and seven grandchildren. A Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M University, Skaggs served in the Corps of Cadets and plays saxophone in multiple bands from classical to jazz today. In his early career, he served as a military officer in the U.S. Army Surgeon General's Office in the Pentagon where he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. For his impactful role in architecture and faithful commitment to service, Skaggs received the Tom Landry Leadership Award from Dallas Baptist University where he serves on the board.

"When I led HKS, we served the client," he says. "If you are designing a building for people, you are serving everyone who occupies the building." This value serves thousands of patients and everyone who enters Scottish Rite for Children. «

2026
TREASURE STREET
BENEFITING
SCOTTISH RITE FOR CHILDREN®

A 30-Year Treasure Trove of Love

Step back in time to 1996 at the Scottish Rite for Children Dallas campus. Inside the Atrium, under the Flying Machine mobile, treasures fill the room, organized in a street fair arrangement. Each guest brings a personal treasure to contribute. While enjoying drinks, hors d'oeuvres and music, people mingle and mosey up and down the streets silently bidding on the items, hoping to take home the perfect one. The attendees also have another goal in mind — to raise $35,000 for Scottish Rite's Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC) Clinic. That first year, guests not only took home beloved treasures but also raised more than $166,000. Treasure Street was an instant success.

On October 22, Scottish Rite for Children will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Treasure Street, its signature event that has raised more than $16 million to date. Three decades ago, the idea for the fundraiser was born around a kitchen table. Dee and Dodge Carter wanted to give back to the hospital for treating their daughter Nicole, who received care for tuberous sclerosis complex. TSC is a rare genetic disease that causes noncancerous tumors to grow in parts of the body, most commonly in the skin, brain, eyes, kidneys, heart and lungs.

"Our baby Nicole was at Scottish Rite all the time. She was so well cared for, and we didn't have to worry about finances," Dee says. "We thought, 'We have to do something for this incredible place that's taking care of our daughter.'" The Carters approached each of their parents, including Dee's father, Harold Carter, and her late mother, Bitsy Carter, and Dodge's parents, Margaret and Syd Carter.



The Carter Families, including front row L to R: The late Bitsy Carter, Dee Carter, Nicole Carter, Diane Carter and Margaret Carter, and back row L to R: Harold Carter, Dodge Carter Jr., Dodge Carter, Mack Carter and Syd Carter

One family's decision made 30 years ago has inspired numerous donors and friends to engage in Treasure Street and contribute year after year. Over time, the event has grown tremendously, introducing more and more people to Scottish Rite and its mission of giving children back their childhood. Guests have enjoyed fun-filled themes from Dancing in the Street to A Few of My Favorite Things. Entertainment has included the go-to Dallas favorite, Emerald City Band, as well as recording artists Pat Green, Lee Ann Womack, Andy Grammer and Robert Earl Keen to name a few. In 2011, when Scottish Rite for Children celebrated its 90th birthday, former President and Mrs. George W. Bush served as honorary event chairs.

To commemorate Treasure Street's 30th year, Nicole's brother Dodge and his wife, Diane, are continuing their family's legacy by serving as the 2026 event chairs. Dodge was 6 years old when his parents started Treasure Street. "To stand here 30 years later and help lead the event alongside Diane is humbling," Dodge says. "We're not building something new. We're carrying forward something a lot of people have poured themselves into. If Diane and I do our jobs right, the 30th anniversary will set up the 40th."

Throughout the years, more than 50 Treasure Street champions have served as event chairs, inviting their friends to discover the magic of Scottish Rite's culture, an altruistic atmosphere permeated by kindness. "Every dollar raised on October 22 traces back to a little girl who needed care and a hospital that showed up for her," Dodge says. "Getting to honor Nicole in this way is the greatest privilege I have had."



Dodge Carter Jr. and Diane, Treasure Street Event Chairs

What began as an effort to support the TSC Clinic and the patients served by it has grown to benefit all children treated at Scottish Rite. Countless compassionate individuals have poured out their love for the organization and the patient families in its care through Treasure Street. As the institution celebrates its 105th birthday, Treasure Street is a model of pure goodness that exemplifies the soul of Scottish Rite for Children. «

SCOTTISH RITE FOR CHILDREN

2222 Welborn Street
Dallas, Texas 75219-3993

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 4215
Dallas, Texas

Deck the Halls & Deliver Cheer to Those You Hold Dear!

Put Jolly in the Holiday

From the comfort of your couch, purchase items from the Scottish Rite Amazon Wish List. Wish List items spread cheer to patients throughout the year.

To place your order, scan the QR code or call 214-559-8464.



Hudson, of Bedford, Texas

Give a Merry, Meaningful Gift

When you make a holiday donation in honor of a friend or loved one, Scottish Rite will send a signature Happy Holidays Greeting Card with a personalized message of hope and joy for your designated honorees.



Dress Your Fir in Holiday Couture

Secure your limited-edition, vintage carousel horse ornament. This festive filly will gallop into your heart and sprinkle the season's sparkle into your home. Get yours today. Call the Gift Shop at 214-559-7756, Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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.

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 214-559-5030 or email tsrhdv@tsrh.org.

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