

## RiteCare of Washington News

September 2008

Fall is in the air and I have some exciting things to tell you all. The toughest part for me is where to start.

We have kicked off a new fundraiser which I am really jazzed about because I know how much traveling you like to do. We have a new website where you can turn your travel into donations. RiteCare of Washington will receive a donation every time you book your travel through our website.

[www.ytbtravel.com/ritecarewa](http://www.ytbtravel.com/ritecarewa) Prices are comparable and competitive to other travel websites like expedia and orbitz. You can book golf tee times, group travel and cruises as well as flights, hotels and rent a car. So in order to help RiteCare of Washington I encourage you to take lots of trips and share our website with all of your friends.

Last Friday, September 12, I was fortunate to attend a night of comedy at the Nile Shrine with Randy Riddle. It was great to see so many familiar faces, spread the RiteCare of Washington story and laugh till my side hurt.

On September 11, I enjoyed a fine meal with the brothers of the Kirkland lodge and then had the privilege of speaking about RiteCare of Washington. It is always heartwarming to see the enthusiasm for helping children communicate and to see old friends and meet the newest Masons.

Over the Labor Day weekend my boyfriend Phillip See and I had the honor of attending the National RiteCare conference in Washington DC along with SGIG William Miller, Donald White President of the RiteCare of Washington Board and his wife Cecile, and Jacqueline Brown Clinical Director of RiteCare of Washington, Michelle Gifford Clinic Director of RiteCare Spokane as well two of our speech therapists, Barbara McKague from Seattle and Kerri Baldwin from Spokane.



Kerri, Michelle, Jackie and Barb

Not only did we enjoy the camaraderie of time away from our programs with a chance to share ideas and visions we had the chance to attend some very inspiring workshops. I am excited to see some of the new ideas implemented throughout the years to come. We were even treated to a tour of the House of the Temple. For me it was awe inspiring.

During our final banquet the keynote speaker was Ronald A. Seale Sov. Grand Commander. As you know he is always a moving speaker, with just the right amount of humor added. I as particularly moved that he chose to read a letter from a parent who was expressing their gratitude for the therapy that her child had received from a RiteCare program. I am proud to say that that program was right here in Seattle. I would like to share with you a part of that letter written by Deana Metteer who now also sits on our RiteCare Seattle board.

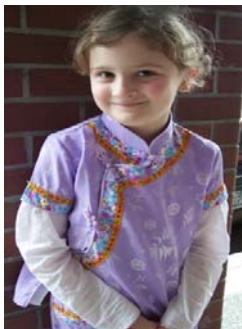
*Dear RiteCare of Washington*

*I am the mother of a beautiful 9 year old girl, Emma, who has overcome amazing feats in her short life span. Following an excruciating birth trauma, my daughter's quality of life was full of uncertainties. By her 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday, she could only make a few unintelligible utterances. At this point Emma's speech and overall language skills were extremely delayed. She was diagnosed with severe dyspraxia, a neurological disorder that makes learning to speak and remembering words very difficult. Her inability to communicate had begun to negatively affect her social and emotional development as well.*

*I knew that we needed to be doing more for Emma. I ended up quitting my job of 10 years to stay home and provide more support for her, but financially we were struggling to pay for the endless amount of medical bills. The average fee for speech therapy is about \$125 per hour and there was no way we could afford that, let alone \$20 co-pays twice a week...for the handful of times our insurance would have partially covered the cost of speech therapy. I was feeling hopeless until we heard about RiteCare of Washington.*

*Not only did RiteCare take Emma in twice a week for the most amazing speech therapy ever, they provided free parent classes for me to learn how to communicate with my daughter in a way that would encourage her speech development. The therapists at RiteCare had me observe each therapy session and provided me with suggestions and feedback that would help my child make continued progress at home. Within the years while Emma was at RiteCare her language and confidence grew immensely. Because of this quality speech therapy, Emma has now moved out of the special education classroom, into a general education class with her peers.*

*I am forever indebted to RiteCare for the difference they made in the quality of Emma's life. I am so grateful for the wonderful donations that made this program available to my daughter and gave us hope for the first time. RiteCare gave Emma the foundation she was so desperately in need of to carry on with her life. As a parent I will always have anxieties, but thanks to RiteCare, I can now spend my time worrying about scraped knees and spilled milk vs. whether or not my child will ever be able to communicate effectively, make friends, and be proud of who she is. Sincerely Grateful, Deana Metteer*



*Emma*

Thank you Deana and thank you supporters of our RiteCare of Washington program. Your caring and support does a make a huge difference in the lives of the families we serve.

Warm Regards,

Heidi J. Fray MA

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