



MINNESOTA  
MASONIC  
CHILDREN'S CLINIC  
FOR COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

# 2025 Annual Report



Through dedicated care and innovative therapies, we ensure that every child has the opportunity to communicate and thrive—**free from financial barriers.**

# LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

This year, I was reminded again and again why this Clinic has been so strongly supported for more than 30 years.

Since 1990, families have walked through our doors searching for answers, for support, and for hope. Every day, our team shows up ready to meet them with expertise, compassion, and unwavering commitment. The Masonic Children's Clinic for Communication Disorders was founded on the belief that every child deserves access to high-quality, evidence-based care regardless of financial barriers. That belief continues to guide every decision we make.

Because of the generous support of our community, this year we welcomed our first ever full-time audiologist. This important addition strengthens our interdisciplinary model and expands access to comprehensive hearing services, ensuring that hearing — the foundation of speech and language — is fully supported.

We were also deeply honored to receive a generous estate gift that will sustain the clinic's work for years to come. This extraordinary act of philanthropy represents more than financial support; it is an investment in lasting impact for the children and families we serve and in the health of our community.

I am especially grateful to the families who allow us to be part of their journey. They remind us that this report is far more than a collection of numbers. Behind every statistic is a child finding their voice, a family feeling less alone, and a team showing up each day to give their very best.

To our dedicated staff, valued partners, and generous donors — thank you. Because of you, we are not only meeting today's needs, we are building a strong and hopeful future for the children and families who walk through our doors.

**"Every child  
deserves access  
to high-quality,  
evidence-based  
care regardless  
of financial  
barriers."**



**Niki Lampi**  
Clinic Director  
M.A., CCC-SLP

# CHAMPIONS OF OUR MISSION

## \$10,000+

Anonymous  
Euclid Lodge No. 198  
County of Itasca  
David and Sara Hammer  
Jeffrey and Judith Hanson  
John and Dorothy Huotari  
Margaret Laurich  
John and Lizette Lawien  
Bob Meierhoff  
MNSWCA  
Eric and Ann Neetenbeek  
Ordean Foundation  
Jim and Kathy Proctor  
Wildey Mitchell Foundation

## \$5,000+

Chris and Chelsea Adatte  
Boreal Waters  
Community Foundation  
June Connor  
Dwight and Georgia Day  
The Lahti Charitable Trust  
Cris Levenduski  
Mike and Kirsten Stellmaker  
Marquette University

## \$2,000+

Anonymous  
Ben and Jeanne Overman  
Charitable Trust  
Gary and Kathleen Bubalo  
Arthur and Shelly Halpin  
Pattison Park Lions Club  
RBC Foundation  
RBC Wealth Management Duluth  
University of Minnesota  
Axel Herbert Fund  
Jeffrey Widness  
Robert and Ruby Zallar

## \$1,000+

Kevin and Alissa Acker  
Meredith and Marius Anderson  
Robert Baeumler  
Joelle Bodin  
Chuck's Guns  
Kevin and Susan Connor  
George and Patty Salo Downs  
Lori and Robert Fendler  
Fidelity Charitable Fund  
Carol Fitzgerald  
Ben and Autumn Hartley  
Olivia Huston and Luke Law  
Douglas Kman  
Mary and Stephen Leach  
Douglas Lewis  
Brian and Lori McVean  
Mark and Nancy Melhus  
Steven and Karin Patronas  
Pat Pfahl and Sue McClernon  
Dennis and Sharon Schultz  
John and Becki Schwietz  
Lara Signorelli and Markus Mueller  
Scott Thyen  
Bob and Ginny Wickman

## \$500+

Anonymous  
Michael S. Altman  
Karen Anderson  
Big Time Jazz Orchestra  
Debra Carlson  
Bruce Carson and Cynthia Annable  
Richard and Mildred DeBolt  
Peter Downs  
George Eisenmann  
David and Kathy Gore  
Frank Holappa  
Shawn and Laura Hunter  
Todd Johnson  
Michael Littler  
Tanner Kutzler  
Alan Mackenzie  
Jeremy Manthey  
Alecia McKay-Jones  
Dennis and Sonja Pederson  
Mike and Julie Senden  
Foster Solem  
Taconite Lodge No. 342  
Gayle and Steven Vest  
James Webber  
Kristin Yapel

**“As parents, supporting the Masonic Children’s Speech Clinic feels like the most meaningful way we can give—because **strong communities** are built when we all share a responsibility to **care for the kids growing up in them.**”**

– Meredith and Marius Anderson, Duluth

# CHAMPIONS OF OUR MISSION

## \$250+

William and Karen Anderson  
Birak Shrine Club  
Jillian Baranzini  
Lynn Dart-Nelson  
DECC Volunteers  
Annie and Megan Drevecky-Rees  
Maria and Chris Davies  
James Fisher  
Diane and Stephen Kaarbo  
Chad Kilmer  
Tom and Lindsey Raemer Knutson  
Alex Lee  
Pamela and Michael Leech  
Kristen and Robert Mango  
Kristy and Caleb Marconett  
Devon Maycock  
Larry and Brenda McDougall  
Anna Mcparlan  
Mesaba Lodge No. 255

## \$250+ cont.

Rob Neitzel  
Roger and Kathleen Phelps  
Eric and Brandy Pownell  
Charles and Jeannine Rathbone  
Jason and Morgan Reid  
J. Thomas and Jeanne Rikala  
Patrick and Madeline Scanlon  
Katherine Schnell  
Greg Sheppard  
Emily Whiting  
Virginia Vandervest

## \$100+

American Online Giving Foundation  
Curt and Shelly Binsfield  
Kay Brokken  
Heather Brockman  
Debee Brown  
Joel Harper

## \$100+ cont.

James and Barb Hill  
Loren Johnson  
Bruce Kettunen  
Theodore Leffler  
Gerald and Cathy Kortesmaki  
Marty Meldahl  
Aaron Michaelson  
Erin O'Keefe  
Peter and Mary Rhode  
Brenda Roche  
Olga Rosenzweig  
Jessica Schilling  
Clayton and Susan Sederberg  
Squaw Lake Bird Watchers Society  
Roald and Margit Tormondson  
Lou Weichseldorfer  
Doris Welke  
Paulette and Bruce Wyman

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## Up to \$100

Anonymous  
Elizabeth Anderson  
Sharla Anderson  
Anthony Bauer  
Patricia Bee  
Michael and Ruth Bettendorf  
Dovid Blinderman  
Reed and Jean Bornholdt  
Shane Bubacz  
Lawrence and Loma Burda  
Quentin and Shannon Burg  
Teri Butler  
Barbara Campbell  
Dacota Properties LLC  
Barbara Daenzer  
Janice and Arlo Danielson  
Bonnie and Thomas Davis  
Carmel deMaoiribus  
Judith and Bruce Derauf  
Robert Eikill  
Donald and Joan Falls  
Marvin Felderman  
Lorraine and George Fryklund  
Elizabeth Gausman

Lauren and Jeremy Giammar  
Scott and Kristi Glendenning  
Patti and Michael Graber  
James Hammer  
Jon Hawkinson  
Peter and Rebecca Hawthorne  
Judith Henton  
Ionic Lodge No. 186  
Johnson, Killen & Seiler P.A.  
Dale Johnson  
Julie and Timothy Johnson  
Joel and Klara Kardell  
Travis Klingeisen  
Monica Kolb  
Kathleen and Warren Kregness  
Diane Liljegen  
Marilyn Lilyquist  
Joyce McBeath  
Michael Miller  
Sally Murphy  
Kirsten Nisswandt  
North Shore Bank of Commerce  
Tami Patterson

Paypal Charitable Giving Fund  
Warren Peerson  
Kelsey Putvin  
John Raiha  
Ronald and Karilyn Richards  
Gary and Maureen Rosato  
Stanley Rouse  
John Schilling  
Evan Schroeder  
Charles and Lois Siemer  
Sandra and Steven Simek  
Patti and Loren Slette  
Judith Smith  
Rob and Jennifer Sterling  
Kenneth Thake  
Lynnette and Eugene Verhel  
Thomas and Beverly Vosburgh  
Gail and David Wahlberg  
Helga and Robert Wallner  
Steve and Mary Walsh  
Lyman and Patricia E. Whitney  
Robert and Mariann Wihela  
Dianne and Brad Witten

# Giving Kids a Voice: The Impact of Speech & Language Therapy

# 2025

CLINIC IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Nearly 1 in 12 children have a disorder related to voice, speech, language, or swallowing. Early intervention is key.



**99** Referrals to the Clinic



**111** Patients



- Speech & Language
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Occupational Therapy
- Hearing

**4,754** Total Therapy Hours



**134** Assessments



**40** Graduates



**54** Waitlist

**2,596** Total Children Treated since 1990



## BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT!

Thanks to your support, we overcame some of our biggest challenges in 2025. As 2026 unfolds, we're ready to embrace new opportunities together. Your continued involvement means the world to us.

### 2026 INITIATIVES

- Establish leadership and oversight of the RiteCare Scholarship Program
- Identify and implement an audiology program to expand interdisciplinary care
- Increase community awareness and education on hearing loss, including support for children using hearing aids and cochlear implants
- Explore collaborative partnerships with organizations such as the Different - Not Less Foundation and MN Neurodivergent to develop region-specific programming and support for individuals with autism



### Listen to our new podcast *Hear Me Out!*

Authentic conversations with parents, professionals, and supporters about helping children with communication needs. From heartwarming stories to practical strategies, *Hear Me Out!* offers insights into the world of communication disorders and those dedicated to making a difference. Find the podcast on Apple and Spotify.

**“Her eyes lit up when I told her about the Children’s Clinic the first time. And after her visit to Duluth, she said: ‘Every community should have a clinic like this!’”**

About Margaret Laurich, a former teacher, who left the clinic a generous estate gift in 2025

## MMCCCD Welcomes Audiologist Kelsey Putvin to the Clinic

Kelsey earned her clinical doctorate in Audiology (AuD) from Central Michigan University in 2013 and moved to the Northland after graduation to be closer to family. She has been practicing in the Duluth area since. While she's served patients of all ages, her true passion has always been pediatric care. She considers it both an honor and a joy to support children and families at the Masonic Children's Clinic, helping every child access the sounds that shape learning, connection, and development.

Kelsey is passionate about partnering with families to ensure hearing concerns are identified and addressed promptly. By combining clinical expertise with compassionate, child-centered care, she helps children build the strong auditory foundation they need to thrive.



**Kelsey Putvin, Audiologist  
Au.D., CCC-A**

## Real Life Impact

No one expects to spend a significant amount of time in and out of doctor and therapist offices, especially for their child, let alone for both of their children. Yet that quickly became the reality for our family. Coming to the Masonic Clinic completely changed the course of our lives.

Our boys have taken very different paths to begin their journeys, but both have found their way to the Masonic Clinic for support. Jameson began receiving services in April 2025. He is autistic and uses an AAC device to support his communication. Henry will begin services in June 2026. In addition to being autistic, he has a rare genetic condition that brings many additional challenges, and he also uses an AAC device to communicate.



The therapists and staff at the clinic have embraced and supported our family in ways that have opened countless doors for growth and opportunity for both boys. Beyond the exceptional care provided by the staff, the clinic offers groups, meetings, and educational opportunities that help parents connect and build a supportive community. Our family has participated in the Autism Support Group, the Gestalt Language Processing education course, music and movement classes for the boys, childcare during sessions, and community "field trips." We have also worked closely with staff on speech therapy, AAC support, feeding therapy, and OT consults. These resources have given our boys opportunities to interact with children who share similar experiences, while also allowing me to connect with other parents and become more involved in the neurodiverse community.

The support we have received through the Masonic Clinic has changed our family's path in ways we never imagined. Because of the care, expertise, and compassion of the staff, our boys are growing, connecting, and finding their voices in their own ways. Just as importantly, our family has found a community that understands and supports us. We are deeply grateful for the opportunities the clinic has created for our children and for so many other families like ours.

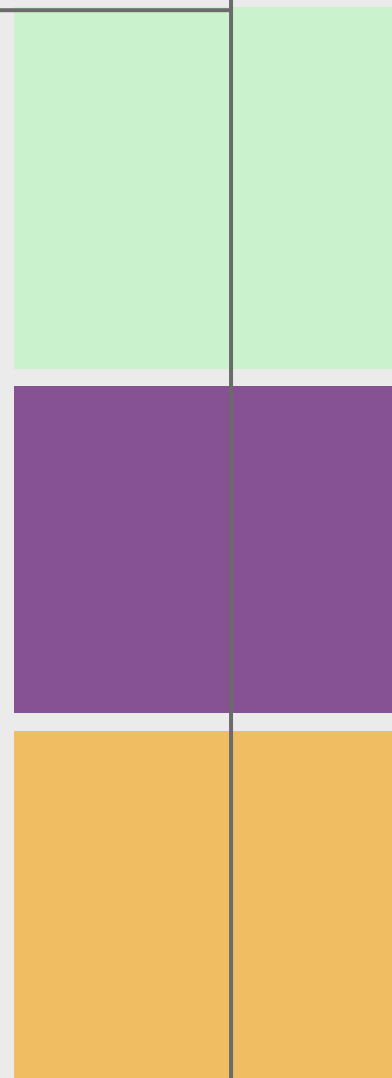
- Laura Brekken

# Grants & Foundation Support

Willey Mitchell	\$30,000
Jack and Mary Roe Family Foundation	\$20,000
Ordean Foundation	\$20,000
Lahti Foundation	\$5,000
MNSWCA	\$4,300
RBC Foundation	\$4,000
Ben and Jeanne Overman Trust	\$4,000
Axle Herbert UMD fund	\$3,400

## Events

ASD Parent Education Classes	1x per month
ASD Parent Support Group	1x per month
MNSWCA Frozen Force Fundraiser	January
ECRD Library Family Fest Event	February
AAC Seminar	March
Healthy Kids Fair	April
Clinic Open House	June
Fire Station Tour Field Trip	June
Clinic Night at the Huskies	July
Adventure Acres	July
Annual Dinner	August 21
Halloween Carnival and Pumpkin Patch	October
Turkey Trouble Story Time	November
Shriner's Christmas Party	December
Polar Express Activity	December



# Save the Date

THE MMCCCD ANNUAL DINNER  
GREYSOLON BALLROOM, DULUTH, MINNESOTA  
AUGUST 20, 2026





MINNESOTA  
**MASONIC  
CHILDREN'S CLINIC**

FOR COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

24 West 2nd Street  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

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TWIN CITIES, MN  
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# OPEN HOUSE!

**Join us for an Open House at our clinic,  
4:00 - 6:00 p.m., May 28**

Come meet our team, take a guided tour, and get a behind-the-scenes look at how our therapists work. Enjoy light refreshments and learn more about what we do. We'd love to see you there!

Sign up for our  
newsletter



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for tips,  
success stories, and clinic news.



**@MasonicChildrensClinic**