

# RITE UP

## The Comeback Kid

ACL Reconstruction  
That Gets Kids Back  
on the Field



**BOARD OFFICERS**

Lyndon L. Olson, Jr.  
*Chairman of the Board*

M. Douglas Adkins  
*Vice Chairman*

Harold D. Carter  
*Vice Chairman*

Jerry C. Gilmore  
*Vice President and Assistant Secretary*

James E. Laney  
*Vice President and Treasurer*

Ronald L. Skaggs  
*Vice President and Secretary*

Guy F. Stovall, Jr.  
*Vice President and Assistant Treasurer*

**STAFF OFFICERS**

Robert L. Walker  
*President/CEO*

Mark G. Bateman  
*Senior Vice President of  
Public Relations*

Matt Chance  
*Senior Vice President and  
Chief Operating Officer*

Lori L. Dalton  
*Senior Vice President and  
General Counsel*

Fredric D. Richmond  
*Senior Vice President and  
Chief Investment Officer*

Tammie L. Sibley  
*Senior Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer*

Stephanie Brigger  
*Vice President of Development*

Les A. Clonch, Jr.  
*Vice President and  
Chief Information Officer*

Ashley Givens  
*Vice President of Development/Events*

Jeremy Howell  
*Vice President of North Campus*

Jenny Johnson  
*Vice President of Revenue Cycle*

Donald E. Katz  
*Vice President of Facilities  
& Process Design*

Kris Keever-Smith  
*Vice President of Investments*

Debra A. Sayles, R.N.  
*Vice President and  
Chief Nursing Officer*

J. C. Montgomery, Jr.  
*President Emeritus*

**EXECUTIVE MEDICAL STAFF**

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

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

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

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

**FOUNDATION**

Robert L. Walker  
*Executive Chairman*

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



**WHAT'S**  
*inside*



**3** LETTER FROM  
THE PRESIDENT

**4** CONNECTED TO THE CARE

**6** DR. SUCATO REPORTS

**7** FRONT AND CENTER  
*Olivia – Crossing the Finish Line*

**8** COVER FEATURE  
*The Comeback Kid –  
ACL Reconstruction That Gets  
Kids Back on the Field*

**11** MOMENT OF IMPACT  
*A Bridge Back to the Game*

**12** GAME CHANGER  
*Solomon – Concussion  
Experts with the Assist*

**14** TRUSTEE PROFILE  
*Michael L. Waldrop – Making  
the World a Better Place*

**15** DONOR SPOTLIGHT  
*A Backpack for Your Brace*

On the cover, Lillian, of Dallas; Above L to R, Olivia, of Lewisville; Lillian, of Dallas; and Solomon, of Aubrey

**PUBLICATION CREDITS**

**Editor:** Hayley Hair

**Designer:** Peter Henry

**Features Coordinator:**  
Brittany Musacchio

**Contributors:** Caroline Blair,  
Stephanie Brigger, Maggie  
Dingwell, Ashley Givens, McKay  
Hendershot, Peggy Meyer, Jeb  
Smith and Communications staff

**Photos/Graphics:** Stuart  
Almond, Carrie Davis, John  
Dossier, Thomas Hyde, Amy  
Krajewski and Sarah Lassen

Send editorial comments  
to: [RiteUp@tsrh.org](mailto: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

©2021, 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.

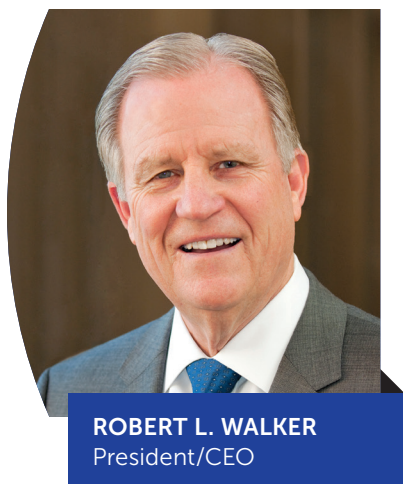
Scottish Rite for Children does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, gender, sex, color, national origin, disability or age in admission, treatment or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.

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

We can officially announce that as of October 2021, Scottish Rite for Children has been giving children back their childhood for 100 years. Throughout this amazing journey, the lives of more than 335,000 children have been directly impacted, and Scottish Rite for Children has become recognized as one of the finest pediatric orthopedic programs in the world.

In a recent visit by a former patient named Janet Kay Hart Mott, we were reminded that those who came before us laid the foundation we have today. Hospitalized in the 1950s with polio, Janet spent a considerable amount of time at the hospital receiving care for her orthopedic needs. She described in detail the doctors, nurses, staff and volunteers that were instrumental in her care and the love and hope that she received from them daily. Our dedicated and talented staff and volunteers continue to provide this same compassion to our patients today.



Janet Kay Hart Mott, former polio patient in the 1950s, shown left as a child, visited the Dallas campus recently and shared stories about her experiences as a patient and different types of polio treatments.

From the very beginning, our board of trustees have diligently and wisely steered this remarkable institution through decade after decade with the goal of always putting the needs of the child first. From spinal surgery to limb reconstruction, new innovative procedures have been developed to improve the care of our patients. In

addition to the orthopedic excellence, Scottish Rite for Children has also achieved a national reputation in the area of dyslexia. Thousands of children have gained confidence and seen their reading skills dramatically improve, preparing them for their life ahead.

Even through a global pandemic, we are immensely fortunate to celebrate this momentous occasion with all of you. We want to thank each of you for being an essential part of this healing team. Without your support in so many ways, volunteer service, donations and prayers, Scottish Rite for Children could not have reached this major milestone. In the years to come, we will confidently and humbly continue moving forward with a focus on innovation and excellence. Happy 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and may God continue to bless Scottish Rite for Children!



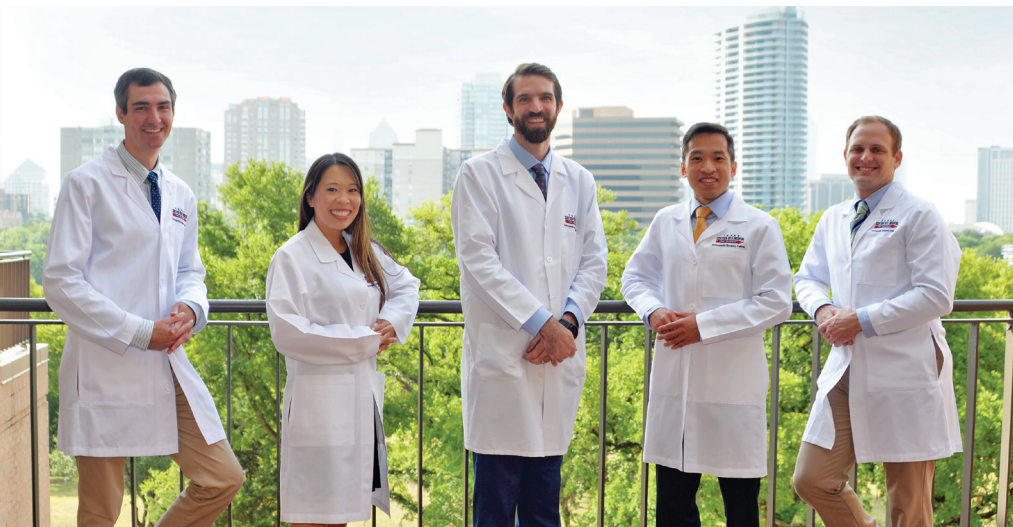
Scan the QR code to learn more about former polio patient Janet Kay Hart Mott.

# CONNECTED TO THE CARE

Welcome our newest staff members — »  
**Jaysson T. Brooks, M.D.**, pediatric orthopedic surgeon, and **Jason R. Petrasic, M.D.**, physical medicine and rehabilitation physician.



Scan the QR codes in the corners to watch their introduction videos.



Fellows John Ghazi, M.D., Lisa Cao, M.D., Dylan Kluck, M.D., Michael Chau, M.D., and Keith Orland, M.D.

« The **Dorothy & Bryant Edwards Fellows** for 2021 – 2022 joined the team this fall and will spend the next year in an in-depth, comprehensive program gaining a strong foundation in all aspects of pediatric orthopedics.



« Scottish Rite has a model hand camp program, and the journal *Cogent Psychology* recently published “The Impact of Therapeutic Camp on Children with Congenital Hand Differences,” by occupational therapist and certified hand therapist Amy Lake, O.T.R., C.H.T. This is **the first study about the effects of camp participation in the pediatric congenital hand difference population.** Our hand camp team has helped start up camps in Florida, Missouri, California, Italy, England and forthcoming to Australia and Singapore.

Hand camp participant Gia, of Dallas



Construction projects are underway, including new signage for Scottish Rite's Dallas campus. Additional updates coming soon!

**Harry Kim, M.D., M.S., and his research team** have been awarded a National Institute of Health (NIH) grant of more than \$2.9 million over five years in support of medical research for the pediatric hip condition Legg-Calvé-Perthes. Successful completion of this project will have immediate clinical impact by providing a proof-of-concept for the minimally invasive, yet potentially highly effective, tissue engineering strategies to overcome current barriers to successful bone regeneration in Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease.

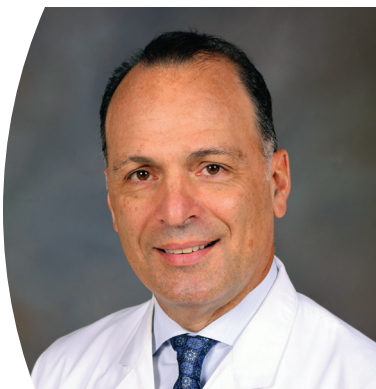


Director of the Center for Excellence in Hip Harry Kim, M.D., M.S., checking his patient Brody's lower extremities and hips in clinic.



« NRC Health has selected Scottish Rite for Children as a recipient of its **2021 Excellence Award – Excellence in Patient Experience: Pediatrics** for the fifth time. NRC Health recognizes top-performing hospitals and health systems that have exhibited an exceptional commitment to understanding each individual's complete care journey.

Director of Patient Experience Ashleigh Kinney, LCSW, and Director of Neurophysiology Michelle R. Christie, M.D., accept Scottish Rite's NRC Award.



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

## Enduring Commitment to Excellence and Innovation

For nearly 25 years, I've had the privilege to practice pediatric orthopedic medicine in pretty close to its purest form at Scottish Rite for Children. Thanks to the profound leadership of our first chief of staff and founder, W. B. Carrell, M.D., this remarkable institution retains its initial intent of providing expert, compassionate care to our patients.

To accomplish this, now for 100 years, we are fortunate to have a clear vision — maintaining a laser-focus on our patient care, research and education to give the best the world has to offer to every one of our patients. Clinical care advances have progressed throughout our various specialties, including spine deformity correction, limb lengthening and reconstruction, hip conditions, as well as for all of our centers for excellence. We have brought new nonoperative and surgical methods of treatment from around the world to allow Scottish Rite to always be on the leading edge.

With landmark discoveries and pioneering advancements directed at finding

answers to our patients' individualized challenges, our team has some outstanding solutions from a macro and micro perspective. In collaboration with the surgeons and bioengineers, we have developed state-of-the-art implants to correct scoliosis and leg differences and deformities, while our genetics team works to identify the underlying cause for these conditions. We continue to have a robust research program in all areas of pediatric orthopedics to answer the unanswerable questions and to allow us to make the very

best decisions when taking care of patients. To take it one step further, our researchers and clinicians publish their findings in the top-tier

orthopedic journals, which informs and educates physicians about clinically important questions and ultimately helps children around the world.

That education continues as Scottish Rite for Children has been training physicians in multiple disciplines of pediatric orthopedics since launching its fellowship program in 1978. Since then, more than 200 fellows have been through our rigorous programs, and many go on to become leaders at medical institutions nationally and internationally. We attract the most talented young physicians and surgeons to the largest fellowship program in the country and continue to grow our world-class medical staff.

We are so proud to be a part of this one-of-a-kind institution and remain committed to improving our patients' lives through providing excellent care every day. «



Pediatric orthopedic surgeon Jaysson T. Brooks, M.D., and his patient Sophie, of Carlton, wrap up her clubfoot clinic visit with a few giggles and a lot of stickers.

# FRONT AND CENTER

## Crossing the Finish Line

Olivia is a vivacious and high-spirited adaptive sports athlete in swimming and running and now a Paratriathlete who was recently chosen as part of the 2021 U.S. Paratriathlon Junior/ U23 Development Team. "I've always loved water, so I've been swimming as long as I can remember," 16-year-old Olivia says. "My mentor [Paralympian] Darlene Hunter said, 'You swim, and you run, so why don't we throw some bicycle in there and see if you qualify to make the U23 team for triathlons,' and it turns out I did! I've been in triathlons since early this year, and I love it."

As a Scottish Rite patient with cerebral palsy, Olivia works with adaptive sports medicine and pediatric rehabilitation physician Stephanie Tow, M.D., for her expertise in Paralympic and adaptive sports. "Olivia was participating in more adaptive sports than anyone else I had met in the Dallas-Fort Worth region — swimming, triathlon, climbing and wheelchair track and field," Tow says. "It was clear she wanted to take advantage of every opportunity in adaptive sports that she could. She has a huge passion for sports and has even traveled to Austin to advocate that the UIL (University Interscholastic League) be more inclusive in schools to include athletes with impairments or disabilities in their sports programming."

Olivia visited Tow to learn about her provisional Para swimming classification, and during her visit she mentioned having chronic shoulder and back pain. "With my disability, I use my arms for everything," Olivia says. "I do a triathlon solely using my arms. I overcompensate, which overworks my muscles completely. Dr. Tow really helped me learn how to manage that, so it doesn't get so bad to the point that I have to stop or possibly get a stress fracture."

Olivia's mother, Karen, appreciates having Scottish Rite in Olivia's corner. "Scottish Rite is awesome," she says. "It's very modern in the way they approach Olivia's care. They keep it real, and that's what we like about them. Everyone has been so accessible to us when we need them."

"There's a misconception about people with disabilities that you are weak and can't do something, and I like to prove people wrong," Olivia says. "I like to do more than people think I can because it shows how athletic I am."

When asked about her upcoming Paratriathlon, Olivia shared what goes through her mind while competing. "I know it's a huge accomplishment, but in my head, I hate it while I'm doing it," Olivia says. "Then I cross the finish line, and it all makes sense. There's nothing better in the world than crossing that finish line. It's the best feeling." «



# THE COMEBACK KID

by Hayley Hair

On the wide-open field under the scorching summer sun, soccer player Lillian lines up her kick and launches the soccer ball through the air hurtling toward the goal. Today, she's training for her select soccer team's upcoming season. Last fall's season looked dramatically different as an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) rupture and meniscus tear took 12-year-old Lillian and her parents not only by surprise but also, unfortunately, out of the game.

"I was in the far corner and a girl hit me from the side," Lillian says. "I heard several pops, and then I was on the ground in tears. It was the most painful thing." Lillian was able to limp away after the injury, but it hurt, and the pain persisted. Lillian's mother, Debbie, set up a doctor's appointment to have Lillian's knee examined. "I had this vision that an ACL injury was excruciating, and you couldn't walk," Debbie says. "She was in pain, but it was not what I thought it would look like. It hurt, but she was mobile."

Following X-rays and an MRI, Lillian's injury was confirmed. "Just hearing the doctor say, 'torn ACL,' I couldn't think of anything. My mind just stopped," Lillian says. Later that day, feeling overwhelmed about her future sports goals, Lillian searched online to find out what professional athletes experienced injuries like hers. Then she saw her soccer idol's name pop up on the list. "It's happened to a lot of professional players, like Alex Morgan, who I've looked up to my entire life," Lillian says. "That kind of comforted me."





## THE INS AND OUTS OF ACL INJURIES IN CHILDREN

The ACL is a stabilizing ligament in the central part of the knee that stabilizes translation and rotation of the joint and is typically injured in pivoting, twisting and agility sports. Throughout the last several decades, recognition of ACL injuries has increased, and rupturing the ACL is particularly common in female soccer.

One hears about torn ACLs frequently in adult sports, but what happens when the injury presents in children? Lillian's X-rays showed that her growth plates were still open, signaling plenty of growing in her future, so her best bet for care would be provided by a pediatric orthopedic specialist. She was referred to Scottish Rite for Children's Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Center in Frisco and into the care of pediatric orthopedic surgeon Philip L. Wilson, M.D., assistant chief of staff and director of the Center for Excellence in Sports Medicine.

For a growing athlete, the experts at Scottish Rite for Children have unparalleled experience providing nonoperative and arthroscopic care to treat common sport-related injuries including concussions, ligament injuries and cartilage conditions in the knee, ankle, shoulder, elbow and hip.

"Some ACL injuries may not need to be reconstructed if there are no cartilage injuries or shifting or instability of the knee," Wilson says. "Unfortunately, this is less common, and despite rehabilitation, many children need surgery due to laxity in their ligaments and their high activity levels." For Lillian's parents, Wilson was the perfect fit for determining their daughter's care.

"Dr. Wilson sat with me and my daughter and answered every question I had under the sun about the data, his experience and his research. He was an open book about everything," Debbie says. "The whole team was positive. They made us feel like we had a great plan in place and that it's all going to be just fine."

## NOVEL SURGERY FOR PATIENTS LIKE LILLIAN

That research Wilson reviewed with the family is the novel ACL surgical technique for growing athletes that he and pediatric orthopedic surgeon Henry B. Ellis, M.D., created and subsequently published in

*The American Journal of Sports Medicine* and presented at the annual meetings of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America and the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine.

"Through our research at Scottish Rite, we developed a particular technique that can cut ACL reinjury rates in half," Wilson says. "Female adolescent soccer players, like Lillian, have a particularly high risk of reinjury, sometimes as high as 25%, which is the highest that we have recorded in youth and young adult sports."

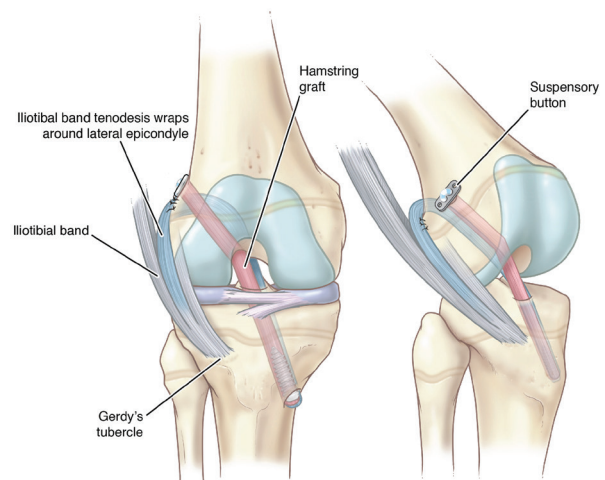
To help reduce reinjury risk, Wilson used a strip of tissue from the side of Lillian's knee to add a secondary stabilizing ligament that helps control rotation and protect the knee.

"There's nothing you can tell a parent to put them at ease when their child is going through the actual procedure," Lillian's father, Sergio, says. "There's nothing routine when someone puts your child under anesthesia, but when you are in a facility like Scottish Rite, in a place where the doctors are proven performers, that gives you peace of mind."

Scottish Rite provides world-class care for patients including access to psychologists, nutritionists, physical therapists, athletic training staff, specialized nurses, advanced practice providers and many others who play a significant role in ensuring complete physical and mental readiness to return to play. "We are fortunate

*Continued on next page*

## » NOVEL ACL RECONSTRUCTION DIAGRAM



to have the resources to take care of the whole patient," Wilson says. "We also have a keen interest in the research surrounding these injuries and contribute to that research in terms of factors predictive of injury, surgery techniques, patient outcomes and potential complications of treatment."

### RETURNING TO SPORTS SAFELY AFTER SURGERY

Finding the proper treatment and completing the surgery are a huge jump start to recovering from an ACL injury, but getting back on the field and ready to safely return to competitive game play takes time. For Lillian, it was nine months.

"When you see your child be very physically active, and then one day, it all comes crashing down, that for me as a parent was deeply concerning," Debbie says. "I knew the journey to get anywhere near that level of activity again was going to be many, many months."

By helping Lillian understand that recovery could take up to a year, Wilson worked alongside the family to get her healthy both physically and mentally to return to soccer. "Every time I went to visit him, he said I was doing great and healing ahead of schedule, and that made me want to work even harder," Lillian says. "I pushed my hardest through every single drill and activity I did, and here I am, and I feel better than ever."

Wilson says the biology of internal healing in the knee takes at least nine months. That time allows for the new ligament graft to heal to the bone and grow a blood supply. That also includes building back the muscle and strength to regain control of the leg to protect the surgically constructed knee. "Return prior to that time leads to increased reinjury rates,"

Wilson says. "Scottish Rite has a stepwise progression of strengthening, agility and neuromuscular control activities to help prepare patients to return to sports."

Following Scottish Rite's well-established, highly successful physical therapy program, Wilson recommended Lillian participate in Scottish Rite's training classes to foster further recovery and prepare for the functional testing and physician's clearance required for her to safely return to soccer. Following months of rehabilitation, many patients need additional strengthening and emotional support to trust their injured leg, beyond what can typically be received during traditional physical therapy. "I just felt so much comfort even though I didn't know anyone there," Lillian says. "Being around the people who have had an injury and who are around my age, it just felt so heartwarming. We would help each other no matter what, and it was just an amazing feeling."

Read more on the opposite page about Lillian's experiences with Scottish Rite's training classes where she worked with strength coaches and other recovering patients in a guided program following rehabilitation.

### BACK ON THE FIELD

Lillian followed her sports medicine team's instructions very closely. With a great deal of hard work, and added support and encouragement from her parents and her teammates, she successfully passed her functional test.

The new soccer season has arrived, and Lillian's parents love seeing her back out there. "Whenever you have to see them take their first tumble to the ground, you kind of hold your breath, but she popped right up," Debbie says. "She just needs to be playing and doing what she loves. For the longer term, the more she's out there, the more she's going to learn to trust that knee."

Lillian has learned a great deal during her ACL injury recovery and from her care at Scottish Rite for Children. "Throughout my entire recovery, I always had one quote in the back of my head — 'the comeback is always stronger than the setback,'" Lillian says. "I carried that with me throughout my entire recovery. It's been quite an experience, but I think it's going to all be worth it." <<



Patient parents Sergio and Debbie with their daughter, Lillian



## A Bridge Back to the Game

Specially designed for young athletes, Scottish Rite's training classes help build strength, conditioning and confidence for both patients following rehabilitation after an injury and participants interested in overall athletic performance improvement.

Program coordinator Ian Wright, P.T., D.P.T., CSCS, USAW, TSAC-F, O.C.S., and additional Physical Therapy team members certified in strength training provide focused, intense instruction so sports medicine patients like Lillian, who has recently recovered from an ACL reconstruction surgery, can return to playing soccer.

"Physical therapy sessions may end long before the body is back to sport-ready," Wright says. And that's where this program comes in. Ninety percent of training class attendees are Scottish Rite patients, and the others are athletes looking for performance coaching and movement training that may help reduce injury risk.

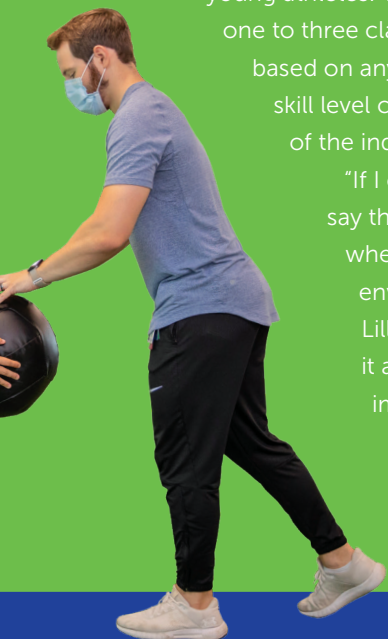
"Even though I'm training as hard as I can, the class is still so enjoyable because you do it with so many different kids who have come through so many different injuries. It's very inspiring," Lillian says.

Poor movement patterns are associated with growth and increased injury risk, so an ongoing or periodic conditioning program can be important to young athletes. Training participants attend from one to three classes a week and are categorized based on any activity restrictions and individual skill level coupled with the specific demands of the individual's sporting position.

"If I could give parents advice, I would say there's something really remarkable when your child is doing therapy in an environment around other children," Lillian's mother, Debbie, says. "To do it around other kids is super, super important. Lillian realized she was not the only one."



Sports medicine patients Jax, his sister Brynlie and Lillian building strength and agility during a training class.



Lillian working hard with instructor and strength coach Caleb Ferrell.

Wright and the team care for the unique challenges of busy student athletes and take external stressors participants face on a daily basis into consideration. "Maybe it's a stressful midterm week or it's out-of-season or maybe it's a hectic game schedule coming up, our therapy staff can adapt and change the classes to fit whatever our participants are going through on and off the court," Wright says.

The benefits to Lillian are clear to her parents and teammates. "These training classes have actually made Lillian stronger, faster and given her more confidence," Lillian's dad, Sergio, says. "It's created such a good habit, and she's able to break away with the ball so easily now."

For information about attending the training classes, contact Therapy Services at [bridgeprogram@tsrh.org](mailto:bridgeprogram@tsrh.org). ◀



## Concussion Experts with the Assist

Watching the basketball ricochet off the rim, Solomon zeroed in on the ball and crowded up next to his opponent. He was guarding closely to block the player's next shot. "I tried to take a charge from him," 13-year-old Solomon says. "I fell back, and I don't remember what happened after that. I just woke up in the hospital."

Solomon toppled onto his back, and that driving force slammed the back of his head against the gym floor. This serious fall halted the semi-final game and silenced the crowd. In that blank space in Solomon's memory, he lost consciousness several times while bearing down from the pain.

When the ambulance arrived, he was put on a stretcher, his jersey cut off and paramedics applied a neck brace for the ambulance ride.

Out of state at a tournament, Solomon was released from care and cleared to fly home to Texas. Carl and Leah, his parents, knew something was wrong from his behavior, and Solomon told them he had a horrible headache and nausea. They quickly made an appointment with the sports medicine experts at Scottish Rite for Children in Frisco.

Sports medicine physician and sport-related concussion specialist Shane M. Miller, M.D., assessed Solomon and confirmed a sport-related concussion. "Concussion management is a team approach, but the care is individualized to the needs of each athlete," Miller says. "Unfortunately, injuries occur during sports, but how you respond is critical. Early recognition and treatment, with a supportive family and coaches leads to better outcomes and a quicker return to play."

Miller and the sports medicine team directed Solomon and his family about next steps. "Early on, it is important to protect the athlete from further injury, so they take a break from their sports activity. Solomon was playing basketball at a very high national level, but his family understood the importance of properly treating his injury and ensuring a full recovery, which is so important for a young athlete."

Miller says adjustments are made to the school environment to allow for continued learning during recovery, and as symptoms improve, physical activity is gradually increased until the athlete has fully recovered

and receives clearance to return to play. This process is usually a few days to weeks, and most young athletes will fully recover from a concussion within a month.

"It was awesome knowing he was taken care of from the moment he walked in the door," Leah says. "We saw very professional and very informative doctors who could explain the concussion treatment in a way that Solomon could understand. Everybody was supportive, not only of Solomon, but also of us as well, to make sure he gets better the way he needs to."

Solomon was eager to work within the recommended guidelines to get back to the sport he loves. He also participated in one of Scottish Rite's ongoing studies looking at changes in gait, balance and cognitive activities following a concussion. "Our highly specialized team and state-of-the-art equipment in the Movement Science Lab allow us to conduct research that many other facilities don't have the ability to perform," Miller says. "This contributes to the data that changes how we manage injuries and hopefully helps Solomon and other young athletes recover from their injury and return to their sport faster and safer."

"The movement science program was very cool," Carl says. "They were able to track Solomon's movements from a vestibular standpoint, measuring his balance and stability. They put all these markers on him, and he looked like they were making a video game with him."

Cleared for the court, Solomon is fully back in action. "I really need to read the court and know who to pass to — there's really a lot of thinking I do," Solomon says. "Without Dr. Miller, I wouldn't be able to do this stuff because I'd still be dizzy and having headaches in the game. But now I'm 100%, and I can really focus on what I'm trying to do." «

Solomon showing his skills and confidence back on the court.



“SCOTTISH RITE MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I AM MAKING A DIFFERENCE.”

**MICHAEL L. WALDROP**  
Advisory Trustee Since 2016

Anyone who meets **Michael L. Waldrop** immediately sees his sincere passion for two things: his close-knit family and the masonic fraternity that he believes made him a better person. Waldrop started his family first, marrying his wife Melba after he graduated from Baylor University. This year, they will celebrate 52 years of marriage. He and Melba love spending time with their two daughters and their two grandchildren at their home in Crawford, Texas, which Waldrop built himself. His house has zip lines, a trampoline, a pool and go-carts to keep his grandchildren entertained. “It’s like Six Flags over at my house,” Waldrop says.

Although Waldrop will say that he’s not good at any one thing, he’ll also tell you about how he can do a little bit of everything. “I have worked in factories, been a plumber, owned a water utility company, drove a truck for Central Freight lines, been a marketing manager for National Lloyds Insurance Company, been a safety director for three construction companies, served on the State of Texas Safety Board, and currently serve as the General Secretary of Waco Scottish Rite Bodies.”

His start in Masonry began in 1984 when some colleagues were organizing a masonic event in Crawford, and he took it as an opportunity to help his friends. Appreciative of Waldrop’s charitable nature,

they offered him a petition to join their local lodge, and he jumped at the chance. “When I got into Masonry, I went into it full blown,” Waldrop says. “It’s a way of life,” he says. “Masonry is to be better tomorrow than I am today. If you live by what you say you’re going to do, it will make you a better father, a better husband, a better community member and a better church member.”

Scottish Rite for Children was founded and led by Texas Masons, and Waldrop loves to share the tenets of the organization any chance he gets. He attends meetings every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights, where he mentors new members and shares what Masonry means to him.

Waldrop is also a proud member of Scottish Rite for Children’s board because it lets him play a part in the organization’s accomplishments. “Seeing the faces of the children and families who are at Scottish Rite makes me feel like I am making a difference,” he says.

People know that when Waldrop says he is going to do something, it will get done. He hands people business cards with his personal contact information and wholeheartedly means it when he says to call him anytime. “I hope I have done things that have helped other people and made the world a better place,” Waldrop says. <<

Evee Pac™ creator Jennifer Pruitt with her son, Andy.

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT



New scoliosis brace recipient Elizabeth, on left, learns how to use the Eevee Pac™ for convenient, low-profile brace carry from Andy.

## A Backpack for Your Brace

When Jennifer Pruitt's daughter Eva was diagnosed with adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS) and prescribed a brace, it sparked an idea that has now become a real-life solution for other Scottish Rite families starting their journey with scoliosis bracing.

Compelled to help her daughter, Jennifer asked a seamstress friend to make Eva a couple of specially designed backpacks to use for school and athletics. "I saw what my daughter was going through," Jennifer says. "So many people asking her what the brace was. It was a worry for her, and she felt different."

This new bag would later become the Eevee Pac™, a wide-mouthed, drawstring-closure backpack that totes a scoliosis brace in style. The bright green Eevee rolls up and collapses into a zippered pouch when not in use.

While finalizing production details, Jennifer's son, Andy, was diagnosed with AIS and prescribed a brace just like his sister, but now he was able to use the Eevee. "It was way easier, and I don't have as much attention whenever you are just carrying another bag," Andy says.

Development officer Mike Stimpson and Don Virostek, Eva and Andy's orthotist and director of Orthotics at Scottish Rite, provided feedback and support about the backpack anytime Jennifer needed it. Now Scottish Rite orthotists provide the Eevee to any patients receiving a new brace.

"The generous funding from the Cardinal Foundation of Dayton, Ohio, the creative design work of Halo Branded Solutions and, of course, Jennifer's commitment and passion for our mission made the backpack a reality for our patients, and we are very grateful," Vice President of Development Stephanie Brigger says.

"Scottish Rite is all about the well-being of its patients," Jennifer says. "They were so wonderful to be open to and support the backpack project. In the end, these backpacks aim to make kids' lives a little easier, and that's really what it's all about." «

## HELP MAKE THE SEASON MERRY AND BRIGHT!



Scan the QR code to check out Scottish Rite For Children's Amazon Wish List, and give a gift for our precious patients during the holidays!

Aashna and Aariya,  
of Colleyville





2222 Welborn Street  
Dallas, Texas 75219-3993

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

## COMMEMORATE OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> YEAR WITH HOLIDAY CHEER!

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO SUPPORT SCOTTISH  
RITE FOR CHILDREN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!



Brighten your tree with a **commemorative ornament** for our centennial anniversary.  
To order, please call (214) 559-8464.



Not sure what to give your family, friends and colleagues this year? We'll send **personalized donation acknowledgments** for your gift to Scottish Rite to everyone on your list!



Visit [scottishriteforchildren.org/give](https://scottishriteforchildren.org/give) or scan the QR code to order and share your love of the remarkable mission of Scottish Rite for Children!

### ABOUT SCOTTISH RITE FOR CHILDREN

Scottish Rite for Children is a world-renowned leader in the treatment of orthopedic conditions such as scoliosis, clubfoot, hand differences, hip disorders, sports injuries and fractures, as well as certain related arthritic and neurological disorders and learning disorders, such as dyslexia. Patients receive treatment regardless of the family's ability to pay.

For more information about services available at the Dallas or Frisco campuses, visit [scottishriteforchildren.org](https://scottishriteforchildren.org).

Are you receiving duplicate mailings or need to correct your name, title or address? Please send corrections to P.O. Box 199300, Dallas, Texas 75219-9842 or call 214-559-7650.

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

