



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Christmas Comes Early to the Center!

Yakima Masonic Charities Awards \$5,000 to Yakima Hearing & Speech Center for the Purchase of an Impedance Audiometer

The Yakima Masonic Charities awarded a grant of \$5,000 to the Yakima Valley Hearing & Speech Center for the purchase of a new GSI Tymptstar Impedance Audiometer for the Center. The Center keeps two impedance audiometers busy every day because this equipment is essential for evaluating the status of the middle ear in children and adults. The \$5,000 grant was presented to the Center December 3rd by Raymond Beaver, organizer of the Mason's Scottish Rite Christmas party. The Mason's Scottish Rite organization hosted a family Christmas Party that included ice cream refreshments, activities, games and a visit from Santa.

The grant announcement brought cheers and a round of applause from the 66 children and adults attending the Scottish Rite Christmas social. The guests were patients and staff members of at the Hearing and Speech Center and they were friends of the Scottish Rite organization. The funds were gratefully received by Gary Staples, President of the Board of Directors for Yakima Valley Hearing & Speech Center.

Gary Staples said, "The Mason's do more for disabled children than any organization in America. We are very proud to have the support and confidence of the Yakima Masonic Charities. We will use the Impedance audiometer to test the hundreds of children each year who have no other means of auditory care." The request for this audiometer was submitted in order to replace a 17 year old out-dated audiometer.

Scottish Rite is a part of the Mason's Charities organizations. In the 1950's, in Colorado, the Scottish Rite organization initiated a program to help children with speech and language disorders. The results obtained from this program led to the establishment of Rite-Care® clinics which provide diagnostic evaluation and treatment of speech and language disorder, as well as learning disabilities. Today, there are 178 RiteCare® clinics and programs operating throughout the United States. Each facility is staffed by professionally trained personnel.

Thousands of youngsters across the United States have been helped by RiteCare®. These children, who might have been left educationally behind, are living improved lives.

The Yakima Valley Hearing & Speech Clinic is located at 303 S. 12th Ave. in Yakima, Washington. The Center was founded in October 1971 by a parent group who guided the establishment of communication services in this community. More information about the Center is available on the website: www.speechandhearingcenter.com or by calling **509-453-8248**.

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YAKIMA VALLEY HEARING & SPEECH CENTER IS A PRIVATE, NONPROFIT 501-C-3 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO ENABLE PEOPLE WITH COMMUNICATION AND HEARING DISORDERS ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

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