I look around this room and I find it hard to believe that only 3 ½ years ago this company started to address the needs of children who were on Medicaid, hence the name, Rehab For All. There are so many of you here, and that means we are helping so many children; we are closer to living up to the name I gave the company.

I am so proud of what each of you has accomplished individually, and as a team. You’ve helped special children learn to roll over, walk, throw a ball, feed themselves, accept food by mouth, swallow, tolerate being touched or held by their mother, learn social skills, language and reach their fullest potential.

In many of these kids’ lives, their parents don’t know what to do or in some cases have just given up. The time that you spend with them, your time away from your own families, the time that you’ve spent planning what toys to bring over and use therapeutically, the time shopping at the ARC or Dollar Tree; all that you do gives these children a chance at success.

The hour you spend with them is usually their favorite time of the week. You’ve seen the sad looks on their faces when you leave. Their faces pressed up against the window. Each week they look forward to seeing you, and the toys you bring. You’re so good at making things fun, that they don’t even know they are learning. That is what separates you from others in our field.

We all put on many different hats throughout the week. Some of you have 4, 5 or 6 children and some of your children have received OT, PT and Speech therapy. Some of you are grandparents, while others are hoping that is way off in the distance. I appreciate the time you give to this company in supporting our mission and values.

This is our fourth year serving the children of Colorado Springs. We have stayed true to our core founding principles, to serve Medicaid, and we are still > 90% Medicaid. Year 1 was OT only, then we added PT in year 2, then Speech in year 3, all because our families needed it, and demanded it.

And in this, our 4th year, we will be adding nursing services. Because this differs from Therapy, we will be calling the company About Kids Home Care. The name is different but the core principles remain: the focus on kids first. Next year we are also going to be mailing out birthday cards to every child we see, and you will all be given access to online training with courses ranging from Pediatric ICU and infant feeding to HIPPA and OSHA. We’re only just getting going.

There are many things to be grateful for every day. I am grateful for all of the lives that we have changed, and I think you would agree, that this job, or this calling, has also changed many of you. I am grateful for all of you.

Please take time to enjoy yourselves this evening in this kid free zone. Socialize, and get to know your colleagues. There is a cash bar, but please drink responsibly so that next year when we reminisce about the Christmas party and stories, you do not become ‘the story’.

So to all of you; Happy Holidays, and my very best wishes for you and your families in 2016.

Cheers.