

DR. ELISABETH H. PASZTOR BRANDT, PH.D, SOM
1922 - 1999

Born in Vienna, Austria in 1922, Elisabeth Pasztor came of age in wartime Switzerland. Her formal schooling was interrupted for fourteen years when she contracted severe polio at age fifteen. Dr. Brandt immigrated to the United States in 1951. She received her Masters degree at the University of Arizona in Tempe, and her Doctorate in Communications Methodology and Speech Pathology from the University of Denver. One of her passions at that time and throughout her life was theatre and acting. Dr. Brandt practised Speech Pathology in Denver and in New Jersey and taught at Montclair College in New Jersey. She married Lewis W. Brandt, Ph.D in 1962 in Denver. The Brandts translated books together and taught in Europe. In 1968 Lewis was appointed as a professor of psychology at the University of Regina. Elisabeth continued her work as a Speech Language Pathologist and an expert in communication disorders, particularly for preschool children.

Dr. Brandt is best known for her role in designing and establishing SCEP CENTRE, Regina's first early intervention therapeutic day program for difficult children and their families. In 1968 she served as the first program director of SCEP, then as a consultant and board member for the next 30 years. She pioneered a unique and holistic way of dealing with the communication and behaviour problems of young children, which is considered to have been far in advance of its time.

Dr. Brandt's influence extended far beyond SCEP CENTRE's day program as she trained and supervised the work of over a thousand students in nursing, psychology, social work and education/early childhood education who received training at SCEP CENTRE. Her impact on the lives of young children and their families was immeasurable. Dr. Brandt accomplished her life's work despite being seriously disabled by polio and much later by diabetes and post-polio syndrome.

Her contributions to Saskatchewan and Canada were recognized and honoured when she was named a YWCA Woman of Distinction, a Soroptimist International Woman of Distinction in Education and the winner of the United Way of Regina's President's Medal; when she was given an award by the Regina Members of the Canadian Association for Young Children and especially when she was honoured by being inducted into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit by the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. In 1999 she was further honoured with a life membership in the Saskatchewan Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

Dr. Brandt died in September of 1999 but her legacy of a more understanding way of helping children, as best expressed at SCEP CENTRE, continues to better the lives of young children and their families.