



COLORADO

How Does Steve Vogler...?

by Mary Zavadil

How does Steve Vogler do his pediatric residency?

Does he love the rotations that give him the chance to put lines
in his patients, provide life support, advanced?
Does he thrill on the wards where the charts are the thickest?
Does he love poking and prodding the kids who are sickest?

NO!

He jumps in with both feet to his care clinic primary
In the Denver Health Child Care Clinic weekly, with Andy and Mary!
His patients adore him, especially a girl premie,
Whom he follows until she is full grown, not teeny.

How does Steve Vogler practice pediatrics?

Does he look for a practice where production is high,
And develop a reputation as the “churn ‘em through guy”?
Or become a concierge doc, serving kids of the stars
So he can start a collection of vintage sports cars?

NO!

He packs up three years of families that he’s collected with pride
And moves out to Federal and 11th to join the team at West Side!
He continues his care that is thoughtful and kind,
Forging long term relationships at the front of his mind.
He soon realized for his patients that it would be great
To offer them more than sick visits and keep their shots up to date.
His patients were missing out in so many categories,
And most of them were going to sleep with no bedtime stories.
Then he heard of a program called Reach Out and Read
And thought “this is just what my little friends need!”

How does Steve Vogler start Reach Out and Read Colorado?

Does he loudly announce he is saving the pediatric world
From illiteracy and despair as his banner’s unfurled?
Does he inherit a trust fund to cover the books
And figure he’s raise the rest with his charm and good looks?

NO! (but the charm and good looks helped!)

He starts out quite small at his own local clinic,
And developed a program everyone wants to mimic!
Then he teams up with some others for whom reading aloud strikes a chord
And pretty soon it’s legit, with an ED, a staff and a board!
His great reputation among colleagues across the state,
Helps this program grow in size from one clinic to 328!!

How does RORCO react to Steve’s retirement?

Do we fall on the floor like an unhappy child?
Do we cry “one more story!” with our legs kicking wild?

Well.....maybe a little. Who can replace Steve?

BUT, RORCO’s in good hands, with a wonderful, dedicated team,
Who are passionately working to carry on with Steve’s dream!
We’ve adapted to Covid, thanks to some creative outlooks
And in honor of Steve, we are adding MORE BOOKS!
Instead of 6 months of age, we will start at one week
Starting brand new babies and families on their own reading streak!
Back to Birth will ensure that all children are surrounded
By high quality books, that will help them get grounded
In the magic of stories, with their parents as teachers.
And their health care providers cheering on from the bleachers!

**So raise a glass to dear Steve, who’s dedicated his career
To equality for children starting every school year.**

And to quote another RORCO standby, Dr Seuss:

I meant what I say and I say what I meant
Steve’s a great pediatrician and person, 100 percent!