



## Letter from the President



Deb Voth

Each year on October 15th we step back from our usual work and celebrate staff who have been with Rainbows 10 years or longer with our annual 10:15+ Club. While we couldn't all gather together to participate

in fun group activities this year, we still enjoyed an atmosphere of camaraderie, laughter and community via Zoom. Friends and colleagues cheered from socially-distanced seats in the board room and from the computer screens in their living rooms as 12 honorees were recognized for their milestone anniversaries.

Two staff celebrated 15 years with Rainbows. Six staff received recognition for 20 years. Two staff have been with us for 25 years, and two have been a part of Rainbows for 30 years. Just think of the years of experience these staff members bring with them in serving children with special needs and their families.

Sunflower Espresso delighted all Rainbows' staff members who came early to the parking lot at Kids' Point to pick up a hot beverage and muffin to go courtesy of Rainbows' Board of Directors and Executive Leadership Team.

Board Member Pat Gearhart was the perfect host of Rainbows' Jeopardy. The Zoom participants put on their thinking caps

and had a wonderful time "competing" for bragging rights.

As with all things at Rainbows, not even a pandemic could stop us from celebrating and honoring the continued work of Rainbows' employees. 2020 has been filled with many challenges and every one of those challenges have been met with determination and handled with grace.

This day 10:15+ would not be possible without the support of our Board of Directors. They sponsor this special tradition at Rainbows and love seeing and hearing the stories of our committed staff. They recognized that it was more important than ever to celebrate those around us.

Deb Voth, President

## Giving Tuesday

Mark your calendars and get set to be part of something BIG! December 1 is #GivingTuesday!

Each year, on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, folks everywhere answer the call to support their favorite nonprofits. After Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday and more, Giving Tuesday brings into focus the joy of giving at the open of the holiday season. For the last several years, Rainbows has participated in the world wide day of giving. We invite YOU to join us this year!

On December 1, check us out on social media or at [RainbowsUnited.org](https://RainbowsUnited.org) for all the fun. Join with others in the joy of giving and seeing how you bring potential to life with your contribution.



GIVING  
TUESDAY

**Now more than ever  
we are called to  
make a difference.**

#GivingTuesday | Dec 1, 2020

**RAINBOWS**  
bringing potential to life

## InterHab Winners



As part of the 2020 InterHab Power Up! Conference, November 9 – 13, Rainbows' Vice President of Programs and Services Debbie Mai was honored with the prestigious President's Award for her statewide work in support of individuals with disabilities especially her work with infants and toddlers. Most recently, she provided significant leadership on a major technology project that prepared the Agency to transition to tele-therapy to continue services through the COVID-10 pandemic. Congratulations Debbie!



In addition, Rainbows' teen Dylan Schneider was honored with the Outstanding Youth Award. Dylan is a freshman at Goddard Eisenhower High School. He has been a recipient of Rainbows' services since he was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Delays when he was 2 years old. He loves sports of all kinds and has grown in his confidence to advocate for his needs and set goals for his physical activity. He enjoys Rainbows' Camp Woodchuck and currently gets in-home services during days school is online. Congratulations Dylan!

## The Giving Season

Fall, the time of year when the sun sets sooner, the leaves start to change color, and the weather becomes much cooler. Fall brings more than seasonal changes, as it launches Rainbows Annual Giving Campaign. The fall of 2020 will be like no other we have experienced, but Rainbows remains committed to serving children with special needs and their families.

Rainbows programs have been consistent throughout the pandemic and 643 new children have come into Rainbows services in the last 8 months. Our Targeted Case Management and Family Support Programs are working hard to meet the increased needs of families, while our Early Childhood Mental Health Program is focused on supporting children through these unprecedented times.

However, we need your help to navigate the challenges ahead. When you receive the Annual Campaign in the mail, we hope you will consider giving a gift to Rainbows this fall. Together, we can help families reach their full potential – regardless of the challenging time that surround us.

## SPARK Grant

New challenges call for new opportunities! We all are experiencing different ways of working, playing or living in this season. And our children are learning in new ways!

Rainbows offers 17 early intervention services, like speech therapy, physical therapy, or social work to over 2,000 children, age birth to 3 years old. Each therapist works with parents to meet a child's specific needs, at no cost to families. During this COVID-19 pandemic, these interventions have had to be conducted virtually.

To respond to this timely need, Rainbows applied for and received a grant through the SPARK Education – Technology for Families Program, awarded by the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, made possible with federal funding through the CARES Act/ Coronavirus Relief Fund. Though this award, a small number of families receiving services will receive Chromebooks and Verizon wireless Jetpacks for internet service.

## Eagle Scout Project

Max Fiebach, Eagle Scout candidate, chose volunteering at Rainbows for his Eagle Scout final project. Planning and executing a group project during a pandemic brought new challenges and a new determination from Max. Thank you Max and Boy Scout Troop #520 for all your hard work.



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