



The Canvas

Letter from the President



Deb Voth

It is that time of year when we reflect on the past year. No doubt 2020 will leave us with imprinted memories for years to come. It has been a year of events that most of us

have never experienced. Fear and uncertainty have ruled throughout the pandemic. In spite of that, I would like to focus on gratitude as there has been much for which to be grateful.

Rainbows has been fortunate to continue all of our services

throughout the pandemic. Granted some of the them have been delivered in a different way, but children and families continue to be served. We even expanded our Infant/Toddler Services into Sumner County beginning July 2020. More than 1,200 new children have been added to Rainbows' services overall since the first of April.

Because of federal, state, and local assistance we have been able to keep all staff employed, access large amounts of Personal Protective Equipment to help keep our staff and families safe, and purchase technology equipment to allow staff to work remotely. We have also learned that working remotely is

a viable option for some positions instead of putting staff in limited office space. Because of the continued support of donors like you, we are able to continue all our services as we move forward into 2021.

In these past 8 months we have learned what is valuable and meaningful in our lives. I hope that as you reflect on this past year, you too, will find much for which to be grateful.

Stay safe. Stay strong.

Deb

Photos with "Santa"

What do you do when Santa can't visit? Children at Kids' Point got the opportunity to have their holiday photo taken with Bogey this year. Thanks to Sue Dieker and Bogey for dropping by for the cute photos.



Early Intervention helps Marshall Family



"The day Ryan took his first few steps (January 8, 2019) we cried the happiest, ugliest tears and thank goodness for technology because we could film it and send it to everyone in our contacts list," said Allison, Ryan's mom. "We were so proud to send it to our Rainbows' therapist, knowing how hard Ryan had worked with her to get to that point."

Jamee Funk is Ryan's physical therapist and also his primary coach. Ryan sees multiple therapists including Nicole Nickel, speech language pathologist, and Leslie English,

early childhood teacher, for joint visits every month as a part of the multidisciplinary team approach Rainbows offers all of its families.

Ryan was diagnosed with seizures at 4 months of age and a B12 deficiency. At 6 months, Ryan developed Infantile Spasms. Since December of 2018 he has been one year seizure free and is still on seizure medications. Ryan's seizures happened when the family was living briefly in Columbus, Ohio. They ended up at Nationwide Children's hospital and before they were discharged, the hospital helped them set up all of the services and/or doctors Ryan would need to follow up with in Wichita.

"We were familiar with the name Rainbows," said Allison, "but it would be later that we would find out that we could not have

made it through this journey with Ryan without Rainbows."

The family has worked with Jamee the longest and very much think of her and talk about her like she is a member of their family. "When Ryan first had his Infantile Spasms, we had no idea what they were," said Allison. "It was Jamee who identified them and recommended calling our Primary Care Physician. That then led us to KC Mercy where Ryan was properly treated for Infantile Spasms. Jamee would check in with us; check in on how Ryan was and give us different suggestions of stretches and exercises we could be doing. She was the support we needed"

Watch Ryan's Story by scanning this code.



How CARES Act Changes Deducting Charitable Contributions

In this season of giving, taxpayers who are feeling generous have multiple ways to make donations to charities and receive extra tax benefits. This year, there's an additional component at play with so many people, businesses and organizations struggling due to COVID-19. Many people may not realize it, but there's a special tax deduction available for them through Dec. 31, 2020 for cash donations up to \$300 to qualifying charities, such as Rainbows.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, enacted by Congress last spring, includes several temporary tax changes helping charities. This includes a special \$300 deduction designed especially for people who choose to take the standard deduction, rather than itemizing their deductions.

What does this mean for the average taxpayer? Nearly nine in 10



taxpayers now take the standard deduction and could potentially qualify for this new tax deduction. The most recent figures from 2018 show more than 134 million taxpayers claimed the standard deduction, representing more than 87% of all filers.

So if someone makes a cash donation to a qualifying charity, such as Rainbows, before the end of 2020, they can get a deduction of up to \$300. The deduction lowers both adjusted gross income and taxable income – translating into tax savings.

This is a win-win for taxpayers and for organizations like Rainbows. To learn more, contact your tax advisor or go to www.irs.gov.

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