



## Letter from the President



Deb Voth

Every August, Rainbows' staff gather together to share successes from the past year and priorities for the upcoming year. We usually hear inspiring stories from families that reinforce the work

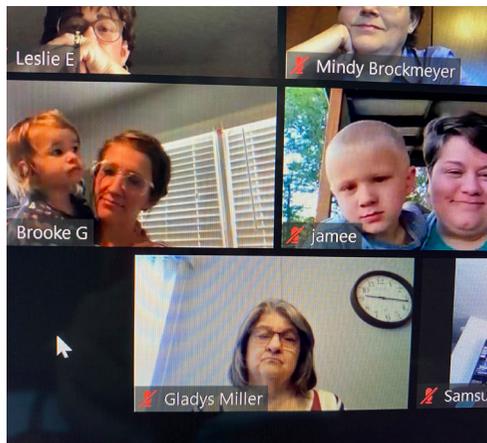
our staff do. So, as we approached August 2020, what would we do? We are operating in COVID19 mode. We have been so careful to follow the guidelines in an effort to keep our staff and those we serve as safe as possible.

We did what most businesses have done -- we turned to video conferencing. We have been using this approach for conducting daily business but how were we going to reach more than 200 employees? Well, we held 10 one-hour sessions in two days so I could address each group personally. It was so good to see all of their faces.

One of the big highlights for the year is the use of technology. Last March when COVID started in our area, more than half of our staff were able to perform their work remotely. Some of that work looked different -- instead of doing face-to-face therapy visits in family homes, staff provided teletherapy. The technology system Rainbows invested in three years ago made that possible. I am thankful that permitted us to move into action quickly.

The theme for our All Staff was "Don't Stop

Thinking About Tomorrow". While we do not know what tomorrow will look like, we do know tomorrow will come. We have the opportunity to continue to adapt and look for opportunities to improve and be better than we were before. Just like almost everyone else, we have been in a state of survival these past five months. However, services have continued through all of this. Staff have done everything they could to take care of our children and families.



No one thought we'd still be in this situation at this time with no end in sight but here we are. We will continue to face what challenges come our way with courage and strength. More than 3,800 children, youth and their families are depending on us to do our work.

Your continued support is more meaningful now than before. I hope you will continue on this journey alongside us.

Deb Voth, President

## Mental Health trainings

Training for early childhood service providers and mental health professionals are a part of services provided through Rainbows' Mental Health program. On average, the Mental Health team has 8 Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) approved trainings and they facilitate 3-5 trainings a year to other professionals at Rainbows, community partners, and early childhood centers where Rainbows is providing service.

This year, Audra Kenneson, Rainbows' Mental Health Coordinator, challenged her staff to identify new topics, based on needs they see in the field, and develop training curriculum to address those community issues. "When I set this goal, I had no idea we would be facing a pandemic. However, after Rainbows transitioned staff to work remotely and provide tele-therapy services to families, we continued to work on our training goal," said Audra. "At a time when we might have done well to just get by, Rainbows' Mental Health professionals joined forces, supported one another, and created something really fantastic that will help others."

Over the past few months, the Mental Health Team developed 8 new trainings and in August, submitted applications to KDHE for approval. "In the end, if all goes well with KDHE, we will have 15 available trainings," said Audra. "In order to be leaders in our industry, we must continue to set goals and achieve success. I am so proud of my staff and the work they did to create meaningful training content, ultimately benefiting children and families."

## Matching Gift Programs double support

Every day, our volunteers, our donors, and our cooperate partners change the lives of children with special needs and their families, through their support of Rainbows United. With corporate matching programs, all of these come together to multiply their impact! Many companies – small and large – match tax-deductible charitable contributions made by their employees. Others support or financially back employees volunteer efforts.

It's a win-win-win. The employee benefits from the support of their company and the opportunity to make an impact in a cause they care about. The company benefits from increased employee engagement, as well as a stronger connection to the community. Finally, children and families of Rainbows benefit through the generous impact of individuals and corporate generosity.

One local employer that supports their employees in this way is Evergy. Sherii Farmer, Community Relations Manager at Evergy and a member of Rainbows Board of Directors explains, "At Evergy, we are committed to making an impact in the communities we serve with our gifts, time and talent. We see it as a part of our mission to create and sustain thriving communities. Through our Community Connectors program, my employer supports me as a volunteer and a board member. They also support the mission financially, because of my involvement."

Many employers share Evergy's commitment to the community, including through volunteer efforts and matching gift programs. Learn more about matching gift programs and see if your employer participates at [rainbowsunited.org/pages/matching-gift-companies](https://rainbowsunited.org/pages/matching-gift-companies) or by talking to your company.



## Give back through volunteering

When Peter Hampel's Luau was canceled this year due to the unprecedented circumstances of COVID-19, the Hampel family and Hampel Oil Organization began to look for other ways to give back to Rainbows. "We've hosted the Luau for over a decade and couldn't image not helping Rainbows in some way this year, so we decided to volunteer our time," said Staci Terstriep, Marketing Manager for Hampel Oil.

Four generations of the Hampel family spent a hot August morning at Rainbows' Kids' Point helping to beautify the campus. They moved a mountain of mulch, pulled weeds, removed dead trees and brought smiles to little faces watching from classroom windows. "Rainbows' has provided therapy and education for children in our family and for children of Hampel Oil employees. We wanted to spend time

giving back to Rainbows by volunteering to help with the outdoor projects," said Scott Hampel, President of Hampel Oil.



Thank you Scott, Staci and other members of the Hampel family for helping Rainbows in a meaningful way.

To see more of the story:



## New Board Member



Rainbows welcomes Chuck Passannante, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Textron Aviation to the Board of Directors.

Chuck has more than 30 years of experience leading teams in consulting, systems modernization, information technology, strategy development, business and technology alignment and project and portfolio management.

"I have been impressed with Rainbows' mission and look forward to getting involved with an organization focused on children in the community," said Chuck.

He loves music, travel and sports – especially the Miami Dolphins. He and his wife, Chandra, have 3 adult children: Rebecca (married to Daniel), Anthony and Alexandra.

Welcome Chuck!

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