



# The Canvas

**RAINBOWS**  
bringing potential to life

October 2020

## Letter from the President



Deb Voth

I want to share with you that Rainbows recently expanded one of its services to Sumner County. We are now providing Infant/Toddler Services to families in Sumner County who

have children birth to age 3 needing therapy interventions.

Last March, the State Department of Health and Environment asked Rainbows to consider taking over these Infant/Toddler services in Sumner County. The agency who had previously provided these early intervention services was no longer able to continue to do so. Just as we began discussions, COVID-19 hit our area and all of that was set aside.

In May after obtaining program data and financial information, Rainbows' Board discussed this opportunity. After careful consideration, our Board approved of Rainbows expanding Infant/Toddler Services into Sumner County. As one Board Member summed it up, "If families and children need services and we can do it, then we should". So even during a pandemic, Rainbows' Board continues to "Make Children and Families our highest priority".

As we enter into this season of thankfulness and giving, please remember Rainbows in your plans. In a few weeks, we will be mailing our Appeal for end of year giving. We'll be sharing about the work that has continued throughout the pandemic and how you can continue to be a part of filling the gap to fund these critical services going forward.

As we have navigated through COVID-19, Rainbows has kept three critical keys as our focus: 1) protect the well-being of our staff and individuals served; 2) maintain services; and 3) sustain the financial stability of Rainbows. We will continue to function in this way so services to more than 3,800 children and their families can continue in the years to come.

*Deb*

Thank you.

## Providing homes for children in foster care

The Specialized Foster Care program at Rainbows is small, but it serves an important role in serving a special population of Kansas children.

Historically, most states struggle when it comes to finding foster families who are willing to accept into their homes children with significant needs due to their I/DD diagnosis. Rainbows has been committed to doing what we can to ensure there are homes to serve children who need this special care.

Families who serve as Rainbows' Foster Families have experience working with children who have special needs. One thing is for sure, the Rainbows' Foster Families are loving, generous, and fill a special place in the hearts of the children for whom they care.



## Foster Care Intro Session

Monday, October 26: 1- 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11: 6:30-7 p.m.

With Kerri Dixon

20 year Foster Care Social Work veteran

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RSVP to [kdixon@rui.org](mailto:kdixon@rui.org)

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## United Way of the Plains helps fund Critical Programs

If it's fall – it's United Way time! Here at Rainbows United, we are in the midst of planning our internal employee campaign. Of course, that looks a little different this year. But we are once again honored to stand with our transformational partners at the United Way of the Plains and want to thank everyone else who is doing the same, across our community!

United Way funding sustains three critical programs at Rainbows United. The first is Quality Specialized Child Care. Thanks to United Way, our Direct Service Professionals were able to pivot to all in-home services and provide

needed care for youth ages birth-21.

Targeted Case Management services met critical, elevated needs during this time, thanks to United Way support. This program offers comprehensive and coordinated resources to help children who have a developmental disability and their families to access medical, social, educational and other needed services.

Finally, the United Way has supported the work of Developmental Assessments and Evaluations. Kids do not stop growing and developing during a pandemic. The need to evaluate

children in an effective and timely matter remains.

The United Way of the Plains made all this possible, while also responding to overwhelming community needs through their 211 line and other critical supports. Now, more than ever we are thankful for the generosity and incredible services of the United Way. Just as Rainbows brings potential to life for children – the United Way brings potential to life for Rainbows, as an organization.



### New Date for Fashion Passion

After much listening, discussion, and careful consideration, we have made the difficult decision not to host **Fashion Passion** in 2020. Yes, we are heartbroken and we know you are too. However, the health and safety of our guests, staff and community is our primary concern.

Next year, Fashion Passion will return with a fresh, fierce and fabulous event. Join us in November, 2021 as we celebrate 15 years of Fashion with a purpose.

Keep checking [RainbowsUnited.org](http://RainbowsUnited.org) for more information!

### Breaking the Mold

Wichita State University AmeriCorps VISTA Fellow, Kyla Kuss completes her year of service at Rainbows in October. Kyla worked in the Research Department writing grants, making recommendations for streamlining grants processes, and assisting with reports. She recently took the lead on the Technology for Families grant submitted to the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund that resulted in \$23,763 for technology.



Kyla is ending her service year by organizing and analyzing data and writing a summary of the results of Birth to Three, Read to Me. This is a four-year project to describe the early language skills of infants and toddlers who received early intervention services from Bright Beginnings and Sedgwick County Infant/Toddler Services.

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