



# The Canvas

February 2020

## Letter from the President



Rainbows United has two focus areas for this Legislative session: 1) a rate increase for our Family Support Services, and 2) increased funding for *tiny-k* our Infant/Toddler Services

in both Sedgwick and Butler counties. These increases are critical.

Through our Family Support Services (FSS), we provide a service called Supportive Home Care (SHC) for children/youth ages 5 to 21 years. This service includes In-Home care, Latchkey when school is out, Weekend Center-Based services, and Camp Woodchuck. Families primarily need these services so they can work and sometimes receive a much needed break.

We currently serve 154 children in Family Support Services. Through this program more than 48,000 hours of care annually are provided. However, we estimate that Rainbows is not able to provide a minimum of 6,000 hours because of an inability to hire a sufficient number of staff. This challenge is primarily because we, like other providers of services for those with Intellectual/Developmental Delays, cannot offer a competitive wage. A rate increase through the Intellectual/Developmental Disability Medicaid Waiver could mean the difference for children and families to receive the hours of care needed.

Rainbows employs 157 Direct Support Providers (DSP), most of whom are part-time, for 9 months a year. We add more than 40 staff in the summer (June through August) to meet the needs of families when school is not in session. We simply need more quality staff who can pass 10 background checks as well as fingerprinting to meet the needs of families.

Rainbows, along with other *tiny-k* providers, is asking the Kansas Legislature for increased funding for services to children birth to age 3 with special needs. The number of children we currently serve is 24% more than just 3 years ago. Federal and State laws require that we serve every child who is eligible and want the services, which include therapies, education, hearing, vision, and other services. There can be no waiting list for this program. Therefore, *tiny-k* providers are challenged on how to fund these services without adequate increases in funding. Rainbows is supporting an additional \$6 million request to the Legislature.

As you can see, a lot is at stake this Legislative session. Please know that your ongoing support has a big impact on what Rainbows can do for children and families in our community. Thank you.

Thank you,

Deb Voth, President



There are lots of reasons why Black Hills Energy and Rainbows United make great partners. Rainbows' Kids' Cove in west Wichita is a short distance from Black Hills' local service office.

Opened in 1996, Kids' Cove was still utilizing the original heating and air systems, making these units over twenty years old. After many repairs and temporary fixes, we were in desperate need to replace nine furnaces. The Black Hills Energy Foundation



responded with a generous gift of over \$25,000, to make these replacements possible - ensuring a warm, inviting space will greet families for years to come!

We are thankful to our friends at Black Hills Energy, for all they do for our community!

## Breaking the Mold: HM Dunn Aerosystems

Thanks to HM Dunn, Rainbows had two full time volunteers helping with a variety of tasks over the last 6 weeks. Tamra Allen and James Smith, both HM Dunn employees, helped out in Case Records, Human Resources and with facility maintenance.

"As the aircraft industry navigates the temporary suspension of the 737 MAX production, HM Dunn AeroSystems is working to retain our highly skilled workers," said Mona Martin, Director of Human Resources at HM Dunn AeroSystems. "Being able to share some of our talented team members with Rainbows United is very exciting for us! Tammy and James loved their assignments and the staff they get to work with at Rainbows, and we get to support a great organization in our community."

Tammy has processed and organized files in Case Records, and prepared HR paper files to scan into electronic formats. "I have really enjoyed the opportunity working with



everyone at Rainbows," said Tammy. "It was a great experience and everyone made me feel welcome. Rainbows is a really great company."

James has spent his time at Rainbows with Facilities Coordinator Gordon Johnson. James and Gordon have completed painting projects, leveled out playgrounds and cleaned the warehouse. "This has been such a fulfilling opportunity working for Rainbows," said James. "I was both surprised and grateful that my company provided this to me and the community. I feel that it goes to show that they care about their employees."

## Planned Giving

Thinking about the future is important. A planned gift is a simple, smart way to leave a legacy of caring and commitment to vulnerable children in our community. It can mean leaving Rainbows in your estate plan, a gift of life insurance or other charitable tax planning option.

Visit [RainbowsUnited.org/plannedgiving](https://RainbowsUnited.org/plannedgiving) or contact Angela Kessler at 316.558.3482 or [akessler@rui.org](mailto:akessler@rui.org).



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# 45<sup>th</sup> Blarney Breakfast

to benefit **RAINBOWS**  
*bringing potential to life*

**St. Patrick's Day**  
**Tuesday, March 17, 2020**  
**6-9:30 a.m. | Old Chicago East**

Tickets available at <https://rainbowsunited.org/BlarneyBreakfast>

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