



The Canvas

RAINBOWS
bringing potential to life

February 2019

Letter from the President



On January 14, 2019, Laura Kelly and Lynn Rogers were sworn into office as Governor and Lt. Governor of Kansas. The Kansas Legislature began its 2019 Session the first

week of January 2019. Of the 125 House of Representatives, 25 of them are new. The Senate has 5 new Senators out of 40. New Legislative members and Committee Chairs, a new Governor and Lt. Governor and new State Agency heads means Rainbows must spend time educating these individuals about the needs of children and youth with special needs and their families. It is critical that these decision makers make any changes to funding and/or laws impacting Kansans, they must understand the consequences to our clientele.

There were several key pieces in Governor Kelly's budget that pertained to Rainbows

interest. The budget contained the much needed *tiny-k* appropriation that was passed last year. It also included more funding through the Children's Initiative Funds (CIF – funds from the Tobacco settlement) education and special education, foster care, and more support for the Department of Children and Families, which has oversight over some of the most vulnerable children in Kansas. We are reminded by our lobbyist Gavin Kreidler that the release of the budget is the first step in a very long budget process and everything is subject to change. So far the Session is moving slowly.

Revenue sources for Rainbows for Fiscal Year 2018 include sixty-nine percent (69%) generated from Federal and State sources. You can understand why we keep a close watch on what happens with our State Legislature.

Deb Voth, President

Save the Date



44th Annual
Blarney Breakfast
to benefit Rainbows

Friday, March 15, 2019

Enjoy a hearty breakfast and bottomless cups of coffee while participating in the festivities with bagpipers, Irish dancers and much, much more! Tickets available at: RainbowsUnited.org/BlarneyBreakfast.



WALK | RUN | FAMILY FUN

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Join us for the Eighth Annual 5K and 1-Mile Walk to benefit children with special needs, ages birth – 21, and their families in Butler County! Learn more at: RainbowsUnited.org/RainbowsRun.

Rainbows' new Vice President of HR

Gay Kimble joined Rainbows' leadership team in January 2019 as Vice President of Human Resources. She oversees employee management for the Agency including: recruiting, hiring, retention and benefit coordination. A true professional with significant experience, Gay comes to Rainbows ready to provide support to employees and be a champion for the staff and Rainbows' programs.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business from Wichita State University

as well as the widely recognized SHRM-SCP certification.

President Deb Voth said, "Gay was referred to us by a member of our HR Committee and comes to us with 35 years of experience at Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital in El Dorado. She is excited to join us because of our Mission, reputation, love of children, etc."

Gay is married to Gene (also a Shocker alum) and has 3 children plus 2 grandchildren.

Welcome to the team, Gay.



Pictured above: Gay Kimble (center) with her family.

Donor Profile: Micheal O'Bryhim

Micheal O'Bryhim has been a faithful supporter of Rainbows. Donors like Mike feel like family, because they regularly support Rainbows. In this case, with a monthly donation.

Mike began giving in 1997, as he was introduced to Rainbows by friends. His admiration for his friends, led him to financially support the organization.

"I believe that everyone should give help to others to the extent they can. Especially to those who cannot help themselves," he said.

The trust Mike gained in Rainbows led him to be an ongoing supporter. Then, a few years ago, he became a monthly donor. "I give monthly because I think it is better from a budgeting standpoint for both of us. Plus,



Pictured are Mike and Kathy with their extended family.

technologically it is easier for me to do it that way!"

A big thank you to Mike for making an impact on the day to day needs that transform the lives of thousands of Rainbows' children and families.

Volunteers Create Possibilities

Who are the special individuals who donate their talents, treasures and time to make a difference in the lives of children with special needs and their families? They are simply fantastic, amazing, caring, loving people whom we are lucky enough to call Rainbows' volunteers.

Therapy dogs bring their humans to visit children at both Kids' Point and Kids' Cove. High school and university students, Boy Scouts, grandparents, business men and women, civic and corporate groups join together to stain fences, spread mulch, plant flowers, build benches, paint parking lots and clean buildings. Individuals volunteer their time in classrooms and at Camp Woodchuck, reading, creating art projects, and providing extra hands to

help in the classroom. And then there are the hundreds of people, including Rainbows' staff, who come out to volunteer at Rainbows' fundraising events!

So far this fiscal year beginning July 1, volunteers have donated almost 4,700 hours to Rainbows United. The national dollar value of these volunteer hours is more than \$115,000! While this is an impressive number, at Rainbows we believe: Volunteers touch lives. Volunteers create possibilities for children with special needs. Volunteers share their hearts.

To volunteer your time, talent or treasure, visit RainbowsUnited.org/Volunteers or contact Melani Kliewer at mkliewer@rui.org.

A Volunteer's Perspective: Paula Madsen

Kids' Point Assistant Teacher Paula Madsen says, "Developing relationships with our children and their families" has been her biggest achievement at Rainbows. Paula not only brings her love of children into the classroom, but she also brings her love of Rainbows into volunteering at events.

Paula joined the Rainbows' team in 2016 and began volunteering. "My husband and I enjoy volunteering

together," she said. "It is fun to see people coming together for the good of others and you get to see big smiles on the faces of those that you are helping," said Paula.

"Seeing the children grow and develop through the years in which they are at Rainbows" is her favorite part of the job, said Paula. "I have seen them come in as babies and leave at 5 years of age. They are so grown up," she said.



Paula Madsen and her husband, Jim at Fashion Passion 2018.

2019

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Rainbows accumulated
\$115,000

In volunteer hours since
July 1, 2018.