The Canvas

RAINBOWS
bringing potential to life

July 2019

Letter from the President

I recently participated in a Community Engagement Session sponsored by The Children's Cabinet, Department of Children and Families, Department of Health and Environment, and Department of Education. These four State agencies collaborated last year in applying for a federal *Preschool Planning Grant for Birth through age Five.* Kansas was one of 46 States/Territories who received one of these grants in the amount of $4,482,305.

This grant is designed to help states conduct a comprehensive statewide birth through five needs assessment to be followed by strategic planning. The overall purpose of this strategic plan is to improve the quality of care for young children, enhance parent choice and expand the number of providers, types and settings across Kansas. As a part of this process, these agencies have been hosting numerous Community Engagement sessions across the State.

Why is building a more comprehensive quality early childhood system important? Ninety percent of a child's brain is established before the age of five! Therefore, early intervention is key to improving outcomes for our children. By supporting quality early care and education, including health care and social/emotional supports, we are helping to reduce the need for costlier interventions in education, mental health, and the criminal justice system in the future. Imagine that – if we put our resources into helping young children and their families before the age of five, we will have healthier children in all aspects of their development.

Now that is a wise investment! Let's hope that we continue to see emphasis and investment of resources for early care and education. One of my favorite quotes is from Frederick Douglass "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men". As Kansans, we all have a stake in this.

Deb

Deb Voth, President

Volunteer Spotlight

Josh Heck is a familiar friend to Rainbows and currently serves as a member of the Communications Committee helping evaluate Rainbows' brand and build upon public awareness in the community. His experience covering stories on Rainbows over the last 10 years for the Wichita Business Journal makes him a great fit for this special role. Josh is currently Marketing Manager at Syndeo.

He says he's a fan of Rainbows because of the resiliency of the organization. "I've enjoyed seeing Rainbows restructure and reposition itself as a stronger organization with added staying power," said Josh.

"I'm grateful to have been asked to be a member of the communications committee. That people thought highly enough of me to serve in this capacity is humbling."

As a member of the Communications Committee, he enjoyed offering suggestions and then participating in this year's Rainbows Run 5K with his 10-year-old son, Cayman. Josh and his wife, Andrea also have a daughter, Carsen, 7-years-old.

Thank you, Josh for investing your unique perspective in Rainbows' future.

Autism Services

Services for Children with Autism

Rainbows' services help families discover and understand the uniqueness, potential and abilities of children with autism.

Much like an expert photographer who finds the best natural light for their subject, our specialists are skilled at shedding light on the best care practices for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. We believe that each child is a masterpiece waiting to be revealed and Rainbows United brings hope to those lost in the dark of confusion. Sometimes the most moving experiences in life are marked by the knowledge that we are no longer alone. A window opens, light streams in and parents see not only the variety of resources available, but their child in a whole new light of understanding.

Rainbows United offers progressive, advanced therapies for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. We understand that children with autism require a unique setting, one that is structured and designed to shut out the distractions that often stand in the way of learning and developing. Services may include Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, specialized communication tools in the classroom or home, as well as individual behavior therapy plans implemented in the family home as well as Rainbows' centers.

Rainbows services are tailored to the needs of each individual child and family. We will create a program that addresses the unique abilities of each child and help support overall family life.

To find out more contact Lindsay Coffee at lcoffee@rui.org.

Corporate Volunteers

At Rainbows, we help children grow. Thanks to Corporate Volunteers from DeVaughn James Injury Lawyers and Enterprise Holdings, our Kids' Cove gardens are growing also.

Sixty staff members and families from DeVaughn James started the beautification project by clearing out old bushes and plants, spreading mulch and preparing the front garden area for planting.

Then Enterprise interns from across the Midwest trimmed trees and planted hostas and flowers to complete the fresh look of Kids' Cove.

Get connected to more at RainbowsUnited.org | Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn | YouTube | Instagram