

# The Canvas

May 2019

**RAINBOWS**  
bringing potential to life



## Letter from the President



Achieving success through teamwork, partnerships and collaboration does not come easy, in fact it can be time consuming and challenging, but the end product is more than worth it. **On May 7, 8,**

**and 9, 2019, Rainbows staff went Live with our new client database software, myEvolv,** after years in the making. It has taken more than 5 years to evaluate, secure funding, adapt the software to our needs and now implement the sophisticated online system. It will allow better understanding of a child's needs and the services they currently are receiving all in one accessible place. It is a huge step forward in the continuity of information for our staff, eliminating disparate databases that do not talk with one another and taking Rainbows into the future with less paper, more efficiency, and improved reporting.

**This only happened because of a number of dedicated partnerships.** When we first dreamed about collecting client data electronically and connecting all services under one system, we had a special community Technology Task Force. They helped research more than 30 different software programs and believed myEvolv was a fit for Rainbows.

After we knew what we needed, we had to have funding to make it happen. **We applied for grants and tax credits, made budgets and upgraded our internal servers, network and hardware.** We knew we needed a Project Manager who would help steer us in the right direction and stand by our side as we got in the details, more details and other details. Richard Vogt with High Touch Technology has done just that and more. A dedicated group of staff have devoted hours that have turned into months and years to enter every line of every form we are replacing, testing every button, dropdown menu and field. They have streamlined processes, confronted change and are willing to stay the course in making the customized code work for our children and families. This group's resolve under the pressure of daily duties and intense details is something for which we are grateful.

**Everyone involved has been resourceful in finding solutions through intelligent decisions making and determination.** Your commitment, dedication and determination are especially applauded.

Deb Voth, President

## K.T. Wiedemann Children's Fund of Butler County

In February, Rainbows was awarded a charitable grant through Central Kansas Community Foundation on behalf of K.T. Wiedemann Children's Fund of Butler County. Funds will be used to support Rainbows' Targeted Case Management and Early Intervention Services. Rainbows provides services to 261 children and families in Butler County. Rainbows' staff provide physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language therapy and case management so children can play, learn and grow. Thank you K.T. Wiedemann Children's Fund of Butler County for investing in Rainbows' mission.

## 2019 Legislative Session

The 2019 Legislative Session officially adjourned at 3:08 a.m., Sunday morning, May 5th. Sine die, the ceremonial last official day of session is scheduled for May 29th at 10 a.m. Every veto session is crazy and brings its own challenges to close out the Session. This year was no different.

While Rainbows was concerned about a couple of funding items as the last budget negotiations took place, we and other providers were able to hold onto a 1.5% increase for our Family Support Services and increased funding through special education.

## 8th Annual Rainbows Run: Ambassador Family



Canyon Stephenson is 2-years-old, and loves rough housing with his 2 brothers. His mom Rachael had a normal pregnancy

and Canyon was born right on time. When he was 2 months old, his mom noticed that his eyes were moving unusually fast and she became concerned. Canyon was diagnosed by a local pediatric ophthalmologist with congenital nystagmus, a condition that causes the eyes to look involuntarily from side to side in a rapid, swinging motion rather than staying fixed on an object or person.

At 9 months Canyon received an evaluation through Rainbows' Infant/Toddler Services of Butler County and he qualified for services. Joanna, a Rainbows'

therapist began seeing Canyon in the family home and working with him to meet age-appropriate developmental milestones. "Joanna gives me tools to work with him," said Rachael.

He has progressed quickly and now communicates so much more, which cuts down frustration for him and his parents. "He can now see and follow an airplane in the sky," said his dad, Christian. "I know he is able to focus his eyes so much better now, I see progress in my son."

Rachael also now understands that she knows Canyon better than anyone. "Through these regular visits, I've learned to trust my gut," said Rachael.

While surgery and eye glasses may be in Canyon's future, his family knows the services provided through Rainbows have made a big difference in getting him off to a good start.

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Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers, and participants for making Rainbows Run 2019 a success. We raised \$17,200 in net proceeds for Rainbows' services in Butler County!

