



# The Canvas

January 2020

## Letter from the President



The Rainbows United Board of Directors and the Rainbows United Charitable Foundation Board held their Annual Meetings on December 10, 2019, at the Textron Aviation Activity Center. It was a lovely evening

as attendees mingled and celebrated accomplishments for the past year.

We remembered the passing of two dear friends of Rainbows – Grant Stannard and Walt Shook. Grant was a long-time Board Member for Rainbows and the Founding Chair of our Charitable Foundation. Walt, husband of Margaret Shook, was an important part of Rainbows. He supported us in numerous ways. We greatly miss both of these kind gentlemen.

Special recognition was given to Donna Bunk for the many wine dinners she has hosted (and continues to do) for the Joe Bunk Endowment Fund. Don Hall was recognized for his relationship and work with the Blarney Breakfast. The “Linda Weir-Enegren Award” went to Wings for Dreams – Textron Aviation. This award is designated for lifetime donors who contribute \$250,000 or more and is the highest honor Rainbows bestows on any donor or volunteer.

The Annual “Prism Award” is given to a staff member who demonstrates our 10 Guiding Principles. This year it was presented to

Christy Hutto, a 21-year employee who is the Program Assistant for Connecting Point. Christy is often the first contact for parents of children with special needs to help them get connected to needed services.

A new award titled the “Kaleidoscope Award” was created this year to recognize the “Builders” of the new program software myEvolv. These individuals spent more than two years adapting this software to meet the needs of Rainbows’ services. This work was in addition to their regular responsibilities. The six individuals who were honored are Tina Beems, Audra Kenneson, Lindsay Coffee, Lee “Paco” Price, Peggy Burns, and Debbie Mai.

Three Board Members were honored for their Board service as they completed their terms. Jeff Jabara, Josh Umbehr, and John DeCesaro have provided so much value to Rainbows. We appreciate all they have done. Jim Walters has agreed to be our Chair-Elect which means he will become Chair of the Board for 2021 and 2022. We are grateful for the service of all our Rainbows’ Board of Directors.

Four major priorities for 2020 that align with our Strategic Plan are: 1) Champion children with special needs; 2) Develop diverse funding streams; 3) Promote talent development; and 4) Build internal and external communication. We look forward to the year ahead and the opportunities to better serve the more than 3,800 children/

youth and their families we annually serve. Cheers to 2020!

Thank you,

Deb Voth, President

## Prism Award

Christy Hutto is the 2019 Prism Award honoree. She is the Program Assistant for Connecting Point. “With so many long-term passionate staff members, it’s fitting to honor someone who has interacted with so many Rainbows’ families at a time when they are seeking help,” said Deb Voth, President. “Christy is on the front lines giving families hope, hearing their concerns, and getting them connected.”



The Prism Award was created to recognize an outstanding Rainbows’ employee who embodies our guiding principles, is a role model for other staff, and goes above and beyond job duties to fulfill Rainbows’ mission.

## Become a Volunteer Ambassador

A Volunteer Ambassador will represent Rainbows at various functions and events, such as community celebrations, school and university events, health fairs, corporate events, sporting events and other special events to expand Rainbows' message to new audiences.



### Training Dates

Saturday, February 1  
9-10:30 a.m. at Kids' Cove

OR

Monday, February 3,  
5:30-7 p.m. at Kids' Point.  
Only need to attend ONE session

Contact Melani Kliewer,  
Volunteer Coordinator, at 316.558.3422  
or [mkliwer@rui.org](mailto:mkliwer@rui.org) to sign up for a  
training date.

## Breaking the Mold: Cochener Garvey

Rainbows would like to thank employees from Cochener Garvey Capital Partners for volunteering their time, talent and treasure to put a smile on the faces of our children. As part of our Corporate Volunteer Program, Cochener Garvey employees read to preschoolers and helped in the classroom, as well as provided the finishing touches to our raised garden beds and an outdoor art area. Rainbows' children planted, harvested and ate their own vegetables this summer, and enjoyed capturing the beauty of nature on easels in the outdoor art area.

If your organization would like to volunteer at Rainbows, please contact Melani Kliewer, Volunteer Coordinator, at 316.558.3422 or [mkliwer@rui.org](mailto:mkliwer@rui.org).



## Lachlan- ABC Program/Mental Health

Lachlan was born early and spent 88 days in the NICU. His mother, Jessica and father, Justin spent time with him daily but he was hooked up to monitors and often needed to be kept still. They were not able to hold him or play with him much until he came home from the hospital.

Once home, the family got connected to Rainbows' Infant/Toddler Services and an early intervention therapist came to their home. Upon working with Lachlan and his family, their therapist suggested they apply for the ABC (Attachment and Bio-Behavior Catch-up) Program to help Lachlan learn how to connect with his mom and benefit from her loving support.

"I wanted to snuggle with my baby, but he didn't really want that," said Jessica. "He was unhappy at bath time and bed time, he was totally focused on his toys and often liked being alone in his own little world. He did not care what was going on around him.



It made me sad. I wanted to help my son, to comfort him, but I didn't know what he needed."

"By engaging in play the way Rainbows' taught me, I have been able to make a connection with my son. When I finally felt like we were making a connection and I was able to get him what he was needing, it made me feel really good. Knowing he was getting what he needed to connect was a breakthrough for me. Rainbows' taught me to mimic his play. If he was banging on a drum, we would be banging on a drum too, and if he stopped, we would stop," said Jessica. "As a result of this type of interaction, our son began reacting differently to us and we eventually made a new connection."