

The Canvas



January 2018

Letter from the President



Each year since 1994, the Kansas Community Service Program (CSP) has given not-for-profit organizations a way to improve their ability to undertake major capital fund-

raising drives for various projects. Tax credits are allocated annually and awarded on a competitive application basis to not-for-profit organizations. The organization may then offer the Kansas income tax credits to contributors of approved projects. In urban areas such as Wichita, donors are eligible for a 50 percent credit of their gift toward their Kansas income taxes.

Rainbows was awarded \$200,000 in tax credits in July 2016. The tax credits were for an urgent need Rainbows has in addressing our technology capacity. Specifically we need software to address integration of program data, streamlined reporting, and quality improvement. It is important that staff, families, and funders have reliable data from which to make decisions. We simply do not have that YET.

Because Rainbows was successful in selling all of the \$200,000 tax credits, we generated \$400,000 toward the technology project "Revealing Masterpieces". We still have a ways to go in raising an additional \$300,000 to cover the costs for the first 5 years of the project but selling all the tax credits allowed us to sign a contract with Netsmart the vendor of the selected software. We begin implementation of the system this month. We plan to have the system up and running by this fall.

We are so excited to leave behind antiquated software that requires an inordinate amount of time to access any data or reports. In our mission driven business, our Board of Directors and staff want reliable data to drive continuous quality improvement and improved customer service. It will allow us to use this information in making wise decisions for Rainbows.

We were successful in selling all of our tax credits because many of you stepped forward and purchased them through a generous gift toward the technology project. Thank you for believing in us and this project. We are excited to have software that improves our work instead of impeding it.

Deb Voth, President



In January, Rainbows secured a Community Capacity Development Grant through Sedgwick County Developmental Disability Organization (SCDDO) to develop a program focused on improving employee engagement and retention of direct service support staff in Rainbows' Family Support Services.

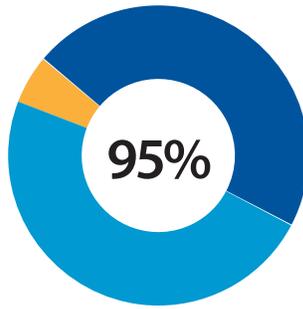
"This will help us engage and retain qualified Family Support Services staff who provide in-home services to families as well as those who provide care at Kids' Cove," said Renée Walker, Vice President of Human Resources. "We recognize the potential to improve our staff retention rates that will result in better, more consistent care for children and young adults."

The grant will fund assessment tools, opportunities for increased communication between workers and supervisors plus train staff mentors who will assist in transitioning and connecting new staff to families.

FY2017 Location of Services

In a Rainbows' center - **192**
In the family home - **1,918**
In the community - **1,803**

Some children received services in more than one location during the year.



95% of services located in the community/family home

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Family Support Services:

Your child is a masterpiece, and when you need time away, you want to rest assured they are in expert hands. Rainbows sees the beauty within each child, and offers person-centered environments and resources to meet their developmental needs.

Family Support Services offers structured time and activities as well as the opportunity for individuals to choose their own fun-spreading wings to a more fulfilled life.

Rainbows United offers Supportive Home Care services through the Family Support Services Department. These services are provided in the client's home or in our Center located at our Kids' Cove location. Services are provided outside of school hours, during evenings or on weekends. Trained staff are able to assist clients with daily routines like bathing, meals, or meeting a child at the bus. To apply for any of our services, you will need to complete the following steps:

Families needing these services may contact the Sedgwick County Developmental Disability Organization (SCDDO), to determine eligibility for services. They can be reached at: 316.660.7630.

Staff Volunteers Make a Difference

We love our employees and value their relentless commitment to our mission, as they often choose to volunteer their time to benefit the agency.

"Soon after I began working for Rainbows in 2014, I was asked to volunteer at Fashion Passion," said Finance team member, Carol Martin. "In talking to my co-workers, I found out this was a fun event with lots of opportunities. For Fashion Passion 2014, I assisted with event Check Out for our guests. I was hooked! Now I volunteer often, using the skills I have to make a better way for our organization."

"As an employee of Rainbows I get a front row seat to the many events we offer as a local non-profit," said Targeted Case Management Coordinator, Lindsay Coffee. "I get the 'behind

the scenes' look and know we would not be as successful if we didn't have volunteers! I have often been a volunteer myself. The time commitment is so worth knowing you had a part in providing services to the children and families we serve. I also think volunteering is a great way for those who work outside the agency to get a first-hand look at some of the services we provide and probably even meet a family or two who have benefited from Rainbows United."

"Working at Rainbows gives me the opportunity to see how children are truly affected by the services we provide," said Michelle Croomes, Kids' Point Coordinator. "That makes participation in any of our fundraising events a pleasure, because we could not make a difference in the lives of these children without their success."



Susan Harsh, Audra Kenneson and Baylie Harsh volunteer at Fashion Passion 2017.

Get Involved:

Upcoming volunteer opportunities exist for May 5 and the Rainbows Run. Get involved by contacting Sidni Garwood to learn about the specific volunteer opportunities available. Email her at sgarwood@rui.org for more details!