

The Canvas



Letter from the President



I was fortunate to have a scholarship to attend the Kansas Association for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH) annual conference in Kansas City at the end of May.

KAIMH is an association of professionals who are concerned with the emotional development of infants and young children. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear from experts across the nation over the span of two full days. After reviewing my notes, I would like to share with you some of the information that stood out to me.

We all communicate through our behaviors and actions. What makes a typical behavior a challenging one is often intensity, duration, and how often that behavior is displayed. You don't have to be around children to observe this. Just look around you when you are out among others. Sometimes my husband will say, "Are you done now?" when I am passionately expressing my feelings. He is usually right. We all have our own "hot spots" that can trigger an emotion. When that happens we must separate ourselves from the situation if possible. If not, our emotions take over and not our usual logical self.

Children need the support of families and trained individuals to help them learn how to appropriately share their emotions. Sometimes they do not even know why they are upset, crying, or throwing a tantrum.

Sometimes children who are struggling with their emotions can also withdraw. They are the quiet ones who can be overlooked. Children with special needs tend to interact less with peers; may have poor social interactions; or poor acceptance by peers and in new environments.

What are some of the things that adults can do to help children in their social emotional development? There is a lot in the literature to explore but let's look at some basic things. Make deposits into their emotional piggybanks. That means having regular positive interactions with them daily. Make eye contact; connect with the child's interest; listen and respond; and acknowledge feelings they may have. Don't we all yearn for that?

A quote that has stayed with me after the conference is one by Urie Bronfenbrenner. **"Every child needs at least one person who is crazy about him."** That could be you.

Deb Voth, President

Save the Date



Peter Hampel's Luau
August 25, 2018
Tanganyika Wildlife Park

4 pm to Dusk
 Dinner: 5-7 p.m.
 Cotton candy, silent auction
 and more!

Tickets available online at
RainbowsUnited.org
 All proceeds benefit Rainbows.



Join us at any of the three Old Chicago locations on August 8. Old Chicago will donate 15% of total sales from 3 p.m. to close to support Rainbows.

Kiwanis Grant Provides Portable Speaker

Members of the Voices of the Rainbow choir will be singing a little louder this summer thanks to the Downtown Wichita Kiwanis Club. The *Voices of the Rainbow* Choir is part of Rainbows' Camp Woodchuck, a summer recreational day program for school-age children with disabilities. The goal of Camp is to engage youth with special needs in fun activities while building a strong sense of community.

During Camp, the choir performs at various businesses all across the community and as many as 60+ youth participate. Funds from the Downtown Wichita Kiwanis Club were used to help purchase a portable sound system, which will be used at choir performances and for the annual Talent

and Fashion Shows. With the help of a portable speaker system to amplify voices, performances can include larger venues that will accommodate a greater number of attendees.

Thank you Kiwanis for helping Rainbows' youth share their talents with the community.



Left: Ken Springer, Kiwanis Club President and Candace Staker, Rainbows' Family Support Services Coordinator. Right: Voices of the Rainbow Choir Performing at KMWU.



Targeted Case Management and Infant/Toddler Services will continue to make a difference across Butler County thanks to a generous gift from Butler Electric Cooperative matched by partner CoBank. "We are pleased to be able to support the community through employee directed funds given by those we serve throughout Butler County," said Sarah Madden, Operation Roundup Chair.

Rainbows serves more than 320 children, birth through age 21 in Butler County each year. Thank you Butler Electric Cooperative.



Travis Griffin, Butler Electric Cooperative; Rainbows' Butler County employees: Joanna Wiebe, Angela Pulaski, Kim Stewart, Susan Harsh, Kara Knight, Melissa Baumgartel, Courtney Neal, Tiffany Owens, Anita Berens, BEC; Jill Morrow, Sara Madden, BEC; Ben Whiteside, BEC.

Zoe Enjoys Camp

A girl with lots of energy and a sweet spirit, Zoe has formed life-long friends at Rainbows' Camp Woodchuck, which she has enjoyed attending for 8 years. Her grandmother, Sallie credits Rainbows with helping Zoe mature and develop social skills. "Zoe enjoys Camp Woodchuck and the social interaction she gets with her friends as well as the young staff," said Sallie.

The family moved back to Wichita when Zoe was 8 years old and got connected to Rainbows for Targeted Case Management Services. Over the years Rainbows has helped the family with transitions between schools and securing funding for necessary supplies as well as attending Camp Woodchuck during the summer. "I could not do it alone," said Sallie. "The community needs these programs."

Zoe graduated from Northwest High School last year and now attends Chisolm Life Skills



Center where she continues to learn new activities and vocational skills. She enjoys camping, raft trips with her family, and caring for animals and younger children.

Currently Zoe's Case Manager, Vanessa, is helping the family transition Zoe to adult programs now that she has turned 19. They have been pleased with the process and the help that has guided them through a complicated system, which has set her up for a bright future.

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Volunteers

Textron Aviation Interns from all over the country (New Hampshire, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas) volunteered the morning of Saturday, June 23 to paint the parking lot lines, stain the pergola and repair outdoor pipes at Kids' Point. Thanks to this energetic group families, employees, and guests have clear parking guides.

With this success, we are now actively looking for a group to help paint the parking lot lines at Kids' Cove by the end of the summer. Get in touch with Volunteer Coordinator, Melani Kliewer at mkliwer@rui.org if you can help.