

# The Canvas

Seeing the unseen in every Rainbows' child.



## Strategic Vision for the Future



Deb Voth, President

In December 2016, Rainbows' Board of Directors started the process of strategic planning by engaging Wichita State University's Community Engagement Institute (CEI). Since that time, a Design Team made up of 4 Board Members, 3 staff and CEI staff worked together to identify the specific steps for a strategic plan. This past summer surveys regarding Rainbows' services were sent to families, staff, and Board Members. In addition, individual interviews were completed with some of Rainbows' donors and community partners. The results of the surveys and interviews were then presented at Rainbows' all day strategic planning day on September 29, 2017.

What an energizing day it was! Four planning themes were identified: Funding, Services, Staffing, and Communication. Success statements were defined for each theme along with strategies to help us achieve these successes. CEI staff will work with Rainbows staff to refine the themes, measures of success, actions, and timelines.

The majority of Rainbows' Board of Directors were able to give a full day of their time to look at Rainbows' future. One of the many benefits of having a Board of Directors is the diverse group of expertise that come together to enhance an organization. Rainbows is so fortunate to have such a Board. They listened to the survey findings, then shared their perspectives and experiences to help shape the next 3 to 5 years for Rainbows.

So hold on, here we go in our efforts to keep Rainbows as a strong viable organization always looking for ways to improve our services and operations!

Deb Voth, President



## Rainbows - a life changing place

**Ellie Friess**, a fifth grader diagnosed with cerebral palsy, attended Rainbows' Camp Woodchuck over the summer. Her favorite part of Camp was doing daily art projects. "She loves everything about Camp," says her mother, Stephanie. "She is so happy when she gets to be with her friends." Ellie also benefits from Rainbows' Targeted Case Management. Since starting services last year, Ellie has become more confident, independent, and happy.

At home, Ellie has an eight-year-old brother named Tripp. She loves to dance, play with friends and watch TV. Her favorite shows are Curious George and Daniel Tiger. Ellie's mother recently joined the Rainbows' team, in Family Support Services and provides Autism Intense Individual Support.

"Ellie was a big reason why I came to work here," says Stephanie. "It is such a relief to know that Ellie is being well taken care of at Rainbows. This really is a life changing place."

Stephanie has an Associate's degree and has been working with children with special needs for 7 years. In her free time, Stephanie likes to hang out with her kids, garden, do volunteer work, and help with the Special Olympics. Stephanie loves working at Rainbows and remembers feeling extremely welcome on her first day.



**Left:** Ellie approves of her makeover for the Rainbows' Fashion Passion photoshoot with Splurge! Magazine. Be on the lookout for the November issue of Splurge! **Right:** Stephanie, Ellie, and Tripp enjoying family time together

## #GIVING TUESDAY

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, November 28**  
Give online at [RainbowsUnited.org/#GivingTuesday](https://RainbowsUnited.org/#GivingTuesday)



Rainbows celebrated 45 years with an Employee Appreciation event on Sunday, October 1. Employees and their families enjoyed Botanica The

Wichita Gardens with their families and were treated to rainbow cupcakes and a fun birthday themed photo opportunity.

Inset: Debra Harr adds a note to the rainbow with her name and number of years of service to Rainbows as an added activity. The rainbow of staff names and years continue to be added in the Kids' Point foyer. Special thanks to our partnership with Botanica for this opportunity to honor staff.

## Endowment Gives Lasting Legacy

**Make a gift today** – leave your legacy and be a part of our bright future. Gifts to Rainbows United Charitable Foundation endowment fund are welcome at any time.

We are proud to partner with Wichita Community Foundation for the investment of endowed gifts. Please visit [wichitacf.org](http://wichitacf.org) to learn more about their services to the community.

Income from endowed funds supports Rainbows' ongoing operations and existing services despite fluctuations in other established funding streams.

To learn more, contact the development office: 316.267.KIDS.



### Donor Profile:

**the kansas society**  
for children with challenges

Thanks to the Kansas Society for Children with Challenges, 27 Rainbows' children were connected with medical equipment to help them stand, walk, sit more comfortably, and become more mobile. They also provided adaptive shoes, compression clothes, vitamins/supplements, a sensory swing, shaping helmets, bath seats, and funds making home modifications possible.

Founded in 1925, by the Chandler family, the Society provides private funding statewide to children, birth through 21, with physical disabilities in need. "We are pleased to partner with Rainbows to make a difference for children," said Steve Woods, Executive Director. "The total payout amounted to \$11,350 for this fiscal year."

Thank you for your commitment to children with special needs in Kansas.

### TCM License Approval

Rainbows' Targeted Case Management (TCM) was recently audited by Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services as part of the annual licensing process. Client and staff files were randomly selected and a check list of documents including plans, contact information, medical records, etc. were reviewed.

Targeted Case Managers work hard to ensure that all required documentation is in the file and up to date. In addition, other documents pertaining to the Agency were reviewed. All files were found to be in compliance and Rainbows' TCM license was renewed for another year.

"Congratulations to Lindsay Coffee, TCM Coordinator, and her staff of 10 who provide this vital service to more than 450 children through Rainbows," said Deb Voth, President. "Rainbows is proud to be the largest provider of TCM services to children in the State of Kansas."

#### Kansas Community Tax Credits

To participate in the Tax Credit program, contact Angela Kessler at [akessler@rui.org](mailto:akessler@rui.org) or 316.558.3482. A limited amount are still available and must be sold before the end of the year.

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