



# The Canvas

Seeing the unseen in every Rainbows' child.



## Celebrating 45 year milestones with employees



Deb Voth, President

On August 7, 2017, we celebrated Rainbows' 45th birthday with staff at our Annual All Staff meeting. Thanks to the gift of a joint donor, Rainbows was able to meet at Botanica for the 4th year. It is such a beautiful setting to welcome staff and highlight one of our Guiding Principles: "Be positive, celebrate success and recognize achievements".

We started the day by welcoming Linda Weir Enegren, Rainbows' Founder. Forty-five years ago, Linda was a young college graduate when she saw

the need for Rainbows. In 1972 and prior years, families had very few choices as to the care and education of their young children with disabilities. They often had to send their children to a large state institution, far away from their homes and that certainly did not mirror a home setting. Because of Linda's passion and insightful vision for children with special needs and their families, she created Rainbows through the help of the community, volunteers, and donors. Here we are 45 years later serving more than 3500 children!

All Staff also provides a time for me and Board members to share accomplishments from the past year and cast a vision for the future as we "Continuously improve in all aspects of our business".

Some of the milestones that were shared at All Staff included:

- Rainbows' upgrade in Technology (servers and software), which is not always easy for a not-for-profit to do
- Bringing in a Vista AmeriCorps Volunteer to assist in the implementation of a large program data management system we hope to start executing by the first of 2018



the future and goals for the next 3 to 5 years

- Gaining a few increases in Medicaid rates and special education funding
- Securing a three year grant called the ABC Home Visitor Program through the partnership of the United Health Ministry Fund and the Kansas Health Foundation to help support parents of infants and toddlers who have experienced difficulty in their young lives
- Raising more money than ever before for operations, just shy of \$1 million dollars. That is almost 10% of our overall revenues.

Rainbows' staff are an amazing team of talented and dedicated individuals who "Make children and families our highest priority" every day. I look forward to next year when we all meet again to review all that was accomplished this year.

Deb Voth, President



Fashion  
PASSION  
N-13  
A BENEFIT FOR CHILDREN  
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Rainbows is honored to have Hale and Janie Ritchie serve as the 2017 Fashion Passion Event Chairs. Fashion Passion is Rainbows' signature fundraising event and will take place on Friday, November 17, 2017.

This dynamic night features live music, elegant eats, fashiontinis, an auction like no other and a high-energy runway show. Wichita's latest fashions are represented on the runway thanks to Bradley Fair and professional runway models from Models and Images.

As a Friends of the Heart member, Janie was involved in organizing the first Fashion Passion. "Rainbows has a special place in our hearts and we are honored to serve as Event Chairs," said Janie. Both Hale and Janie served on Rainbows Board of Directors for several years in the 80's and 90's. In 2009, Hale served as Restructuring Officer and continues on the Board today.

Thank you Hale and Janie for your passionate commitment to Rainbows and children with special needs.

### 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.



More than 577 people attended Peter Hampel's 10th Annual Luau that took place on Saturday, August 26 at Tanganyika Wildlife Park.

Proceeds of more than \$54,000 will benefit children birth – 21 with special needs served through Rainbows.



## United Way of the Plains fills gaps

United Way of the Plains currently supports 7 percent of Rainbows' operating budget. The nearly \$640,000, 2017 allocation makes a difference in the lives of many of the children we serve through Quality Specialized Child Care, Targeted Case Management and Developmental Assessments and Evaluations.

"We are grateful for this vital funding through United Way of the Plains," said Deb Voth, President. "Because of these funds, families get the help that they need to receive an evaluation to enter services as well as connections to community resources and specialized care."



### Funded Partner

"Funding from United Way fills the gaps for families who need help where there is no other funding source," said Gail Johnson, Board Chair.

Thank you, United Way of the Plains, for acknowledging the need for families who have no other options for care and generously standing in the gap to help fund these specialized resources.

## Sunflower Foundation



Rainbows received a grant of \$22,586 to increase agency capacity through technology. Funding was provided in part by the Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans, a Topeka-based philanthropic organization with the mission to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans.

Grant funds provided updated servers and software as well as installation. These upgrades help pave the way for continued support of Rainbows technology advancements.

Thank you Sunflower Foundation for investing in Rainbows' future.

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