



The Canvas

Seeing the unseen in every Rainbows' child.

Volunteer Board Members



Deb Voth, President

Recently I read an article from the St. Louis Business Journal titled "Board or Bored? 3 Key Steps for Running an Effective Nonprofit Board".

The article caught my attention because Rainbows has such a dynamic Board. The

fundamental aspect of the article is that vibrant organizations do not have "boring" boards and ineffective meetings.

The author, Janet T. Ramey, CPA, wrote there are three key steps in building a productive board. The first is to **establish a strong mission**. Board members and staff have actively reviewed Rainbows' Mission in the last 6 years. The first part of our Mission that states "**Rainbows United, Inc. enhances the lives of children with special needs and their families**" is key.

Rainbows supports the whole family because

the success of the child depends a great deal on the success of the family.

The second part of our Mission is "**by bringing together community resources**". This is significant because Rainbows fully recognizes the importance of partnering with funders and other organizations to provide the best of what our community has.

The last or third part is "**providing customized services**" acknowledges that children and families are unique from each other and there is no one "cookie cutter" approach. Rainbows' Mission Statement describes appropriately how staff work with children and families every day.

The second key to having a dynamic board is to **recruit passionate board members**. Without a doubt we have them! They take their roles seriously. Collectively they give approximately 160 hours each month. They attend meetings, share their individual expertise and resources and most important they share the Mission of Rainbows with others in the community. Their

role as a Rainbows' Board member is personal to them.

The third component of having an effective board is to **look for relevant skills within potential board members**. The Board members thoughtfully look at others in the community who might be a good fit on our Board. They look at the skills and connections each candidate could provide us. They have expanded this analysis beyond Board members by asking other individuals who are not on the Board to serve on one of the Board's seven committees. With this approach we have access to a wide variety of talents that help Rainbows be a thriving and valued organization.

Rainbows is definitely fortunate to be surrounded by so many good people. I know I certainly benefit both personally and professionally from their guidance.

Deb Voth, President

Volunteer is happy to be part of Rainbows in new way

Celeste Smith is a dedicated wife and mother and lives in Park City with her husband. Their only child, Alexandra, was a Rainbows' child nearly 17 years ago. Alexandra was 3 years old when she first started at Rainbows, and according to Celeste, "She had so much fun there." She was born with a clubfoot and underwent several surgeries as a young child. Alexandra received both physical and speech therapy services while with Rainbows.

Thanks to successful operations and Rainbows' therapy, Alexandra has no issues leading an active lifestyle today. She went on to graduate from Wichita's Heights High School in 2014. Now 20 years old, Alexandra has a job and attends classes at Wichita Area Technical College. Her family's positive experience is what fueled Celeste's decision to return to Rainbows this year as a volunteer.

She is an ongoing volunteer at Kids' Point as a classroom assistant. She donates 4 hours each week to classroom 7, a

group of lively 3-5 year olds. According to Celeste, working with the children at Rainbows makes her feel important. Celeste has observed the care children receive from Rainbows and how it makes a big difference. "I love witnessing all the support the kids get and I'm happy to be a part of that. You can actually see the improvements happen right in front of you."

Miss Autumn Hutchinson, Lead Teacher, agrees that Celeste is a part of the impact that takes place at Rainbows. "The smiles on the children's faces tell me she really makes a difference in their lives."

Thank you for all you do for the kids, Celeste! They love you, and so do we.



Breaking the mold



Sidni Garwood

A passion for people and a desire to help others is what attracted Sidni to Rainbows. "I've always felt a certain pull towards the non-profit realm. I knew working for a community group was something I would not only enjoy, but also bring a lot of strengths into," said Sidni Garwood.

A native of Oklahoma, Sidni moved to Kansas with her husband in 2014 after they both graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University. She became Rainbows' Volunteer Coordinator in October 2015 and jumped in with both feet to coordinate volunteers for Rainbows' special events, daily needs and corporate groups.

"Seeing children being influenced through Rainbows' daily has provided me with a unique and more positive perspective," said Sidni.

"Sidni brings a smile and energy to every project," says Michelle Eastman, Vice President of Marketing and Communications. "Her skills and dedication are perfect to match Rainbows' many volunteer needs with interested groups and unique individuals. She's a joy to have on our team."

Volunteer opportunities

- Sew covers for cots preschoolers use at nap time
- Tie fleece blankets, fabric provided
- Assist at the Rainbows GLOW Run | Walk April 16 in Augusta
- Help with pre-event preparations
- Colorize rice for a sensory activity
- Filing Assistant

Contact Sidni Garwood at 316.558.3422 or sgarwood@rui.org



Board Member, Gary Proffitt and Beach Family Foundation Representative, Grady Boulter presented a donation from the Beach Family Foundation to President Deb Voth in December.

Funding is to be used solely in support of capacity building efforts within Rainbows' existing programs.

Donor Profile: Clarence Moos



"I was introduced to Rainbows in 1992, when my daughter started working there. Over 23 years I've seen what Rainbows can do

to improve the lives of children with developmental disabilities. It's amazing how children can be so independent and successful with the right services and attitude," said Clarence Moos.

Clarence has given his time and treasure to Rainbows. "I'm a big supporter of Targeted Case Management (my daughter's influence, I suspect) and Camp Woodchuck. It's great that all children can have a camp experience in the summer."

His daughter, Lorie Angelo, is Coordinator over Rainbows' Targeted Case Management, Foster Care and Autism Waiver services. Lorie and her team provide personal assistance in finding and securing the programs, services and financial aid children and families need.

Clarence is a retired Industrial Engineer and at the age of 95, focuses his time on family, including 5 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Clarence is a true friend to Rainbows and we appreciate his continued support.



Community Rewards

Shop at Dillons, choose Rainbows and support children with special needs today!



Thank you for supporting Rainbows through this program in 2015. A total of \$1,916 was raised. Please select Rainbows United as your charity of choice for 2016.

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