



The Canvas

Letter from the President



Deb Voth

One of the eleven programs that Rainbows provides is Targeted Case Management. While this is always a valued service it became even more critical during this past year. Families had to figure out how to maneuver through a very different landscape. Schools were closed, some parents lost their jobs, and funding and other necessities for children with special needs only increased.

Our Targeted Case Managers transitioned smoothly to providing assistance remotely. They were able to continue service planning meetings with the three Managed Care Organizations, complete annual eligibility assessments for children/youth in this program, and participate in educational planning meetings with the many school districts in Sedgwick and Butler Counties. And as they always do, they sought out various funding resources to help families and their children have less stressful lives.

We found that virtual meetings provided more opportunities for parents to participate in required meetings and were

more cost effective for both Rainbows and families. As we move forward for now, Rainbows will operate in a hybrid model in Targeted Case Management as well as in many of our other services. We are taking it slowly as we understand the level of comfort of in-person meetings for both our families and our staff. And we are encouraging all who can to get vaccinated in order to help keep each other safe and healthy. We can do this by working together!

Thank you.

Deb



More than 600 meals were delivered through a COVID-friendly drive thru concept, raising \$44,000 in net proceeds to benefit children birth – 21 with special needs served through Rainbows' Targeted Case Management Program.

"We were pleased to be able to adapt the traditional activities into a drive thru event to support children with special needs," said Margaret Shook, event Chair, Chi Epsilon Chapter of ESA.

"While this is a unique year, the community rallied around the event and made it a success," said Deb Voth, President. "Thank you to everyone who supported the event through purchasing tickets and Blarney items or giving to the Don Hall Memorial Fund online. It all makes a difference for the children."



Blarney Partners



DOCUPLEX



KNSS
98.7/1330
WICHITA'S #1 TALK

POWER
93.5

ABA Autism therapy helps child thrive

Nicholas' communication is non-verbal and he has been diagnosed with Autism. As a young boy, Nicholas has other diagnosis that create challenges as he learns and grows. A genetic variation resulting in developmental delays and a potential for higher risk for certain cancers; Macrocephaly, large head; and sensory issues with food and textures are some of the ongoing challenges for Nicholas.

The family's first contact with Rainbows came when Nicholas started speech therapy with Mindy Brockmeyer, Rainbows' early childhood special education teacher, while attending daycare.

"Mindy was a great help to us and supported us through his first

evaluations with the school district and when we first got his Autism diagnosis as Nicholas was turning 2," said Brandy, Nicholas' mom. "She let us know that Rainbows had child care on-site and we put him on the waitlist shortly thereafter."



Nicholas attends the early care and education program at Rainbows and receives Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy in the afternoons.

"Nicholas is a kid that brings out every adult's inner child," said his teacher. "He loves to dance with his teachers. Nicholas always is down for a challenging race to the playground (somehow he ALWAYS wins)! Lately, Nicholas has been teaching US all about shapes. We love his positive spirit and his sweet laugh that we are lucky enough to hear every single day."



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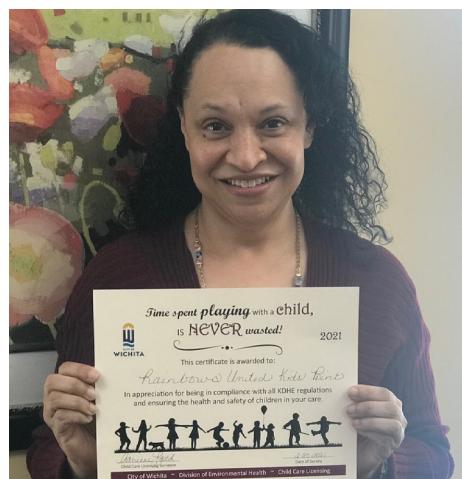
With grant funding from the Dwane and Velma Wallace Foundation, Rainbows will be able to enhance our Family Support Services by hiring a full-time Direct Support Professional. Having a full-time Direct Support Professional (DSP) who can be assigned to families new to In-Home services shortens the time new families have to wait to start In-Home services and increases Rainbows' capacity to serve more families. The DSP immediately engages with new families, learns about the child's needs, and meets the family's objectives for having an In-Home worker.

When the right DSP match for the child and family is found, the full-time DSP plays a critical role in introducing the new DSP to the family and providing training for the DSP in the child's home.

This important side-by-side training cannot happen without grant funding.

Perfect Rating

Kids' Point early care and education received a perfect score for their recent license renewal. This is seldom heard of or experienced. Congratulations to Michelle Croomes, Early Care and Education and CBETS Coordinator, Kids' Point and Human Resources staff for their consistent quality and attention to detail every day for our children.



"This is really a show of excellence. In all my years with Rainbows and in all our child care centers, we have never received a visit with no citations." - Debbie Mai, Vice President of Programs and Services.

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