

The Canvas

RAINBOWS
Bringing potential to life.
July 2021

Letter from the President



Deb Voth

“Ride The Wave” is the theme for this year’s Camp Woodchuck – summer services for school-aged youth with special needs. Forty-six Campers are riding the wave through in-home care by their own individual Camp Counselor. Each week the Camp Counselor is provided a backpack full of supplies, activities, energy and fun, to share with his/her Camper. Arts and crafts, science experiments, outdoor activities and field trips are all part of riding the wave throughout this summer. Through the generosity of community partners, Campers have

been able to visit Exploration Place, Botanica, Sedgwick County Zoo, and the YMCA. One Camp Counselor and Camper work out at the Y each morning at a Zumba class. How fun is that!

Sponsors include CJ Memorial Foundation, Joy in Childhood Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Wichita Foundation, United Way of the Plains, University Congregational Church – Robert Gutru Endowment, and Sedgwick County Developmental Disability Organization.

Thank you to all!



August 21, 2021

Tanganyika Wildlife Park

Tickets Available at
RainbowsUnited.org

Opti-Life Vitality Club + Spa gives back

As part of their commitment to giving back to the community, Opti-Life Vitality Club + Spa launched its Opti-Cares program earlier this year. During the months of April, May and June, Opti-Life selected Rainbows as its Opti-Cares partner. Through this partnership, the club and its members provided support to Rainbows through internal and external brand awareness at the monthly Opti-Market; through an in-kind donation drive for craft kits for this year’s Camp Woodchuck; and by donating 100% of the proceeds from the Opti-Cares Memorial Day 5K to support the services at Rainbows. Thank you to the members and staff of Opti-Life and to all of the runners who braved the rain to participate in the Memorial Day 5K race and support the children and families served by Rainbows.



Caleb loves buses and Rainbows' Camp

When Caleb turned 5, he joined the fun at Camp Woodchuck. "Caleb has come a long way," said Tiffany Graf, Assistant Coordinator for Family Support Services and Camp Director. "I remember when his mom would walk him into Rainbows and he would be behind her with his face buried. Now, he'll walk in and say, "Where are the Tiffany's? I need to speak to them."

Tiffany Sallee, Direct Support Professional and one of the Tiffany's, agreed that Caleb has grown through the Rainbows' programs. "Caleb never wanted to go down to the gym to practice for choir. One day he was down in the gym watching the buses, because that is one of his favorite things to do, and

he saw me setting up the speaker and microphone to prepare for choir practice. He started telling me all the amazing things he knew about electronics! Since that day, Caleb has been our honorary sound system manager. Over the last several years it has been such a joy getting to know Caleb and watch him thrive with his 'camp job'!"



“Rainbows is a part of every aspect of our lives,” said Jeannie, Caleb’s mother.

Scan to Read Full Story



Volunteer Spotlight - Textron Aviation

Thank you to Textron Aviation Interns who volunteered to stain the fence, prune the rose bushes and weed the front garden at Kids' Cove. These Interns came from all over the United States and chose to help Rainbows!



Scan Here to here to watch more about what these volunteers do and where they came from.

Grants support Camp Woodchuck

Rainbows' Camp Woodchuck, an in-home camp like experience for children and youth with special needs is in full swing this summer!

Thanks to funds from the **Gutru Endowment through University Congregational Church** and **United Way of the Plains**, school-aged youth are enjoying an array of activities including sensory play, science and stimulating art projects, outdoor activities, and community outreach. Funds were used to purchase supplies for Camp, including supplies for the annual Art Show, where campers create unique art pieces. Many families depend on Camp Woodchuck to ensure their child with special needs has a fun, safe and meaningful summer camp experience. Thank you to these funders for your investment in Rainbows to continue this great program and providing a chance for youth with disabilities to showcase their talents!

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