



RAINBOWS
50 years of empowering
children & families

January 2022

The Canvas

Letter from the President



President, Deb Voth

To celebrate our Board of Directors and staff for their work this past year, Rainbows held its 2021 Annual Meetings for Rainbows United, Inc. and Rainbows United Charitable Foundation on December 14, 2021. It was nice to be able to come together to share major milestones in a festive environment.

We thanked Jim Walters who just finished his first year as Rainbows' Board Chair. I have learned a lot working alongside Jim. He brings with him years of experience in the Human Resource field. Jim has been a great asset as we have worked and continue to work through the Pandemic. Steve Cox, Sue Doonan, Lisa Farris, Julie Gentile, and Pete McKernan renewed their Board terms. We also thanked Sherii Farmer, Coleen Jennison and Meredith Olson whose Board terms ended. They have all contributed much during their Board service and we know they will continue to support Rainbows.

The Annual "Prism Award" is given to a staff member who demonstrates our 10 Guiding Principles. This year it was presented to Kerri Dixon, a Social Worker who supervises Rainbows' Specialized Foster Care

services in addition to providing Targeted Case Management. Kerri achieves the goal of providing high-quality service to families while managing all of the behind-the-scenes work to keep Rainbows in compliance with state and county regulations, standards and expectations. It was special to have Kerri's two sons with us to see their mother recognized for her outstanding work.



Employee Prism Award recipient, Kerri Dixon, and her two sons Demetrius and Dominic.

Another distinguished award was presented to Debbie Mai. Debbie is the newest inductee to the Linda Weir Enegren Legacy Society. This award is the highest honor Rainbows can bestow on any donor or volunteer who has provided extraordinary support of the children and families in our community. Debbie retired in November 2021 as Vice President of Programs and Services for Rainbows.

Throughout her 40-year career, Debbie applied for and was awarded millions of dollars in funding for Rainbows. As a result, nearly 70,000 services like speech language pathology, case management and family support services have been delivered to children with special needs who needed them to learn, grow and thrive.



Rainbows Legacy Award Honoree, Debbie Mai (right) with President, Deb Voth, Board President, Jim Walters, and Rainbows' Founder, Linda Weir Enegren. (left to right)

In 2021, Rainbows celebrated 49 years of making a difference. In 2021, more than 4,234 children with special needs, birth through age 21, and their families were served. That's an increase of 183 children served over the prior year.

As we enter 2022, I hope strength, resilience, and a commitment to quality services continue to guide us forward.

Take care.

Deb

Rainbows Celebrates 50 Years

There's something special about a birthday, especially for children. The party, the candles, the cake, and getting to share all of that with those who are special to you. That's why we're celebrating Rainbows' 50th Birthday all year long in 2022. It's our chance to celebrate with our employees, the children and families we serve, our Board of Directors and the communities we provide services in each and every day.

We've been brainstorming and have several ways we've started to or plan to celebrate.

- Local design agency Gardner Design put together a fun new 50th Birthday seal to use along with our logo this year.
- New tagline for the year: **50 years of empowering children and families.**
- Creation of a commemorative book documenting Rainbows' history, available late summer.

Do you have a Rainbows' story to tell? We'd love to hear how Rainbows' services impacted your child's life. Reach out to us on social media, by email Meastman@rui.org or phone 316.258.9014 to Michelle Eastman, Vice President of Marketing and Communications. **Happy Birthday Rainbows!**



Young Volunteer Gives Back

Max Mann's little sister, Sophia, received Infant/Toddler and Early Care and Education Services at Rainbows from 2012-2016. As part of his 7th Grade Pre IB program, fourteen-year-old Max chose to volunteer for Rainbows. Max spent many hours in his garage assembling 350 shaker bottles, filling them with sand to help keep Rainbows' staff safe on slick sidewalks this winter.



Mann family: Kimberly, Max, Mike and Sophia.

"I would recommend volunteering at Rainbows because they do a lot of things for kids, and they did a bunch for my sister while she went there," said Max. Max enjoys writing fictional stories, riding his bike, hanging out with friends, participating in Robinson's robotics program, and practicing Taekwondo.

Megan got early help

A successful Wichita State University student, Megan Bailey is 20 years old and pursuing a career in Speech Language Pathology. Megan knows a lot about speech and other developmental therapies because she's experienced most of them.

Born with poor hearing, astigmatism, Cerebral Palsy with diplegia, and low birth weight, Megan benefitted from therapies since she was very young. Her mother, Sherrill remembers Amy Foster, Physical Therapist; Gina Hall, Occupational Therapist; and Myra Niederee, Speech Language Pathologist being pivotal in her daughter's early years. "Megan would not be where she is today without Rainbows," said Sherrill. "These ladies poured into helping her to walk, talk and get connected to resources for hearing aids and glasses plus growing her confidence."



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