

# RAINBOWS

*empowering children and families*

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# 51 years bringing potential to life at Rainbows

Rainbows United, Inc. was founded in 1972 as a developmental training center for children with severe, multiple disabilities who were ineligible for special education services provided through the public schools. In the late 1970's, when legislation required public schools to provide services to all children of school age regardless of their disability, Rainbows began focusing on delivery of early intervention services to children below school age and wrap-around family support services to children birth through age 21.

Legislation in the early 1990's extended mandated special education services to children beginning at age three. Rainbows continues to serve children three to five with special needs through the Community Based Education/ Training Services (CBETS) and children birth to age three through Infant/Toddler Services, known as *tiny-k*, in Sedgwick County, and later in Butler and Sumner Counties.

Since 1994, Rainbows has been the sponsoring agency for Connecting Point, a project of the Sedgwick County Early Childhood Coordinating Council which brings together more than 40 agencies committed to young children.

Today, Rainbows provides center based, community based and home based service options for children birth - 21 with special needs. Service components currently include hearing and vision specialty services, respite care for individuals across the life span, early intervention, high quality preschool classes, case management services, supported family living, foster care for children with special needs, therapies, mental health services, Autism waiver services, and specialized child care

Serving more than 3,701 children, birth - 21, with special needs or at risk and their families this year, Rainbows continues a deep rooted commitment to enhancing the lives of children with special needs for many years to come.



## Rainbows United Timeline

**1972** – Founded by Linda Weir Enegren in basement of a church, 5 volunteers to serve 5 children

**1984** – 107 children served, Home-based services added

**1992** – 325 children served, Ritchie Family Center in operation, Community Based Education and Training Services added

**1993** – 619 children served, Targeted Case Management added

**1996** – 1,127 children served, Kids' Cove opened

**1997** – Camp Woodchuck provides summer fun for those 6-21

**1997** – 1,152 children served, Infant/Toddler Services extended to Butler County

**1998** – 1,156 children served, Uptown Kids and Family Enrichment Center opened

**2002** – 1,601 children served, Structured classrooms for autism implemented

**2003** – Rainbows United Charitable Foundation, Inc. established as separate 509(a)(3)

**2005** – 1,819 children served, Fashion Passion's first year, Pre-K program

**2007** – Rainbows celebrates 35th Birthday, 7,253 children served in 35 years

**2009** – Kids' Point opened, Financial irregularities result in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy filing July 30

**2010** – Rainbows restructured, downsized to three locations and continues to serve more than 3,400 children with special needs or at risk annually

**2012** – Rainbows celebrates 40 years of service to children with special needs

**2022** – Rainbows celebrates 50 years, 62,000 children served in 50 years



# Rainbows' Services



helping hands

## Targeted Case Management Services

Providing personal assistance in finding and securing the programs, services and financial aid children and families need.



bright beginnings

## Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers

Helping very young children with developmental delays play, share, learn and grow. Serving both Sedgwick and Butler Counties.



happy homes

## Mental Health

Learn new ways to boost a child's self-confidence, and gain valuable, effective parenting skills.



shedding light

## Autism ABA Services

Helping families discover and understand the uniqueness, the potential and the abilities of children with autism.



growing potential

## Child Care and Preschool

Helping your child learn and grow through trusted childcare services and progressive early childhood education.



going beyond

## Community Based Education/Training Services (CBETS)

Equipping children to acquire the skills necessary to succeed in the classroom.



soaring above

## Specialized Foster Care

Connecting children with secure, nurturing families who support their temporary or long-term needs.



spreading wings

## Family Support Services

Encouraging children to be children in fun supportive and safe environments.



giving time

## Opportunities to Volunteer

Experience the simple joy of giving a little of yourself to the children of Rainbows United.

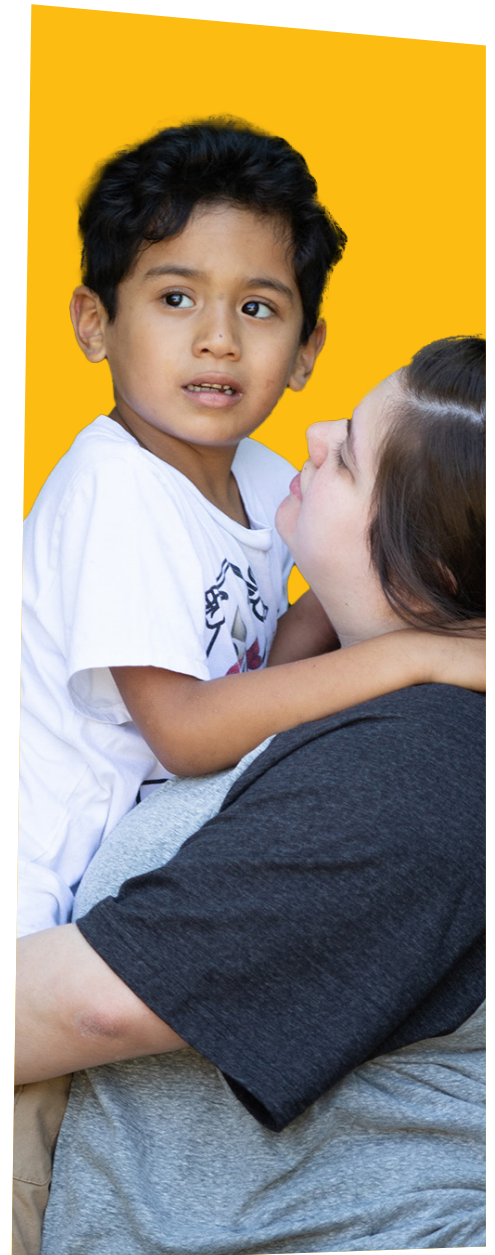


## Friends of the Heart

Volunteerism, friend raising and fundraising. Organizing premier special events to raise awareness and support.

## Mission

Rainbows United, Inc. enhances the lives of children with **special needs** and their families by bringing together community resources and providing customized services.





# Leadership

President since July 2022, Gay Kimble served as Vice President of Human Resources since January 2019. She helped lead Rainbows United through the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to ensure the health of children, families, and staff along with the focus of continuing to serve children and families during the difficult time. A member of the executive leadership team since joining

Rainbows United, Kimble has been a strong advocate for Rainbows' staff and collaborating with others to implement the agency's strategic plan.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business from Wichita State University as well as the widely recognized SHRM-SCP certification.

A native of El Dorado, Gay says, "I was raised in a household where early childhood education was emphasized, as my mother was a long-time preschool teacher and a strong advocate for children.

I greatly admire the Rainbows' team and the work being done for the children of this community."

Gay is married to Gene (also a Shocker alum) and has 3 children plus 2 grandchildren.



**Gay Kimble**  
President



## Leadership Staff

**Gay Kimble**  
President

**Michelle L. Eastman**  
Vice President of Marketing and Communications

**Kelsi Hinshaw**  
Vice President of Development

**Lindsay Kral**  
Vice President of Programs and Services

**Andy Walston**  
Vice President of Finance

## Board of Directors Officers

**Pat Gearhart**, *Chair*

**Lisa Farris**, *Secretary*

**Gail Johnson**, *Treasurer*

## Founder

**Linda Weir Enegren**

**President at Simmons Bank, Pat has been a Rainbows' board member since 2005. He's a fan of Rainbows because of the agency's unwavering and singular commitment to serving children with special needs and their families. He encourages others to get involved by volunteering or donating in a way that they are passionate about.**



**Pat Gearhart**  
Chair, Board of Directors

**Pat is married to Jackie and has two sons.**