



# The Canvas

Seeing the unseen in every Rainbows' child.

## Back to School, USD 259 partnership



Deb Voth, President

One of Rainbows' ten Guiding Principles is "Achieve Success through teamwork, partnerships and collaboration". Rainbows depends on many different kinds of relationships to carry out our Mission, but this month I would like to highlight the partnership we have with the Wichita School District (USD 259).

Rainbows' contract with USD 259 allows parents to keep their 3-5 year old child with special needs in a natural setting. Rainbows' capable team of speech, physical, occupational therapists and early childhood teacher deliver services to up to 135 children annually in a variety of settings such as the family home, child care setting, grandparents' house, etc. Families do not have to take their child to a school or another site to receive

the services needed. USD 259 flows through to Rainbows federal and state funding it receives. Rainbows' staff have the skills required to deliver services in a community setting. After all, ninety-six percent (96%) of all of Rainbows' services are provided outside of a Rainbows' center.

In addition, Rainbows works with all the school districts in both Sedgwick and Butler Counties, as children leaving our Infant/Toddler program enter one of the public schools at age 3 years. More than 460 transitions are made annually to the area school districts. As you can see, Rainbows' partnerships are an important component.

As another school year starts, I want to thank all our partners in public schools! Wishing all of you a great year of serving children.

Deb Voth, President



Over the past 8 years, Peter Hampel and his family have hosted Peter Hampel's Luau, an event benefiting Rainbows. Through the support of generous Luau donors, partners, volunteers and attendees, the Luau has provided vital funds for Rainbows programs and services.

This year, on August 1, over 400 people enjoyed Peter Hampel's 8th Annual Luau at Tanganyika Wildlife Park. Guests enjoyed the sights and sounds of the park and had the opportunity to interact with lemurs, bunnies, kangaroos and more. The event ended with a spectacular fireworks display. This year's event raised more than \$32,000 for children with special needs!

## Community Based Education/Training Services

Margaret first realized her son's speech transformation on a recent doctor's visit. It was the day after Blaise turned five and he was excitedly chattering to everyone in the office about being five years old.

"NOBODY asked me 'what did he say?' NOBODY shot me a confused or sympathetic look over the top of my son's head. And NOBODY asked Blaise to repeat himself, Margaret said. "I could have cried, I was so happy."

Blaise began receiving Rainbows' Speech Therapy with Speech/Language Pathologist Paula Matson in Fall of 2014. Blaise enjoys working with Paula when she visits him at school and talks about her to his family as if she were a playmate. Paula is a member of Rainbows Community Based Education/Training Services (CBETS) who offer services through a contract with Wichita Public Schools.

"I love that she naturally builds her lessons around the realities of a preschool-aged boy," Margaret said. "On any given day I might walk into them playing a game, cutting or gluing a

handout, reading a book, or walking across the room as part of a speech activity, he loves it."

Margaret hopes that others will seek Rainbows' services to help their children as well. "Rainbows obviously helped my son and they have treated our family like a respected part of the team," Margaret said. Margaret appreciated the progress Paula shared with her as well as activities they could do at home to continue his improvement.

"I have never for a minute regretted the decision to let Rainbows serve my son," Margaret said. "I thank God that they were there to help when we needed it."

To find out more about the Community Based Education/Training Services call 316.267.5437.



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## Board Member Profile - Coleen Jennison

Coleen Jennison is the new Kansas Market Vice President at Cox Communications, however she is not new to the company. Coleen served 14 years as the Director of Government Affairs at Cox. After moving to Wichita, Coleen joined the Rainbows Board because it's easy to be passionate about the mission. "Giving kids the resources they need to be successful, in whatever is their measure of success, is the best gift one could ever give; to the child, the family and the community. I am very proud and humbled by the opportunity to serve."



Coleen and Robin Jennison

When Coleen is not working she enjoys gardening, traveling with her husband Robin, bicycle riding and trying new restaurants. She loves yummy food in general! Coleen has two stepchildren and 5 grandchildren.

Coleen encourages others to get involved in Rainbows any way you can- time, talent or treasure. Rainbows can use all three and will make the most of whatever you give!



Dr. Jennifer Francois with husband Chris and daughter, Talia.

## Jennifer Francois earns Doctorate Degree

Congratulations to Jennifer Francois on completing her Ph.D., in Communication Sciences and Disorders, through Wichita State University.

Jennifer's research is on the eye gaze of babies and their relationship to their mothers.

We wish her much success as Assistant Professor, Family Studies and Human Services at Kansas State University.

## Breaking the mold

Members of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity are part of the Ability Experience and spent much of their summer riding bicycles across the United States.

The team shared a Friendship Visit with Rainbows' Camp Woodchuck on Friday, July 10. The afternoon was filled with games, dance party, snacks and lots of fun.

"This visit has been a favorite stop of the Journey of Hope team for several years, and one we really look forward to all summer. We loved the songs," said the team.



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