



The Canvas

Seeing the unseen in every Rainbows' child.

Every gift makes a difference for children



It is that time of the year when we look into our mailboxes, there is another request for support of some worthy not-for-profit organization in our community. Rainbows, too, recently mailed out its annual giving request.

who travel throughout Butler and Sedgwick Counties to provide services to more than 3,500 children and their families annually.

We are not merely asking you to support Rainbows' day-to-day operations but to help transform lives. Lives like Jenna who learned to sign "I love you" to her mother, or Sophia whose mother never thought she would hear Sophia speak or see her walk of which Sophia now does both. We are not asking to help keep the lights on or maintain buildings – especially since 94% of Rainbows' services are provided out in the community where children live or are cared for – but to help reveal the masterpiece in each child.

So take a moment to read Rainbows' annual request to discern how your donation will be used. Hopefully then, you will feel ever so confident that your gift will help us continue in accomplishing our Mission.

Happy Holidays!

Deb
Deb

People have a lot of different reasons for giving. There is the traditional motive of stewardship that simply expresses one's gratitude. Others give because they believe in and support the agency's mission.

It is this part I want to focus on - Rainbows' mission - because when you give to Rainbows you are helping to *enhance the lives of children with special needs and their families by bringing together community resources and providing customized services.* The Mission happens because of the contributions of many. Eighty percent of Rainbows' budget goes into supporting staff through wages and benefits. It is this staff



A parent perspective

Jenna is diagnosed with cerebral palsy, developmental delays, and epilepsy. In her first year, one of the assistant teachers used American Sign Language. Jenna's speech was very delayed so we'd begun to teach her simple signs like more, milk, and eat. At that time Jenna's speech delay was the thing we really struggled with because she couldn't communicate to me what she needed and how she felt.

One evening I was putting her to bed and she looked at me and with a lot of concentration formed her fingers into the sign for "I Love You." It's a moment I will never forget. I had no idea she knew the sign and understood its meaning. I soon realized that the assistant teacher had taught her the sign. I will always remember that first time she said I Love You.

Jenna is now in 2nd grade at OK Elementary but she looks forward to spending each summer at Camp Woodchuck. She continues to learn and grow throughout the summer thanks to the Camp Woodchuck counselors. Her speech improved greatly between kindergarten and first grade. Her counselors found fun ways for Jenna to continue to make progress and build on the skills she'd learned at school.

Jenna is a happy, determined, and social little girl. She loves her family, looks up to her big sister, Sierra, and adores her Papa. Her favorite character is Curious George. She likes to play with baby dolls and Barbies.

I have confidence that Jenna is cared for when she's at Rainbows and even better that she's growing and thriving. - Jill Tinsley, Jenna's mom

Endowment honors Friends of the Heart

The purpose of Friends of the Heart is to enrich the lives of children with special needs and their families served by Rainbows through volunteerism, friend- raising and fundraising.

It's fair to say the Friends have fulfilled this purpose time and time again. Friends' members impacted the lives of thousands of children through the years by organizing mitten and diaper drives, creating hands on volunteer projects, soliciting donations and of course, organizing Fashion Passion, Rainbows' signature fundraising event.

In honor of the unwavering commitment to the mission of Rainbows, the Board of Directors and the Rainbows United Charitable Foundation (RUCF) Board opened an endowed account in the amount of \$10,000 under the name of *Friends of the Heart*. It's through donations from the Board and the Foundation this was made possible.



Funds from the *Friends of the Heart* Endowment will ensure children in our community receive the services they need for future generations to come.

To learn more about planned giving or the Friends of the Heart Endowment Fund, contact Angela Kessler, Vice President of Development at 316.558.3482.

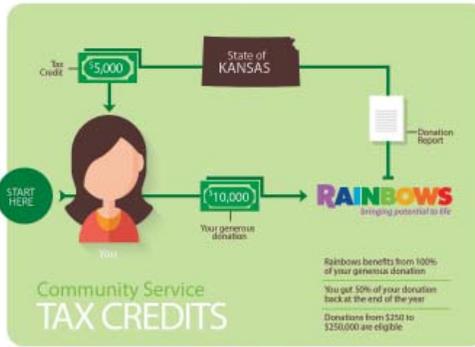
Endowment Partner Rainbows United Charitable Foundation, Inc. (RUCF) partners with Wichita Community Foundation for agency designation and endowed funds.



Fashion Passion 2016
raised \$380,000 in
support of children with
special needs and their
families served through
Rainbows.



Rainbows has Kansas Tax Credits available



Rainbows was awarded \$200,000 in tax credits through the Kansas Community Service Program. Rainbows will use Tax Credits to fund a campaign called "Revealing Masterpieces" for the purpose of implementing new client tracking and reporting software. This system will be customized to meet Rainbows' needs to integrate four existing disparate databases, centralize recordkeeping, improve customer service, and provide clients more options to communicate with us.

Donor Profile: Jim Walters



Jim may be new to the board, but he is not new to Rainbows. "I am pleased and honored to serve in an official volunteer role as a member of the Board. I've been involved with Rainbows over the past 12 years and have seen the impact they make on children with special needs."

As Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Communications for Textron, Jim is responsible for directing all HR functions and internal communications activities. Jim holds a degree in Business Administration and is certified Textron Six Sigma Green Belt.

When Jim is not working, he enjoys traveling and spending time with his wife, Jo and their two grown sons.

How tax credits work

Any business/individual subject to Kansas income tax will qualify for the tax credit, equal to 50% of their contribution. For example, when a donor makes a contribution to Rainbows Revealing Masterpieces Technology Project, the donor will receive a 50% credit on their Kansas income tax. A \$10,000 donation will earn a \$5,000 tax credit. If the donor does not have a tax liability, they get a check for \$5,000 (50%) from the State of Kansas. If the donor has a tax liability, the tax credit will be applied to the liability.

Contact Angela Kessler, Vice President of Development to find out more, akessler@rui.org or 316.558.3482.

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