



# The Canvas

Seeing the unseen in every Rainbows' child.



## Are you following Rainbows on social media?



Deb Voth, President

Social media is a part of our lives no matter how many times we give it up or get frustrated with it. It will surprise no one that I grew up without any exposure to social media but with the urging of our marketing and communication department I have signed up for most of the available options even though I am far from skilled on any of them.

So why should not-for-profits use social media – specifically Facebook?

Jeff Bullas who wrote “How Non Profits Can Use Social Media – Facebook Edition” shares:

Facebook is one of the largest social media sites on the web because:

- More than 200 million people actively use it;
- More than 100 million users log on at least once each day;
- The average user has 120 friends on their page;
- More than 4 billion minutes are spent on Facebook each day; and
- More than 6 million users become fans of Pages each day.

Rainbows has a great Facebook Page. You will always find uplifting stories, pictures of children we serve, comments from families, staff profiles, news about special events, interesting articles and numerous ways to link back to our website to access helpful information.



Through social media, we make it easy to register for events, make donations, etc. **Right now, we are promoting our GLOW Run | Walk. You can register yourself, start a team, and use the easy online team tools to win prizes all the while you will be helping children.** Details are included on the rack card enclosed.

We need your help to encourage others to Like and Share Rainbows' Facebook Page. The more we spread the word the more opportunities we have to help children and families.

Deb Voth, President

## Run | Walk Ambassador family is thankful for Rainbows' services

A close-knit family with 6 children ages 13 to one year, Ryan and Camillia feel blessed every day. “I love our family, every stage, every uniqueness is a gift,” said Camillia. When their sixth child, Pierson, was born, it didn't take long to discover he had Down syndrome and congenital heart failure. The family learned as much as they could about their son's special needs and got connected to Rainbows' Butler County Infant/Toddler Services right away.

Pierson had open heart surgery at 5 months old and his tonsils and adenoids removed at 11 months. The surgeries have improved his health, his severe sleep apnea and his development.

Melissa Baumgartel, a talented Rainbows' early childhood special education teacher,

is the primary coach who visits Pierson and his family every 2 weeks. “Melissa has been an incredible support,” said Camilla. “She is always ready with an encouraging word



as she sees Pierson either in person or by a picture I sent to her portraying his latest adventure. I am thankful for her wisdom as she helps us become even better stewards of *Our Little Braveheart*.”

Speech Language Pathologist, Kim Stewart also makes visits to give her professional insight on ways Pierson can try new foods in order to get the nutrition that he needs.

Currently the collaborative team of his family and his therapists are working on helping Pierson sit up and crawl.

“We're on a wonderful journey of absolute joy,” says Camillia. “We were not planning this journey, but we do know who is.” The family has a strong faith and lives by Proverbs 16:9.



Thanks to the ladies of Epsilon Sigma Alpha - Chi Epsilon Chapter - Wichita, local celebrities and generous sponsors, the 42nd Annual Blarney Breakfast raised more than \$52,000 for children with special needs served through Rainbows



### Breaking the Mold: Old Chicago



The staff at Old Chicago East is truly dedicated to making the Blarney Breakfast a successful event. This hard working group of volunteers is often overlooked, but is the glue that keeps the event running smooth year after year. Over 35 Old Chicago staff volunteer their time.

Some of the volunteers are former Old Chicago employees who come back every year to work. "I have former employees who have worked the breakfast the past 5 years. They love helping and making it a fun event," said Orasa Vayaphat, Old Chicago East General Manager. "Some of the wait staff, bartenders and kitchen crew work a full shift the night before so when they arrive early to work the breakfast, they've only had 2-3 hours of sleep. But they love helping Rainbows and the kids."

Old Chicago staff members also recruit their family and friends to help. "I am truly grateful to the staff and their families for their generosity and selflessness in supporting Rainbows, said Deb Voth.

### Renèe Walker



Rainbows is pleased to welcome Renèe Walker as Vice President of Human Resources. Renèe moved from Chicago to Wichita in June 2015 upon getting married to a long-time Wichita resident.

Renèe formerly worked at a not-for-profit child and family services agency in Chicago from 1998 to 2015. Her last position there was Vice President of Human Resources where she balanced supporting the staff as well as protecting the agency. She understands the legal aspects and effectively deals with issues in the HR area.

She has a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management and Development plus a Master's Degree in Business Administration from National Louis University in Chicago.

Welcome Renèe.

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