



The Canvas

Seeing the unseen in every Rainbows' child.

Childrens' issues are family focused



Deb Voth, President

The Kansas legislative session is in full swing and we have been closely watching several issues that impact individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families as well as specific children's issues. We have been in contact with our Sedgwick and Butler County elected officials as well as others serving on important committees.

One important source of funding in our state is The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. This fund is a bipartisan, quasi-governmental agency, that ensures accountable investment in children's programs. This group of appointed professionals oversees the Children's Initiative Fund (CIF). The CIF helps provide support to early childhood programs at Rainbows including preschool programs, tiny-k early intervention therapies, mental health services and screenings for young children. We value

this support that focuses on children and their families and have made preserving these funds across the state a priority.

Shannon Cotsoradis, President and CEO with Kansas Action for Children explains the fund this way: "Decades ago, Kansas lawmakers made a commitment to the state's future prosperity by establishing the Kansas Endowment for Youth (KEY) Fund and the Children's Initiative Fund (CIF) with tobacco settlement money. Kansas was the only state in the nation to do so, recognizing both the cost avoidance and tremendous return on investment generated by early learning. It was part of a larger vision to provide early learning opportunities for generations of Kansans to come."

When you visit with your elected officials please speak on behalf of children with special needs and their families encouraging support for those who need a voice.

Deb Voth, President



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Family Support Services makes a difference

Sisters, Hannah and Madison have a nameless genetic syndrome caused by an unbalanced translocation of the number 7 and number 20 chromosomes. This genetic syndrome causes physical, cognitive, and learning disabilities. Hannah is 17 and Madison is 14. Their mother Shanna said, "The syndrome they have causes them to behave like they are 3 or younger."

The sisters have overcome a lot despite their medical challenges. Hannah is very headstrong and has learned to do so much through the years. She has learned to walk and even ride a tricycle. "For someone to look at her they would believe it's not possible," said Shanna. Madison is very easy going and tends to take things in stride and endure whatever she has to. "Having the right people in our lives, including the Rainbows' staff, has helped us get through a lot," Shanna said.

Hannah and Madison received Rainbows' services including Targeted Case Management and in home and center based respite care. They also attend Camp Woodchuck during the summer months.

"Our family is so thankful for Melissa, our Targeted Case Manager's persistence, because the respite care services are a huge relief," Shanna said. Camp Woodchuck has also greatly impacted the girls and their mom. "The camp staff is very consistent and helpful for the girls, which allows me time to run errands and spend time with our two younger children during the summer," said Shanna.

Hannah and Madison's mom is comforted in knowing that she never has to worry when her daughters are in the care of the Rainbows' staff. "It is hard to find a natural acceptance just anywhere," Shanna said. "Rainbows' is full of a bunch of special people that understand and they don't just treat my girls like a job."



Shanna and Matthew Smith and family.

Donor Profile: BG Products



BG Products is a local company with roots in the Wichita community since 1971. In 2012 they were welcomed to El Dorado and have relocated much of their manufacturing there.

The company manufactures and distributes high quality automotive maintenance products for fuel systems, engines, transmissions, brakes, power steering, cooling system, battery, drive line and climate control systems. There are around 215 employees locally and more than 2,000 affiliates around the world.

Darin Greseth, President/CEO and 31 year veteran with the company says, "Our company's conservative values and commitment to the community makes us a good match for the important services that Rainbows' provides to children with special needs and their families. We are proud to sponsor this year's Rainbows' GLOW Run | Walk."

Thank you Darin and BG Products for making a difference for children and families in our community. We look forward to partnering with you.



41st Annual Blarney Breakfast to benefit Rainbows

Presented by

Bob & Arlo Casper



Thursday, March 17, 2016
6:00–9:30 a.m.

Old Chicago East | Kellogg & Rock

TICKETS

ADULT.....\$15

CHILD.....\$5
(UNDER 12)

Where do I purchase tickets?

- Online at RainbowsUnited.org
- Old Chicago East
- Call 316.558.3406

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