

The Canvas

Seeing the unseen in every Rainbows' child.



Early Childhood Mental Health



Deb Voth, President

Rainbows United has six grants, including two contracts with Child Start, Inc. to provide mental health services to young children in Sedgwick and Butler Counties. The work we are doing through all of these partnerships will impact 909 kids in 2015. We are thankful to our funders of these grants: United Way of the Plains, Sedgwick County Developmental Disability Organization, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund and the Lattner Foundation.

An estimated 20% of children ages 0-5 have social-emotional concerns that can be addressed by early intervention. Rainbows' primary interest is to identify and intervene with young children and their families to prevent problems from turning into diagnosable mental health conditions. Rainbows' staff work closely with valued early childhood community partners (TOP, Head Start, and Child Care providers) who make referrals to us. Staff also meet regularly with community mental health partners to be aware of all the services available in our community.

In a report by the American Academy of Pediatrics, it is stated that approximately 11% to 20% of children in the United States have a

behavioral or emotional disorder at any given time. There are even greater numbers of children who have these types of problems causing impairment or distress that do not meet the criteria for a "disorder".

Unfortunately behavioral and emotional problems are not being consistently identified or treated. It is said that fewer than 1 in 8 children will receive treatment and that between 37% and 39% will have a behavioral or emotional disorder by 16 years of age. The most common diagnoses are impulse control, disruptive behaviors, anxiety, and mood disorders.

There is unmet need in our area. One of Rainbows' top priorities is to have mental health services available for young children in Butler County and for underserved children in Sedgwick County.

You can help by giving to our "Little Things" membership campaign. To do this, simply give online at RainbowsUnited.org or mail in your gift to the address below.

Deb Voth, President



happy homes

Hudson and his family benefit from Mental Health Services

Savannah brought her four-year-old son, Hudson, to Screen for Success for a behavior screening. She said he was having trouble at preschool. He would push other kids, be overly aggressive, hit and kick when he was angry. She was getting daily verbal reports about his behavior and was concerned.

Rainbows' Mental Health Specialist conducted a social-emotional screening and identified some needs. She arranged for a follow-up visit and observed Hudson interacting with his mom and baby brother at home. It was determined that Hudson is very aware of his emotion, but did not know what to do once he was mad.

In subsequent visits he learned some techniques to help him regulate his emotions and get along better with his peers. Things like counting to 5 or moving to another part of the room when he is upset so he can cool down.

As a result of additional evaluation, Hudson qualified for special education services for occupational therapy while he attends prekindergarten. His parents are relieved that services are set up for him and his mom continues to work with Rainbows' on her parenting skills and encouraging Hudson to talk about his feelings.

"Our home is so much more peaceful, now that Hudson knows he has choices when he gets mad," said Savannah. "He

gets along better at preschool and the one-on-one therapy gives him the extra attention and direction that he needed."

At Rainbows we have Mental Health Services for children birth - 5 years old at no cost to families. We conduct assessments that will tell what kind of services best meet the needs of the child. If the assessment indicates that we can meet their needs, we can help. If the assessment indicates that another service may be needed, we can help the family find the right service in the community.

If you are a parent concerned about your child's behavior or social and emotional well-being, call our Mental Health Coordinator, Audra Kenneson at 316.558.3420.

RAINBOWS

GLOW RUN | WALK

More than 703 people participated in Rainbows GLOW Run | Walk events Saturday, April 18 even though the race and walk did not take place due to dangerous weather conditions. More than 120 volunteers came together in support of the event. Proceeds of more than \$20,800 will benefit children birth – 21 with special needs served through Rainbows' two Butler County services: Bright Beginnings Infant/Toddler Services and Targeted Case Management.

"It's great to see the Butler County community and our Rainbows' families come out and celebrate together," said Deb Voth, Rainbows United President. "The city of Augusta and Lincoln Elementary School were wonderful hosts."

Rainbows Run | Walk Sponsors are: Vess Oil Corporation, Parks Motors Parks Chevrolet, Kansas Gas Service, A Division of ONE Gas, Sherwin Williams Company – Andover Plant, Heartland Homecare Services, Inc., Cox Communications, Butler County Times Gazette, The Wichita Eagle.



Board Committee Member Profile - Kate Geren

Regional Sales Operations Manager at Cox Communications, Kate Geren has been part of the Rainbows' Technology Task Force since 2013.



She has researched, compiled data and helped assess Rainbows' technology needs and helped us look to the future.

She is a fan because Rainbows provides great services that dramatically impact the future of many children in our community, which in turn improves the community as a whole. She says she enjoys the Camp Woodchuck choir when they come to sing at Cox as well as participating in the Blarney Breakfast.

Kate is married to Ray and they have a 4.5 month old daughter Lillah. Her favorite quote is: "The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." by Oscar Wilde.

Thank you, Kate, for lending your specialized skills to make a difference for Rainbows.

Breaking the mold



Armed with rakes, saws, gloves and paint brushes, more than 100 LOVE Wichita volunteers helped move fences, pull weeds, construct playhouses, clean up leaves and trash, spread mulch, paint, and so much more to the grounds outside both Rainbows' Kids' Point and Kids' Cove locations on Saturday, April 25.

Hardworking volunteers came from Tabernacle Bible Church, Holy Savior Catholic Church, Central Christian Church, and First United Methodist Church.

Thank you to all volunteers.



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