



The Canvas

Seeing the unseen in every Rainbows' child.

Camp Woodchuck



Deb Voth, President

There are probably hundreds of different kinds of camps in the Wichita area. With emphasis on sports, art, music, academic or recreational, most popular categories are covered for many young people in our community.

And most are geared toward those without disabilities. So what does a parent with a child who has a developmental disability and cannot have their needs met at one of these camps do in the summer?

Camp Woodchuck started May 28 and will run through July 31. In just a little over nine weeks, Monday through Friday weekdays, over 100 children and youth 6 years to 21 years will participate in an array of fun-filled activities.

These activities and supports can only happen with the employment of 75 staff (yes, we have a one-to-one staffing for most of our Campers). It is a joyful and safe place for individuals who have some significant challenges. This supports the theme: Rainbows Got Unique Talent.

Here is what some of our parents say about Camp:

"All staff who work with our child are awesome. To single out a couple would be unfair to others!"

"I would love for her to have as much fun as she had last year! She was happy everyday!"

"Grateful for funding so my son can attend Camp Woodchuck! If these resources aren't available, we would never be able to afford for him to go!"

"Many staff and clients recognize my child away from Rainbows. It is encouraging to see his "community" grow."

And a funny one... *"My son looks forward to Camp Woodchuck. I love the variety of activities they provide. He now enjoys burping – but honestly I don't think that could have been avoided. It's the other campers who taught him but that is life."*

Isn't that what many camp experiences are – a place that allows children to take some healthy risks in a safe and nurturing environment – even if that includes learning how to burp!

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the
little
things



Just like Sophia, each child we serve has a rainbow within. With contributions from friends and neighbors like you, the sun shines brighter, revealing the beauty that's a part of each child.

Shine your light through Rainbows and show children just how beautiful a masterpiece they truly are with your gift at RainbowsUnited.org.

Your generosity makes possible the little things that pave the way to major milestones for every family we serve. We need to raise \$200,000 by June 30, 2015 to fulfill our mission to bring every child's potential to life.

Camp Woodchuck is a great fit for Korey

Korey likes helping people. She is a role model to her younger sister and likes to help her friends at Camp Woodchuck. Korey was diagnosed with mitochondrial myopathy, encephalopathy and autism, she has attended camp for 8 years.



Korey struggles with some social interaction and tires easily. Camp Woodchuck gives Korey the opportunity to interact with her peers and move at a pace that works for her while enjoying all of the fun activities.

"She is happy to be a helper," said Korey's mother Ronda. "She doesn't have to struggle

to keep up with everyone at camp, it is low key and has enough down time for her."

Korey's favorite part of Camp Woodchuck is being a member of the *Voices of the Rainbow* choir.

"The choir is an excellent program for these kids," Ronda said. "They love being part of a group and enjoy doing things together."

Korey also receives after school latchkey, respite care, and targeted case management through Rainbows. "The kids make friends and look forward to seeing each other at Rainbows," Ronda said.

In 2015, Korey walked with her class for her high school graduation. "She was very excited," Ronda said.

Endowment gives lasting legacy

Make a gift today – leave your legacy and be a part of our bright future. Gifts to Rainbows United Charitable Foundation endowment fund are welcome at any time.

We are proud to partner with Wichita Community Foundation for the investment of endowed gifts. Please visit Wichita Community Foundation at wichitacf.org to learn more about their services to the community.

Income from endowed funds supports Rainbows' ongoing operations and existing services despite fluctuations in other established funding streams.

To learn more, contact the development office: 316.267.KIDS.

Pre-K Graduation

Kids' Point pre-kindergarten graduation took place Thursday, May 21 in the outdoor classroom. Fourteen children participated in the "Oh, How I've Grown" ceremony and received certificates while friends and family looked on.

Right: Early childhood special education teacher Annabel Bentley presents a certificate to Ethan Depaulis.



Committee Member Profile - Barb Orsi

Ask Barb Orsi about her dedication to children who struggle and you'll easily get a passionate answer that mentions courage and tenacity.



Peter and Barb Orsi

A dedicated Rainbows' volunteer, and Chi Epsilon Chapter of ESA member, Barb organizes volunteers for the Blarney Breakfast and has been involved since 2007.

"I try to add a few new volunteers to the ranks each year. They almost all return the next year because it's such a great cause," said Barb. "I appreciate that Rainbows began with one woman and a conviction."

A Literacy Intervention Specialist and Student Advocate, Barb helps kids learn to read. Her favorite quote is "Reading IS Rocket Science!" by the American Federation of Teachers, 1999.

She and husband, Peter have four kids and one grandson. Thank you Barb for your endless energy and giving so faithfully to Rainbows' kids.

Breaking the mold

Nate & Julie Hampel have been part of the Rainbows' family for many years. They, along with the whole Hampel family, have taken an annual family 4th of July picnic and turned it into a highly attended fundraising event for Rainbows, The Hampel Luau.



In its 8th year, Nate & Julie credit all of the Luau's success to the entire Hampel family including the amazing support Hampel Oil.

Why Rainbows? Julie expresses that when deciding to use this event as a major fundraiser it was important to give back to Rainbows because of the wonderful services and family support that Rainbows has given to Nate's cousin Peter Hampel, who has cerebral palsy. "The Hampel family has such high regard for Rainbows and the support provided to Peter over the years," said Julie.

Nate & Julie have 2 children, a son Uriah 5 and a daughter Mila 3. This year the Hampel Luau is Saturday, August 1 and for the second year at Tanganyika Wildlife Park in Goddard.

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