

The Canvas

Seeing the unseen in every Rainbows' child.



Give to make *The Little Things* possible



Deb Voth, President

Rainbows' friends will soon receive a mailing asking for year-end gifts. It is that time of year when each of us reassesses our past year and our giving capacity.

This request for funds is a cornerstone to funding Rainbows' services. While special events such as Fashion Passion, Blarney Breakfast, and Glow Run | Walk raise significant funds and introduce us to new friends, this year-end mailing is the foundation for supporting Rainbows' valued services. When each of us gives from our resources, *little things* are possible.

We hear the stories from families and staff daily of why these services are critical. They speak of the life-changing moments when they see optimism instead of despair; when they see

their children accomplishing things they did not think possible before. They see the strengths of their children instead of weaknesses.

Be a part of bringing hope to the more than 3,400 children with special needs and their families. Help make their future brighter through *the little things* like early intervention therapeutic services, high-quality education and child care, case management, mental health and autism services, Camp Woodchuck, plus in-home and center-based respite supports.

As one of Rainbows' parents said, "The future is a lot brighter for our family with Rainbows United included." I hope you will be a part of continuing this foundation for children and families who are being served now and those yet to come.

Deb Voth, President

#GIVING
TUESDAY

First there was
BLACK FRIDAY
then there was
CYBER MONDAY
now there is
#GIVINGTUESDAY

Mark your calendar for
Tuesday, December 1 and join
Rainbows online for #GivingTuesday.

Lori provides Specialized Foster Care

Twenty years ago, Lori Fink was introduced to Rainbows through a coworker at Levy Special Education Center. The para was a foster parent through Rainbows which sparked Lori's interest because she had a heart for children with special needs. In 2006, Lori became a foster parent as well. Kerri Dixon, Rainbows' Foster Care Social Worker, has been alongside Lori through her journey.

"It has been a great experience for my family," Lori said. "It has taught my children about people with special needs, I wish more families would do it."

Lori is a single parent with three biological children who have accepted each foster child into their family as one of their own.

Currently, Lori is fostering a 6 year old boy with Autism who has been with her for more than a year. She knows there is a family looking to adopt him. "It is very exciting to see that happen," Lori said.

Lori's "aha" moment occurred 6 years ago when her family was sending a foster child to be reunited with his biological family. "It was heartbreaking, we were all in tears," Lori said. "But his dad said 'we couldn't have done this without you, you helped my son grow.' It was so touching, I knew I was helping this family and it was a good thing, we still keep in touch."

Lori is thankful Kerri and Rainbows are there to provide the support she needs as a foster parent. "Rainbows is an agency that helps kids, but they help the parents too," Lori said. "It is a challenge to have a child with special needs and parents need support, Rainbows does a good job with that."

To find out more about Rainbows' Specialized Foster Care program contact Kerri Dixon at kdixon@rui.org or 316.558.3539.



Alyssa, Kylee and Lori Fink

Board Committee Member Profile: Trisha McPherson

As a member of Rainbows' Human Resources Committee, Trisha McPherson provides insight and experience from her career as a HR professional for Via Christi Health where she is a HR Business Partner.

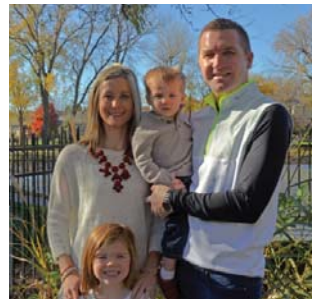
A busy mom and wife, Trisha knows firsthand the difference services make for a family. "One of my daughters used some of Rainbows' speech therapy services when she was little and had some speech delays," said Trisha. "We were blessed that her struggles were minor and easily overcome and it brought home how special the services are that Rainbows provides to children and their families who deal with challenges much greater than ours."



Trisha and Geoff McPherson with their 3 daughters

"The staff were great to work with. They give hope and resources to parents who may be overwhelmed and need these services." She enjoys spending time exploring the local area with her family and living her favorite Bible verse: Luke 1:37, Nothing is impossible with God.

Breaking the mold



Heather and Evan Feist with Booklyn and Cameron.

Heather Feist was introduced to Rainbows as a middle school student doing volunteer work. She then worked at Camp Woodchuck and latch key during college and has been a *Friends of the Heart* member helping out with Fashion Passion for 5 years.

"After working with many of the children and families, I fell in love with their innocence, spirits and smiles," said Heather.

Heather works as an accountant with Benchmark Real Estate Group. She encourages everyone to take a minute and look at what they have - friends, health, happiness, etc. - and then give any of their extra time, money or talents to help others. She believes donating to or volunteering at Rainbows is not only beneficial to the organization, but very fulfilling.

Thank you Heather for sharing your time, talent and treasure supporting the children and families of Rainbows.

a benefit for children with special needs

FASHION PASSION
TWENTY FIFTEEN

November 20th at 6:30 p.m.
Beech Activity Center
RAINBOWSUNITED.ORG/fashionpassion

RAINBOWS
bringing potential to life

EVENT CHAIRS: LouAnn Schneider and Tony Caputo
HONORARY CHAIRS: George and Jocelyn Ludlum

presented by: **COX**
ACCEL CONSTRUCTION LLC
BIBBITY
Decheratt
Cesato
Zawker
SPIRIT
DOCUPLEX
COLAB

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