



The Canvas

RAINBOWS
bringing potential to life

February 2018

Save the Date



Celebrate with us on **Friday, March 16, 2018** for the 43rd Annual Blarney Breakfast at Old Chicago East. Proceeds benefit children with special needs and their families served by Rainbows United. Enjoy a hearty breakfast and bottomless cups of coffee while participating in the festivities with bagpipers, Irish dancers and much, much more! Tickets available at RainbowsUnited.org/BlarneyBreakfast.



Join us for the Seventh Annual 5K and 1-Mile Walk to benefit children with special needs, ages birth – 21, and their families in Butler County! **Saturday, May 5, 2018** at 9 a.m. at Lincoln Elementary School, Augusta.

Funding Sources FY 2017 July 2016 – June 2017

Federal and State sources, HCBS fees	\$ 3,729,431
Unified School Districts	2,415,198
United Way of the Plains	659,772
Sedgwick and Butler County	627,453
Family fees	519,930
Third party funding	525,724
Private grants and contributions	1,249,790
Other	95,203

Letter from the President



In this Canvas issue you will see a pie chart identifying the various sources of FY 17 funding for Rainbows' services. As you will see, the majority of our funding comes through

one or more governmental entities. In order to balance our budget and provide a quality level of service, Rainbows also depends a great deal on private grants and donations. This has been a trend for the last 10 years as many other funding sources have remained flat at best or decreased. One of Rainbows' focus areas identified through our strategic plan is to increase and diversify the agency's funding. We will continue to explore funding opportunities in order to support needed services for children and youth with special needs and their families.

Rainbows' audit for FY 17 was presented to our Board of Directors in January 2018. I am pleased to share there were no findings or material weaknesses. Our financial personnel continue to improve Rainbows' overall accounting processes and financial reporting.

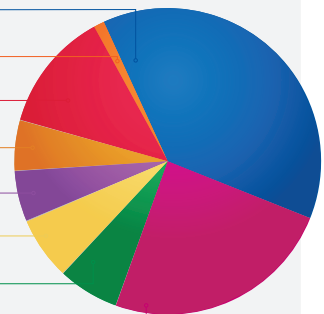
This Legislative Session, there are several bills and issues Rainbows is tracking. One of the biggest initiatives is seeking a statewide funding increase for infant/toddler services. Since 2010 the number of birth to three year olds with special needs served statewide has increased by 23%, while State Infant/Toddler funding for these services has increased statewide by only 1.75%.

The number of infants and toddlers served by Rainbows in both Butler and Sedgwick Counties has increased dramatically since 2010. In 2016 Rainbows served 84% more infants and toddlers than we did in 2010, while our State infant/toddler funding has increased by only 9.5%. Rainbows is required by State and Federal governments to serve all of the children who are eligible for infant/toddler services. We want to provide these services, too, but it is imperative that funding increases in order for us to do that.

Stay tuned. We will let you know what this Legislative Session does to help individuals with special needs.

Deb Voth, President

- Federal and State sources, HCBS fees - 38%
- Other - 1%
- Private grants and donations - 13%
- Third party funding - 5%
- Family fees - 5%
- United Way of the Plains - 7%
- Sedgwick and Butler County - 6%
- Unified School Districts - 25%



Volunteer Stats 2017

Over the past year, Rainbows United benefited from the donation of 7,949 volunteer hours from committed individuals. Included in those hours are 1,920 hours contributed by our Board of Directors, and 580 hours that were given by the ladies of Friends of the Heart. The estimated value of volunteer time in 2016 was \$24.14 per hour,

Volunteer Hours

7,949

Number of Volunteers

547

Rainbows accumulated

\$191,888

In volunteer hours in 2017

according to Independent Sector, a coalition of charities, foundations, corporations, and individuals that publishes research important to the nonprofit sector. This means Rainbows accumulated the equivalent of \$191,888 in volunteer hours for 2017. In addition, from January 2017 to December 2017, Rainbows provided 22 group volunteer opportunities to the community.

"We rely on volunteers for so many things," said Sidni Garwood, Rainbows' Volunteer Coordinator. "It is such a privilege to be able to find the perfect match between a volunteer and an agency need. I find such fun in linking their experience, talents and eagerness to serve with an open opportunity to help! True volunteerism is beneficial for both those giving and receiving."

We love our volunteers at Rainbows! If you have participated as a volunteer for Rainbows, in any capacity, please know that we recognize the importance of your role in this organization and we **THANK YOU** for your service. **We couldn't fulfill our mission without you!** If you are looking for ways to give back and volunteer at Rainbows, consider visiting our website volunteer page or contacting Sidni Garwood at any time throughout the year to learn about the current volunteer opportunities available. Email her at sgarwood@rui.org for more details!

2018

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A Volunteer's Perspective: Donna Boekser



Rainbows' volunteer, Donna Boekser enjoys a hug from her grandchildren.

I first learned about Rainbows through my daughter, Alexia, who is the Infant/Toddler Services Assistant Coordinator at Kids' Cove. Through her experiences and stories, I recognized Rainbows as a very worthwhile organization that fills an important need in the community. I was involved in another not-for-profit agency, the Boy Scouts of America, at one time. During my time there, I experienced the value volunteers give to agencies like these. They help deliver programs and add efficiency to administration. Many not-for-profits would be unable to continue offering services without the assistance of volunteers.

I have since retired from the Boy Scouts, and with extra time on my hands, it is now possible to devote a few hours a week to assisting

with administrative tasks at Rainbows. There is a great deal of documentation required to provide services to the children of Sedgwick County. I am able to help staff with maintaining these files. The filing is time-consuming, and by keeping the files up to date, I am leaving professional staff available to provide direct services.

In addition to Rainbows, my other involvement in community activity includes working on agency budgets for the United Way and working on United Way campaigns in various businesses. I feel really lucky that I can provide some worthwhile services for others.

Thank you Donna for your commitment to Rainbows and the community!