



RAINBOWS
brinaina potential to life

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39 years bringing potential to life at Rainbows

Rainbows United, Inc. was founded in 1972 as a developmental training center for children with severe, multiple disabilities who were ineligible for special education services provided through the public schools. In the late 1970's, when legislation required public schools to provide services to all children of school age regardless of their disability, Rainbows began focusing on delivery of early intervention services to children below school age and wrap-around family support services to children birth through age 21.

Legislation in the early 1990's extended mandated special education services to children beginning at age three. Rainbows continues to serve children three to five with special needs through the Community Based Education/Training Services (CBETS) and children birth to age three through Infant/Toddler Services, known as *tiny-k*, in Sedgwick County, and later in Butler County.

Since 1994, Rainbows has been the sponsoring agency for Connecting Point, a project of the Sedgwick County Early Childhood Coordinating Council which brings together more than 40 agencies committed to young children.

Today, Rainbows provides center based, community based and home based service options for children birth - 21 with special needs. Service components currently include hearing and vision specialty services, respite care for individuals across the life span, early intervention, high quality preschool classes, case management services, supported family living, foster care for children with special needs, therapies, mental health services, Autism waiver services, and specialized child care.

Serving over 3,400 children, birth - 21, with special needs or at risk and their families this year, Rainbows continues a deep rooted commitment to enhancing the lives of children with special needs for many years to come.



Rainbows United Timeline

1972 – Founded by Linda Weir-Enegren in basement of a church, 5 volunteers to serve 5 children

1984 – 107 children served, Home-based services added

1992 – 325 children served, Ritchie Family Center in operation, Community Based Education and Training Services added

1993 – 619 children served, Targeted Case Management added

1996 – 1,127 children served, Kids' Cove opened

1997 – Camp Woodchuck provides summer fun for those 6-21

1997 – 1,152 children served, Infant /Toddler Services extended to Butler County

1998 – 1,156 children served, Uptown Kids and Family Enrichment Center opened

2002 – 1,601 children served, Structured classrooms for autism implemented

2003 – Rainbows United Charitable Foundation, Inc. established as separate 509(a)(3)

2005 – 1,819 children served, Fashion Passion's first year, Pre-K program

2007 – Rainbows celebrates 35th Birthday, 7,253 children served in 35 years

2009 – Kids' Point opened, Financial irregularities result in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy filing July 30.

2010 - Rainbows restructured, downsized to three locations and continues to serve more than 3,400 children with special needs or at risk annually.

Rainbows Services



helping hands

Targeted Case Management Services

Providing personal assistance in finding and securing the programs, services and financial aid children and families need.



bright beginnings

Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers

Helping very young children with developmental delays play, share, learn and grow. Serving both Sedgwick and Butler Counties.



happy homes

Mental Health

Learn new ways to boost a child's self-confidence, and gain valuable, effective parenting skills.



shedding light

Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver

Helping families discover and understand the uniqueness, the potential and the abilities of children with autism.



opening doors

Smart Start

Working together for affordable, quality childcare, education and early childhood wellness.



growing potential

Child Care and Preschool

Helping your child learn and grow through trusted childcare services and progressive early childhood education.



going beyond

Community Based Education/Training Services (CBETS)

Equipping children to acquire the skills necessary to succeed in the classroom.



soaring above

Specialized Foster Care

Connecting children with secure, nurturing families who support their temporary or long-term needs.



spreading wings

Family Support Services

Encouraging children to be children in fun supportive and safe environments.



giving time

Opportunities to Volunteer

Experience the simple joy of giving a little of yourself to the children of Rainbows United.



circle of friends

Friends of the Heart

Volunteerism, friend raising and fundraising. Organizing premier special events to raise awareness and support.

Mission

Rainbows United, Inc. enhances the lives of children with **special needs** and their families by bringing together community resources and providing customized services.

Vision

Bringing potential to life by elevating the uniqueness of children and their families.



Deb Voth is President of Rainbows United, Inc. and joined the agency in 1993. She has been instrumental in directing the agency during restructuring, and is committed to leading the organization into the future. Additionally, Voth oversees day-to-day operations and supervises



Deb Voth
President

Targeted Case Management Services, Family Support Services and Mental Health Services. She works closely with state and local officials to address developmental disability and Early Childhood issues in our state.

Voth is a graduate of the University of Kansas, Lawrence with Bachelors Degrees Special Education and Education plus a Master's degree in Education from Wichita State University.

Prior to coming to Rainbows, she served as Director at Early Education Center in

Hutchinson for 13 years. A life-long advocate for children with disabilities, Deb serves on many local and state organizations including appointment by the Governor to the Kansas Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council.

Voth is married to Kent with two grown sons and a daughter-in-law. Therapy dog Finney, is a part of the Voth and Rainbows' family.

Board Chair, **Pat Gearhart**, is President at Bank of Kansas. An Oklahoma State University graduate, he has a lifetime of experience in the banking industry.



Pat Gearhart
Chair, Board of Directors

Gearhart has been a Rainbows' board member since 2005. He's a fan of Rainbows because of the agency's unwavering and singular commitment to serving children with special needs and their families.

He encourages others to get involved by volunteering or donating in a way that they are passionate about.

He is married to Jackie Comfort and has two sons.

Favortie quote: Let discretion be the better part of valor. - Shakespeare



Leadership Staff

Deb Voth
President

Michelle L. Eastman
Vice President of marketing & communications

Betty Graham
Vice President of human resources

Stephanie Harder
Vice President of development

Debbie Mai
Vice President of programs and services

Kere Noel
Chief Financial Officer

Board of Directors Officers

Pat Gearhart, Chair
Jeff Jabara, Vice Chair
Lisa Farris, Secretary
Dan Drake, Treasurer
Hale Ritchie,
Immediate Past Chair

Founder

Linda Weir-Enegren