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of Directors**

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Simmons Bank

Chair Elect: Chuck Passannante
Textron Aviation

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Spirit AeroSystems

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Community Volunteer

Cynthia Cross
Cox

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Lisa Farris
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Janeen Hughes
Midwest Trust

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Hale Ritchie
Community Volunteer

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Claudia Yaujar-Amaro
AB&C Bilingual Resources, LLC

**Rainbows United
Charitable Foundation
Board of Directors**

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Community Volunteer

Vice Chair: Helen Healy
Community Volunteer

Secretary: Stephanie Galichia
Community Volunteer

Treasurer: Janeen Hughes
Midwest Trust

Dan Peare
Hinkle Law Firm

Hale Ritchie
Community Volunteer

Steve Yager
Kirby Yager Financial

Rainbows United, Inc.

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El Dorado, KS 67042
316.320.1342



The Canvas

Letter from the President:



“What have you done to change the world today?”

This question was posed by a speaker at a conference I attended. Initially, it made me uncomfortable. I even pulled out my planner, as if the answer might magically appear among my scheduled tasks for the week. A week later, still searching for an answer, it came to me while watching the 1995 rom-com, *While You Were Sleeping*, starring Sandra Bullock. In one scene, Peter tells Lucy that people rarely get the chance to be heroic, but she points out that he gives up his seat on the train every day for others. When he downplays it, saying,

“That’s not heroic,” Lucy replies, “It is to the person who sits there.”

Rainbows does heroic work every day. One small action each day from our dedicated staff and supporters has helped thousands and thousands of children in our community. I’m grateful to witness this firsthand and invite you to join me in ensuring our Mission continues by contributing to our Little Things annual campaign. One small act ripples outward, creating positive change in ways we may never fully see or understand.

Rachel Banning, President

Make Your 2024 Gift Count!

Just a quick reminder—if you’re planning to make a charitable gift for 2024, it must be postmarked by December 31.



For 50 years, this community has cared for Rainbows families, giving them the chance to thrive. With your help, 62,000 children have gained skills and confidence that help them reach their potential. Last year alone, Rainbows touched the lives of nearly 4,000 kids.

Community support made this possible. Time’s running out, so don’t wait until the last minute to make your contribution. Every gift helps. Thank you for supporting Rainbows’ kids in 2024!

Blarney Breakfast is March 17, 2025



We're gearing up for the Blarney Breakfast 50th Anniversary edition on Monday, March 17 at Old Chicago East. We're pulling out all the stops to make this the most unforgettable year ever with good food, great entertainment, and amazing support from the Wichita community!

We hope to have 50 Shamrocks for our 50th anniversary. Be a part of the fun as a Shamrock Sponsor with a \$500 gift (you'll get six tickets as a thank you.) We need your help! Shamrocks help make Camp Woodchuck possible for Rainbows' kids during the summer. Contact Tasha at tmckeeper@rui.org to sign up.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children with special needs and their families. We're so excited to celebrate this special 50th Blarney Breakfast with you!

Family gives back

When Jay and Aleksandra Devilliers moved to Wichita in 2013 they both played tennis for Wichita State University. Each was recruited from Europe; she is from Serbia but living in Sweden and he grew up in France. They met in high school through sports.

"Moving to Wichita turned out to be a great place to raise our family and build community," said Aleksandra. She says coaches and donors through WSU were key to making them feel connected. "Everything we need is close by and accessible."

Jay agrees, "the city has been an incredible community. Wichita has allowed me to grow both personally and professionally." He got a job at a local entertainment venue and started playing pickleball – a lot. This new sport turned into a professional career. He now travels the country playing the game.

Grateful for their three children ages 7, 5, and 2, the Devilliers wanted to do something special for Jay's 30th birthday to give back to the community that has been so good to them. A friend introduced them to Rainbows United.

"Instead of receiving traditional gifts for my birthday, I invited friends and family to contribute to a cause



that's close to my heart. The funds will go towards a playground where children of all abilities can play, learn, and grow together," said Jay.

"It's here my wife and I built our life together and are growing our family," said Jay. "This playground is something we can do to show our kids what it means to give back. I am very excited to see how this project will positively impact the daily life of so many children."

Thanks to the generosity of so many, more than \$22,000 has been raised. If you'd like to find out more visit <https://jaydevilliers.com/dona> or to help Jay and Aleksandra reach their goal of \$30,000 you can give directly at RainbowsUnited.org/donate.