

2025 Board of Directors

Chair: Chuck Passannante
Textron Aviation

Immed. Past Chair: Pat Gearhart
Simmons Bank

Secretary: Adam Pogue
Spirit AeroSystems

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Community Volunteer

Steve Cox
Community Volunteer

Cynthia Cross
Cox

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AB&C Bilingual Resources, LLC



Letter from the President:



program enables Certifying Organizations to honor their most outstanding volunteers.

Last month, I had the privilege of recognizing three members of Rainbows Board of Directors for the countless hours of service to Rainbows and other community organizations. Pictured are: Gail Johnson, Julie Gentile, and Pat Gearhart who were presented with the certificate, medallion, and a letter from the President of the United States.

Thank you for your service to Rainbows and our community.

Rachel Banning, President

In 2003, the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation established the President’s Volunteer Service Award to highlight the vital contributions of volunteers to America’s strength and national identity. This award celebrates individuals whose service makes a meaningful impact on communities across the nation and inspires others to take action. To qualify, recipients must complete at least 100 hours of service within a recent 12-month period.

The President’s Volunteer Service Award has been upheld by every administration, recognizing volunteers who dedicate their time and skills to address some of the nation’s most pressing challenges. Overseen by AmeriCorps and managed in collaboration with Points of Light, this

Rainbows United Charitable Foundation Board of Directors

Chair: Steve Cox
Community Volunteer

Vice Chair: Helen Healy
Community Volunteer

Secretary: Stephanie Galichia
Community Volunteer

Treasurer: Dan Peare
Hinkle Law Firm

Pat Gearhart
Simmons Bank

Hale Ritchie
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Rainbows United, Inc.

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Wichita, KS 67220
316.267.KIDS (5437)

2258 N. Lakeway Cir.
Wichita, KS 67205

409 N. Main
El Dorado, KS 67042
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HONORARY CHAIRS GEORGE & JOCELYNE LAHAM

Avant Garde
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RAINBOWS
empowering children and families

Williams family continues giving tradition

"My dad always supported causes that assisted troubled or disadvantaged children and youth," said third generation business owner of BRC Bearing Chrissy Williams. "This truly felt like a perfect gift."

Chrissy and husband Brad run the family business and parent three active teenagers. Their son Cooper is 13. He received early intervention services in the family home as a toddler and attended Rainbows' Camp Woodchuck last summer for the first time. "Camp Woodchuck was a good fit for Cooper due to the attentive staff and activities tailored for kids with developmental delays," said Chrissy.

She said the Camp Woodchuck experience went much better than previous camps because of the attention to routine, incorporating school-like elements, and fun field trips. This set the kids up for success.

"One of the most special things was being able to sneak up and watch Cooper and the other kids sing on one their field trips," said Chrissy. "We don't normally go do things like that, because it inevitably upsets him when he isn't able to leave with us, but this time it worked out really well for everyone."

Born with a genetic abnormality that effects all regions of learning, speech, motor skills, etc. causing global delays along with Autism, Cooper needs constant supervision and care.



Cooper Williams (center) after a choir performance at LS Industries with his parents, Brad and Chrissy along with Rainbows' Founder Linda Wier-Enegren and son, Paul.

When Cooper was younger, Rainbows' staff helped with a successful hearing test and made the transition from home into school work well. "We are grateful Rainbows is able to provide services customized for our son's needs," said Brad.

Cooper has a big sister Tori, 17 and twin sister Kaylee. Both play soccer and are fiercely protective of their brother. "Having a sibling with a special need is a challenge, but the girls are nothing short of amazing when he has meltdowns and need help to regulate and calm down," says their mother. The family has a dog and two puppies.

TICKETS ON SALE SOON

5TH
Blarney
BREAKFAST

March 17, 2025

Support Rainbows with a
\$500 Shamrock sponsorship.

Contact Tasha at tmckeeper@rui.org.

Belin Foundation helps children thrive

Thank you to the Belin Foundation for your generous gifts to the children of Rainbows year after year. Your support has made a huge difference in the lives of children with special needs, helping us provide the services they rely on to grow and thrive. Because of you, and all our generous partners, we continue to offer opportunity to Rainbows' kids and their families.

*So
Grateful
for you!*