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## Rainbows United Charitable Foundation Board of Directors

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## Rainbows United, Inc.

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May 2025

# The Canvas

## A New Chapter, Rooted in Care and Possibility



very best.

That's why it was with deep reflection and great care that we made the difficult decision to close our Infant and Toddler classrooms, effective December 31, due to ongoing budget constraints. This moment marks a meaningful transition in our journey — one that holds both a sense of loss and a renewed sense of purpose.

For so many families, including my own, these classrooms have been places of connection, discovery, and hope. They have embodied our Mission — to see, support, and celebrate every child — from the very start of life. Stepping away from this cherished part of our programming was not easy. But it was guided by data, dialogue, and a bold commitment to sustainability and long-term impact.

**While we honor what is ending, we're equally focused on what's beginning.**

Starting in 2025, we will expand our Early Care and Education program for children ages 2.5 to 5 — a time rich with

developmental potential and readiness for school and life. This expansion will allow us to deepen our impact where the need is growing most, with inclusive classrooms designed to nurture each child's unique abilities and strengths.

Our Mission remains steady. But the way we deliver on it is evolving — growing in focus, in reach, and in power. This reimagining allows us to invest in high-quality learning environments, strengthen family partnerships, and equip our dedicated educators with the tools they need to help every child thrive.

In the coming months, we'll share more about what this next chapter will look like: new opportunities, stronger systems, and creative ways to build belonging for the children and families we serve.

Your continued partnership makes all of this possible. Thank you for standing with us in this season of change — and for believing, as we do, that every child deserves a bright beginning and a boundless future.

With gratitude and hope,

*Rachel Banning*

Rachel Banning, President

## From Camp to Forever: A Journey of Love and Connection

When Maddy Scholfield signed up to work at Rainbows' Camp Woodchuck during her college summer break, she expected to gain valuable experience working with children and youth with special needs. What she didn't expect was to build lifelong friendships—and meet the man who would later become her husband.

"Those were some of the best times of my life," Maddy reflects. "There was such a strong sense of community—not just among the campers, but with their families and the incredible staff. We weren't just coworkers; we became a family."

The bonds formed at Camp went far beyond summer fun. Staff often spent time together even outside of work, creating memories and friendships that have stood the test of time. In fact, three couples who met through Rainbows during that special summer eventually married—including Maddy and Carlos!

Maddy's connection to Rainbows runs deep. Her mother, Jaki, had volunteered with the organization and saw firsthand the impact it made on families. Knowing

Maddy's interest in special education, she encouraged her to get involved.

"Those summers helped shape Maddy's future," said Jaki. "She gained invaluable experience, found a meaningful career path, and met compassionate friends who remain in her life today—including Carlos."



*Maddy, Carlos and their daughter.*

Now married with a 4-year-old daughter, Maddy and Carlos live in Denver, Colorado. Maddy is a dedicated early childhood special education teacher, and Carlos owns Portal Films, a video production company.

Their story is a beautiful reminder of the powerful connections made through Rainbows—connections that continue to enrich lives long after summer ends.

## Fashion Passion 2025

Fashion Passion 2025 took place Thursday, May 8 at Textron Aviation Activity Center. This year's Chairs were Will and Cynthia Cross. It was a wonderful evening of food, fun and friends making a difference for children with special needs.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event including our Friends of the Heart pictured below.



Congratulations to **Jay and Aleksandra Devillier** for reaching their goal to raise \$30,000 to enhance the installation of an accessible playground area at Rainbows' Kids' Point.

Rather than receiving traditional gifts, Jay invited friends and family to contribute to his campaign. Thank you Jay and to everyone who made the Devilliers' vision a reality for the children of Rainbows!