



3223 North Oliver Avenue  
Wichita, KS 67220



LETTER FROM

# The President



## A MILESTONE MARKED BY LOVE AND LEGACY

The bond between a grandmother and grandchild is a thread woven with unconditional love, timeless wisdom, and quiet strength—a connection that nurtures, protects, and celebrates every small victory, especially when that grandchild faces unique challenges. It's a relationship that turns ordinary moments into extraordinary memories and transforms adversity into hope. This summer I was deeply moved by a beautiful act of generosity made in honor of a very special birthday. Instead of gifts, a loving grandmother—whose own grandchild once received care and support at Rainbows—asked her friends and family to celebrate by giving back to the organization that had touched her heart.

Her story resonated with everyone invited. Together, they raised funds that will directly impact children with special needs through early intervention services, family support services, and enrichment opportunities that help every child shine in their own unique way.

This story is a reminder that love, when paired with community support, can transform lives and this heartfelt gesture reminded me that personal milestones can become moments of profound inspiration when displays of vulnerability and compassion are shared with others. It's a testament to the power of gratitude, community, and the enduring belief that every child deserves the chance to reach their full potential.

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who gave in honor of this remarkable woman and her family's journey. Her heart of gold shines brightly for us to follow. If you feel inspired to celebrate a special occasion by supporting Rainbows, we'd be honored to help you create a meaningful tribute that changes lives.

*Rachel M. Banning*

## Is Your Child Reaching Their Developmental Milestones?

### 6 Months

#### Does your child:

- ✓ Turn towards source of normal sound
- ✓ Sit with minimum support
- ✓ Roll over (both ways)



For more information visit  
[RainbowsUnited.org/developmental-milestones/](https://RainbowsUnited.org/developmental-milestones/)



Remember each child is different.



## Calendar and Contents

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### September

1	Closed for Labor Day
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#### October

15	Staff 10:15 + Club, Rainbows Academy closed
17	Rainbows Academy Pumpkin Patch Fieldtrip
27-31	Rainbows Academy Spirit Week
31	Rainbows Academy Costume Parade

#### November

21	Rainbows Academy: Thanksgiving Feast
27-28	Closed for Thanksgiving

#### December

9	Annual Meeting and Holiday Celebration
24-25	Closed for Christmas
31-Jan 1	Closed for New Year

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Kansas Society for Children with Challenges



## Rainbows Academy Provides Trusted Early Childhood Education in an Inclusive Environment

From the beginning Rainbows has come alongside families to provide a safe environment that fosters growth and learning for children. Early on the need for high-quality childcare for children of all abilities was realized. The need is still high today and Rainbows has recently launched Rainbows Academy, an all-day, year-round, inclusive preschool and Pre-Kindergarten for children 30 months through age five.

Rainbows Academy is an environment where children build confidence, make friends, and become kindergarten ready through a hands-on, play-based environment.

"Young children spend a lot of time in our care," said Misty Weiss, Rainbows Academy Coordinator. "It's a unique opportunity in an environment that helps them grow and flourish."

Misty wants families to know children will learn at their own pace in a safe, fun environment along with their peers.

"By serving children of all abilities in our classrooms we can give young children the opportunity to experience first-hand what it's like to have a friend who may move,

eat or learn differently than they do," said Misty. "They can ask questions and gain understanding of the bigger world they will encounter as they get older."

Parents have been impressed with Rainbows' inclusive childcare for years. Michael Redondo's son Declan has been enrolled at Rainbows' Kids' Point since fall of 2022.

"Declan was never enrolled at Rainbows to address any developmental issues, but because of the integrated dynamic of the classrooms, he has grown to identify his classmates by their souls rather than by their visible disabilities and/or devices," said Michael.

Currently Rainbows Academy has openings for preschoolers and those preparing for Kindergarten. Families interested in the new program can schedule a tour by connecting with Misty at 316.267.5437, mweiss@rui.org or by filling out the enrollment form at RainbowsUnited.org.

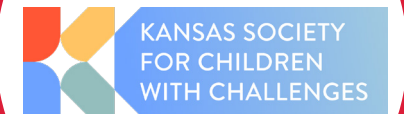
"I've always had a passion for children," said Misty. "My goal is to make each child in our care feel loved and encouraged every day."

## Partner Celebrates Century of Service

Congratulations to the Kansas Society for Children with Challenges on their 100th anniversary of providing important medical equipment, communication devices, wheelchairs, walkers, standers, bathroom and van modifications plus other items for children with disabilities.

Many Rainbows' families have benefited from this organization through the years with funding that has enabled them to provide for the unique needs of their children.

**Thank you for your long-standing generosity.**



## Meet Misty

An experienced early childhood educator, Misty holds a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Wichita State University. She is also licensed as a Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Center Program Director.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have Misty Weiss as our Rainbows Academy Coordinator. It is obvious she has a heart for children, a passion for excellence, and has the energy to take us to the next level. The future of our preschool program has never looked brighter," said Lindsay Kral, Vice President of Programs and Services.





*After serving as Board Chair from 2008 to 2010, Steve will never forget being surprised in the backyard by children and staff, receiving hugs and heartfelt thanks—a memory he treasures to this day.*

## Honoring Steve Cox: A Legacy of Service and Heart

Since joining the Rainbows Board in 2003, Steve Cox has been a steady, compassionate leader, shaping the organization with both his business expertise and his deep care for children and families. He was first invited to serve by his friend and fellow Board Member, John Frazee.

“It was a time in my life when I wanted to get more involved in the community,” Steve recalls. “John knew Rainbows could provide that experience. Little did I know how important Rainbows would become for my family.”

Now retired from Cox Machine—a company his father founded and his son, Jason, now leads as President—Steve reflects on giving back as one of life’s greatest gifts. During his tenure, he helped guide Rainbows through challenging seasons and celebrated countless joyful moments: Pre-K graduations, Camp Talent Shows, and 10:15+ Club events honoring long-time staff with fun-filled, surprise adventures.

In 2005, Rainbows’ mission became personal. Steve’s granddaughter, Mykel, was born medically fragile and needed early intervention services.

“Rainbows was there for my son, daughter-in-law, and Mykel,” Steve shares. “We learned first-hand just how vital these services are for a family navigating the unknown. Rainbows was there for all of us.”

When Mykel passed away in 2009, Steve was facing both personal heartbreak and the organization’s financial

restructuring. His commitment to Rainbows—and the families it serves—helped him push through the darkest days of grief with renewed purpose.

“Steve is a quiet man who leads with great strength, faith, and optimism,” said former President Deb Voth. “His business skills helped guide Rainbows for more than two decades, securing a strong future for children and families in our community.”

In 2010, Steve was honored with the prestigious InterHab President’s Award for his significant and effective response to the needs of individuals with disabilities. The moment his name was called, the room erupted in cheers and a standing ovation—a testament to the admiration and respect he has earned.

Among his proudest moments was chairing Fashion Passion in 2021 alongside his wife, Janis, son Jason, and daughter-in-law Bree. “It was such an honor to lead this event with our family,” Steve said. “Rainbows has meant so much to us. It was our joy to give back in this way.” “Rainbows is a unique and special place close to my heart,” Steve says.

Thank you, Steve, for your remarkable service—22 years on the Rainbows Board of Directors and 17 years with the Rainbows United Charitable Foundation. Your leadership, generosity, and steadfast heart have left an enduring mark. Rainbows continues to shine brighter because of you.



## New Volunteer Platform: Why Civic Champs Matters to Rainbows United's Mission

Civic Champs helps Rainbows United connect more people to our mission by making it simple for volunteers to engage, track their hours, and see their impact. The platform saves staff time, strengthens relationships, and provides powerful data to share our story with donors and partners—ensuring we can focus on what matters most: enhancing the lives of children with special needs and their families.

Learn more at [rainbowsunited.org/volunteer](https://rainbowsunited.org/volunteer)



*Special thanks to the first-year Wichita State University Physician Associate students who volunteered their time and energy at Rainbows United! From organizing our volunteer closet to spending meaningful time with the kids, your compassion and commitment truly made a difference.*

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- ➔ Classroom Help - ongoing
- ➔ Landscaping Maintenance - ongoing
- ➔ Pickle Ball Tournament - November 15

### How to Get Started in Civic Champs:



Free Developmental Screenings for children birth to five years old. The screening is a way to check your child's general development, hearing, vision, speech/language and behavior.

**For an appointment call  
Connecting Point 316.267.3535.**

Westlink  
Church of Christ,  
10025 W. Central

September 11, 2025

October 9, 2025

November 13, 2025

December 4, 2025

WSU Speech Language  
Hearing Clinic,  
5015 E. 29th Street N.

September 26, 2025

October 24, 2025

November 14, 2025

December 12, 2025