

# THANK YOU NOTES

*written just for you*



DECEMBER 2025 / ISSUE 5

From the desk of Tasha McKeever, Coordinator of Philanthropy

Thank you for taking a moment to read Thank You Notes during this busy season! These stories mean so much to me and I hope they do to you as well. These are stories you helped to create.

You have already received my letter about Grace, and I want to give you an update. Recently, I spoke with Grace's therapist, Sandra. She told me that Grace is now moving on her own and has actually started to giggle during their sessions. Real, joyful giggles! Amazing!

Hearing the passion in Sandra's voice and understanding what a huge milestone this is for Grace was emotional for me, as it likely is for you. Moving a family from fear to hope to the joy of hearing a baby girl's giggle is what you make possible with your support. Thank you!

During this season of giving, I want to recognize everyone who has made a gift to Rainbows this year with the enclosed Honor Roll of Donors. It's a gesture of gratitude to celebrate you. Look for an updated list in January to capture the kindness of those whose hearts are called to action during this season of love.

**Some of the best memories are made around the dinner table.** After Thanksgiving, many folks remember comfort food, time with loved ones and family fun. But for Charlotte's family, mealtimes were not always filled with comfort. Little Charlotte has experienced feeding challenges since infancy.

Enter, Mrs. Beth, Charlotte's Speech Language Pathologist, whom Charlotte absolutely adores. Through patient feeding therapy and gentle guidance, Mrs. Beth has helped Charlotte feel confident and comfortable at mealtimes. Today, she drinks from sippy cups and receives most of her nutrition from food instead of just milk.



Charlotte's mother, Bailey, shared, "Mealtimes have become a truly fun, positive family bonding time for us, thanks to Rainbows." This holiday season, as you gather with the people you love, I hope you will picture Charlotte doing the same, full belly, big smile, and all the energy she needs for her big sister duties with baby Callaway.



### **Strength with purpose is found in this community**

**connection.** This fall, Rainbows' President, Rachel Banning, along with friends in the CrossFit community, turned their fitness passion into something meaningful for Rainbows.

On November 1, LVL WOD hosted the Give Back Games CrossFit Competition. With more than \$1,300 raised, the day reflected the heart of a community that shows up for others. Rachel put it beautifully: "Every rep, every effort is honored—because progress, not perfection, is what truly matters." I couldn't agree more, Rachel!

We are honored to have so many meaningful partners who made the event possible including Grant Brazill, Kevin Jenks, Beka Johnson, and Mandi Brazill. A special thank you to sponsor Johnathan Harner of Wichita Wealth for his friendship to Rainbows. Winners were Jeff Goering, Elle Vinson, and Erick Pineda Allen. In the spirit of the day, one athlete donated their winnings back to Rainbows. Thanks CrossFit Community, we're cheering you on!

### **Behind the scenes: Santa Claus is coming to town!**

Rainbows Academy is bursting with holiday cheer during this magical season! We enjoyed Thanksgiving meals with families, the children created beautiful ornaments in their classrooms and each delicately hung their ornaments on a special tree in the lobby at Rainbows Academy.

Later, Santa showed up (If you look closely, Santa looks a lot like our VP of Finance, Andy Walston.) and the children sat on his lap for pictures.



We'll wrap up the holidays (pun intended) with candy and frosting, some of which will make it onto gingerbread houses. The rest will be eaten by the kiddos too soon to serve its intended purpose.

Your compassion shows up in every story this month: Charlotte eating dinner with her family, the CrossFit community rallying with purpose, and the children whose creativity filled Rainbows Academy with joy. Because of you, hope continues to grow. I am grateful for these moments we celebrate together.

Wishing you the happiest of holidays,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tasha McKeever".

Tasha McKeever

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

**RainbowsUnited.org**

