



Restructuring continues

Under the leadership of Hale Ritchie, Chief Restructuring Officer, the Rainbows Leadership Team and select Board members met off site on Monday, September 22 to set a course for Rainbows' future following bankruptcy. The day began with a timeline of Rainbows' history that included funding changes, campaign projects and when programs were started and adapted. Exercises in determining what the current programs do, how they are funded and how they fit the Rainbows' core mission were conducted. Strengths and weaknesses were identified along with threats and opportunities for moving forward. "It's clear that Rainbows began as an organization dedicated to serving children with special needs and their families. That is what we pledge to the future as well," said Steve Cox, Board Chair.

The mission and vision statements were evaluated and updated. "It was a productive day, that helped us begin to shape Rainbows for the future," said Hale. "As soon as we have accurate financial data to go along with these ideas, we'll be working through a zero-based budget business plan and making specific, informed decisions on programs."

Financial experts continue to work through the last two year's of Rainbows' financial records. They estimate the books will be ready for auditors beginning mid-October. The Board of Directors are preparing for the 18- month audit of January 2007 - June 2008. The Fiscal Year 2008-2009 audit will follow by the end of 2009.

Kere Noel, Acting Chief Financial Officer, describes Rainbows' situation as a *Perfect Storm* of sorts. "Certain large creditors who could have brought the financial irregularities to light continually chose to communicate with only one person within Rainbows. The red flags were not raised until the situation was out of hand." Noel is employed by the Rainbows' Board of Directors.

Board of Directors commit for restructuring

The Rainbows United, Inc. Annual Meeting was held Tuesday, September 29 at Kids' Point with the September Board of Director's meeting following. Election of officers and committee Chairs were held. The current Officers agreed to continue seeing Rainbows through restructuring for the next 6 months, extending their terms to March 30, 2010.

Steve Cox remains as Chair, Dan Drake is Vice Chair, Jeff Jabara is Treasurer, Stephanie Galichia is Secretary. Finance Chair is Jeff Jabara, Governance Chair is Kimberly Edmunds, Quality Assurance Chair is Dr. Robert Cusick, Community Development Chair is John Newton, Facilities Chair is Dan Drake and Immediate Past Chair is Naaman Ritchie.

The Rainbows United Charitable Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors met prior to this meeting. Grant Stannard remains Chair of the Foundation, Steve Cox is Secretary and Dan Drake is Treasurer.

"All Board members are volunteers who are committed to leading Rainbows United forward to provide services to children and families," said Steve Cox, Board Chair. "Many have a personal story with Rainbows and their dedication is to be commended. At this time in the life of Rainbows United, everyone is critical."

Mission of Rainbows going forward - your input

As Rainbows restructures under bankruptcy protection and moves forward we want to be sure our focus is mission related. "This is an opportunity for Rainbows to emerge a stronger agency with renewed focus and we want to hear from families and staff on what you see Rainbows' core mission to be," said Hale Ritchie.

Please email your thoughts about Rainbows' mission moving forward to Hale Ritchie, Chief Restructuring Officer at hritchie@rui.org or to Michelle Eastman, Vice President of Marketing and Communications at meastman@rui.org or 267-5437 ext. 137.

Nature Explorer project moves forward

The Junior League of Wichita, Inc. is moving forward with the Nature Explorers project at Kids' Point for the construction of a certified outdoor classroom. While the project was put on hold the past two months, Beth Reeder, Rainbows' project contact, and the Nature Explorer committee members are back at work planning the essential elements for the entry and gathering space, music and movement area, pathways through plantings, and nature art feature.

Construction of key structures and plant installation will begin this fall, with the final touches added in spring. During the winter months, committee members will compile classroom kits filled to the brim with nature inspired early childhood activities and resources. Be watching the Rainbows' Update for progress reports as construction progresses.

Agency Wish List

People often want to know how they can help. Rainbows United has recently updated the Wish List for donated items. Items needed include: child-sized gardening tools, sensory toys and basketballs. For a complete list visit http://www.rainbowsunited.org/help_kids-wish_list.php.

Donated items can be received at any Rainbows' location. A tax-deductable receipt is available for the donor at every front desk.

H1N1 - Wash your hands often

With the spread of H1N1 since April 2009, more people are coming into contact with the virus. The virus is spread from person-to-person mainly through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

What can you do to reduce your risk?

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- **Keep your children at home when they are sick.**
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue and properly dispose of used tissues.

For more information visit: [Sedgwick County Health Department facts](#).

For future updates and parent information please visit <http://www.rainbowsunited.org/educational-parents.php> periodically. To receive a notification via email when new parent information is available, be sure to provide your email address to Rainbows.



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