



The Canvas

Seeing the unseen in every Rainbows' child.

Community Support glows in Butler County



Deb Voth, President

Five years ago, Rainbows took a bold step and initiated its first Run | Walk in Butler County for the purpose of raising awareness and funds to help support our services there. Rainbows provides Infant/Toddler services through Bright Beginnings and Targeted Case Management in all of Butler County. On April 16 we hosted our 5th Annual Glow Run | Walk which was held in Augusta. More than 530 runners and walkers participated while raising

a net of \$16,400 and sharing the Rainbows' story.

The event could not be pulled off without the help of many individuals and organizations. Special thanks go to: the City of Augusta, City Manager Josh Shaw, Mayor Matt Childers, and the Chambers of Commerce of Augusta, Andover, El Dorado, and Rose Hill for spreading the word on their community calendars and websites.

More than 160 volunteers are used including those from Butler Community College, Fort Hays State, Wichita State University, Augusta High School and many more. Five year sponsors were Art of Life Chiropractic, Cox Machine, El Dorado Clinic, Bill & Lisa Farris, plus my husband and I.

Rainbows' families like Emma's family whose story is shared in this Canvas edition exemplifies the benefits and results of Rainbows' services.

In honor of the five year anniversary, the event sported a new look and theme thanks to Koch Creative Group who came up with the "You GLOW, They Grow" theme with terrific graphics for posters, billboards, social media and more. Thank you to these talented individuals.

The first year, 2012, more than 250 participants came out and the event raised \$6,700 in support of children with special needs and their families. More than \$74,400 has been raised over the last 5 years.

With the help of many who "Glowed", the children of Rainbows United will continue to "Grow"!

Sincere thanks to all.

Deb Voth, President



Emma learns sign language and begins to talk with help



Emma is a sweet, smiling 2 year-old with profound hearing loss. She had Cochlear Implants placed at 15 and 18 months. Through Rainbows' Butler County Infant/Toddler Services with Speech/Language Pathologist Kimberly Stewart, Emma is learning sign language and to talk.

"I've been able to communicate a lot more with her," said Jamie, Emma's mother. Jamie

"Jamie always wants to learn new things and she implements the activities I suggest," said Kimberly. "We do activities that will expand Emma's language through every day routine activities. Emma has a great family, everyone is very involved with helping her develop and hit her milestones appropriately."

"Rainbows has been nothing but fantastic," Jamie said. "Everyone we have talked to has been so helpful and supportive. I absolutely love Rainbows and am so grateful for them."

"Emma is going to grow up to be somebody very important," Jamie said. "She's going to help other kids and families just like ours."

For more information about Rainbows' Infant/Toddler Services in Butler County call 316.320.1342; in Sedgwick County call 316.945.7117 or visit RainbowsUnited.org.

learns alongside Emma during sessions with Kimberly.



This year's Blarney Breakfast raised \$54,000 and served 900 people.



Advocacy at the Kansas Statehouse

On Tuesday, March 23 Rainbows joined self-advocates and those serving people with developmental/intellectual disabilities from across the state at InterHab Push Day on the Capitol grounds. Supportive legislators as well as new InterHab Executive Director Tim Woods (photo on right) addressed the crowd.

Rainbows and the Board of Directors Mission Advocacy Committee continue to diligently watch legislative issues that impact the agency and the children and families who are served to ensure that their voices are heard.



Breaking the mold



Josh Shaw

Josh Shaw has been instrumental in carrying out the Community Vision for the City that defines Augusta as "a proud community that works in partnership to solve problems and accomplish great things." The emphasis

on partnership is what has contributed to the city's ongoing relationship with Rainbows.

"The City Council has shown their support for services that organizations like Rainbows provide to families in need by giving city staff the flexibility to partner with them to help achieve their goals," says Josh.

With the city of Augusta since 2009, Josh knows the ins and outs of the city as well as what's needed for a safe route for our Rainbows' GLOW Run | Walk event. He's been a valuable member of the event planning committee and Rainbows is grateful for his guidance and insight.

Josh is married to Anndi. When he's not helping others in the community you'll often find him at Augusta's Disc Golf Course.

Thank you Josh! We are glad to have you on the Rainbows' team.

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