



ROTARY NOTARY

Member Birthdays:

Cathy McClain	2/19
Deb Brinegar	2/24

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Bobbi Hansen

**Invocation, Flag Salute,
and Four-way test:**

Robin McGonigle

Special Guests:

Josh Johnsrud

Tiana Kelly

Sid Sproul

Rotary Anniversaries:

Larry McNeil—40 years

CHARTER MEMBER

Fred Heismeyer—12 years

Brant Westbrook—11 years

Quote of the Week:

Mistakes are a fact of life. It is the response to the errors that counts.

— Nikki Giovanni

HOW RAINBOWS UNITED HELPS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



This photo, taken from the Rainbows United website, shows a staff person interacting with a parent and child. Rainbows offers 11 different services, with the biggest being its birth to 3 program. Parents can request a free home evaluation if they see that their child is not achieving developmental milestones. 98% of the services Rainbows provides are outside of their facilities.

Rainbows United was founded in 1972 as a developmental training center for children with severe, multiple disabilities who were ineligible for special education services provided through the public schools. Since then the organization has evolved to focus on delivery of early intervention services to children below school age.

The organization has two locations in Wichita: Kids' Point at K96 and Oliver, and Kids' Cove at 21st and Lakeway, near Sedgwick County Park. Children at Kids' Point receive early childhood education and childcare services. Kids' Cove provides services for school-aged children during the summer, providing

case management and other services health insurance typically does not cover.

Another service Rainbows United offers is specialized foster care homes. They recruit foster families who are open to having a child with special needs as part of their home.

The agency also provides mental health services for young children, offering strategies for behavior and emotional regulation. Staff may work with students in an entire classroom, helping them learn to cope with anger and sadness, or learning how to help a friend.

Providing services to all families in need, regardless of their ability to pay, is an important part of Rainbows'

mission. That is why fundraising is essential in helping bridge the gap between program costs and income. Coming up next month is the annual Blarney Breakfast, which will take place on Friday, March 15 at Old Chicago East from 6—9:30 a.m. Fashion Passion is another major fundraiser that raised more than \$1 million last year. The event will take place at the Textron Aviation Activity Center on May 10. A highlight this year will be the raffle of a 2024 Lexus RX350. Raffle tickets are just \$100; to purchase, visit Rainbows website.

We thank today's speakers, Michelle Eastman and Lisa Capps, for their presentation today and for making a difference to families and children here in our community.

Club Announcements:

On Wednesday, March 6 our club will celebrate its 40th anniversary. A special celebration is being planned for an evening event at the Wichita Marriott from 6:00—8:30 p.m. Reservations are \$40 per person; **your check is your reservation.** Larry Hatteberg will be our emcee and speaker for the evening. Kim is accepting reservations for this event through February 28.

Do you have any historic photos to share at our celebration? Send them to Michael Moeder, michael@moederassociates.com

Coming Events:

Our club's own "Battle of the Brackets" will begin soon. If anyone is interested in sponsoring the \$500 prize purse, please see Kim for details.

The fourth quarter 2023 Dillons Community Reward check for our East Wichita Rotary Foundation was the largest ever—\$114.84. Many thanks to the 13 households that have chosen our foundation to benefit from this program through your Dillons purchases.

Mark your calendars now for Rotary Night on May 9 at Riverfront Stadium to watch the Wichita Wind Surge take on the Arkansas Travelers. The cost per ticket is only \$10. Payments of cash, checks, or Venmo to Jessica Dunbar will be accepted beginning March 20.

Next Week:

Stephanie Merritt from ICT Food Rescue will be our speaker.

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY



Dave Sproul presents a pin to new EWR member **Steve Marsh**. Reverend Marsh and his wife Janet are returning to Wichita, where Steve is serving as the interim pastor for Grace Presbyterian Church. Steve and his wife Janet moved here from Mission Viejo, CA where Steve was a Rotarian. Steve is eager to become involved in the Wichita community. Welcome to EWR, Steve!

MIXER FUN ON JANUARY 31



Rotarians gathered after work on the last day of January to meet, greet, and eat at Carlos O'Kelly's. Mixers are a fun way to relax and enjoy the friendship of your fellow Rotarians. Thanks to **Jessica Dunbar** for organizing the mixer! Pictured with Jessica are **Andrew Prigmore** (L) and **Shane Pullman** (R).