

Inspirational Family or Guardian Award Nomination

Award Description:

The Inspirational Family or Guardian Award will be presented to a family or guardian who has significantly contributed time and talents to the InterHab member agency and/or the individual served by the agency.

NOMINEE: Hampel Family – Peter’s First Cousins

ORGANIZATION: Rainbows United, Inc.

Provide a narrative including answers to the following questions. You may also attach a maximum of three letters of support. Additional information may be attached if necessary.

- Describe the impact this family or guardian has had on the individual.
- What outcome has resulted from this effort?
- How long has this effort been provided?
- Provide a biographical sketch of this family.
- Additional information.

NARRATIVE:

The relationship began in 1990, when Ed and Nancy’s son Peter was not developing like other children and needed help. When he was 3 months old, their doctor diagnosed Peter with cerebral palsy and multiple severe developmental delays. Peter began receiving early intervention services in the family home. They worked on stretching and strengthening his little body as well as feeding techniques to encourage Peter to eat. He then attended Rainbows’ childcare and received therapy there. “When Peter first started attending Rainbows’ center-based early care and education program, he had a tough time in the transition,” said Nancy. “Gradually, he not only grew accustomed to going to Rainbows every day but was excited to be at school. He absolutely loved it.”

Peter received services from Rainbows his entire childhood. From early intervention services at childcare to targeted case management services and attending Camp Woodchuck as he grew up and his needs changed. “We had all the support in the world from Rainbows’ staff,” said Ed. “The very first things we noticed were the changes in Peter socially. He was friendly, happy and laughing!” His favorite things about Camp were field trips and the energy of the college kids who worked at Camp.

Staci Terstriep and Scott Hampel are Peter’s first cousins. They remember when they were kids and Peter was part of the cousin pack at family gatherings, his smile lighting up the room giving everyone a feeling of pure joy. “Growing up, we learned life was fragile and not everyone had the same abilities,” said Staci. “Peter and Grandpa had a special bond. When the two of them were together, everything was funny, they laughed and laughed, which carried over to the rest of us, making what could have been an awkward time into a time of life-long fun family memories.” Staci even volunteered at Rainbows when she was in high school.

When Rainbows had financial trouble in 2009, it was Hampel Oil that came through when the Agency needed gas for buses and all the credit cards had been cut off. "That was a no-brainer for my Uncle Ed," said Nate Hampel, another of Peter's cousins. He knew how much the community needed Rainbows from his first-hand experience.

As the family business grew and more family got involved, Peter's cousins were challenged to turn a family Fourth of July gathering into a community fundraiser, they chose to benefit Rainbows. "By choosing Rainbows we were able to include our cousin Peter in the event," said Staci. "It was natural to choose an Agency that has meant so much to our family. While most of us are involved in the family business, this was our way of making sure Peter was included."

And so, it began. At first, approximately 50-60 people attended the event at Hampel Lake and raised \$16,000. As the event grew, organizers partnered with Tanganyika Wildlife Park to host the event, with more than 550 people attending the Luau which includes private access to Tanganyika, dinner and drinks, silent auction, and free snow cones and cotton candy for the kids. When the event ended in 2022, it had raised more than \$475,300 to help provide vital services for children just like Peter served through Rainbows.

When the event could not be held during the pandemic, the family looked for other ways to give back. On a hot August morning, four generations of the Hampel family volunteered at Rainbows' Kids' Point location helping to beautify the campus. They moved a mountain of mulch, pulled weeds, removed dead trees and brought smiles to little faces watching from classroom windows. "Rainbows' has provided therapy and education for children in our family and for children of Hampel Oil employees. We wanted to spend time giving back to Rainbows by volunteering to help with the outdoor projects," said Scott Hampel, President of Hampel Enterprises.

In 2024, Peter's cousins stepped up again and served as Chairs of the Agency's signature fundraiser, Fashion Passion, raising more than \$915,000 for the children of Rainbows. Family members helped with planning, sponsorships and told their story.

Hampel Enterprises and its employees support Rainbows because it's the right thing to do. "It is truly amazing how many families in our community have been touched by Rainbows and depend on their services, which is why we are committed to helping Rainbows continue their efforts," said Nate Hampel, third generation Hampel family member and employee.

The two events combined have raised more than \$1,390,300, a significant contribution over the years. Hampel Enterprises has been significant to Rainbows' history, and we are grateful for their steadfast support of children with special needs and their families in our community.

A family business with a desire to give back to others, Hampel Enterprises, headquartered in Wichita, has a solid family history and operates with values taught by the founding generation of grandparents. Now in transition to the third generation, the business has diversified and expanded. A humble family not ever seeking the spotlight, they have a long history supporting Rainbows United.

The family business was founded by Alfred and Oliva Hampel. Their 4 sons, William, Robert, Kenneth and Edward, ran the business until the third generation of grandchildren (12 including Peter) transitioned into leadership of the family business. Peter is now 34 years old, lives at home and attends a day program when his health allows.

NAME OF PERSON MAKING THIS NOMINATION: Michelle Eastman

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X I have reviewed and agreed to the criteria for filming the awards video.

X I have obtained approval for this nomination from the submitting agency's Executive Director.

Send this form via email to mshreve@interhab.org

The deadline to submit award nominations is June 7!