

**Rainbow Acres**

*A Residential Christian Community  
Serving Adults with  
Developmental Disabilities*





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Rainbow Acres is an  
Associated Ministry Organization (AMO) of  
the American Baptist Churches USA

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Rainbow Acres is a Christian Community with heart, that empowers persons with developmental disabilities to live to his/her fullest potential with dignity and purpose.*

## RAINBOW ACRES

Rainbow Acres, founded in 1974, is an independent, not-for-profit Christian ministry related to the American Baptist Churches in the USA. It is licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services, and is governed by an independent, self-perpetuating Board of Trustees from Arizona and across the nation. This ministry is made possible through generous regional and national contributions from numerous churches of all faiths, as well as individuals, foundations and corporations. Rainbow Acres has been designated a 501 (c) (3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the IRS code.



Rainbow Acres has earned and was awarded the EAGLE accreditation as established by the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare

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## The Human Touch

As I neared the driver's door of my car, a flat white stick of wood caught my eye! It wasn't an ordinary piece of wood, it was an old fashioned carpenter's pencil. I hadn't seen one like that in years. The white paint was peeling a bit, but it was sharp and ready to use. In the carpenter's skillful hand it would be useful. I could almost hear the saw cutting through a piece of white pine, and almost savor the scent of fresh saw dust. All reminiscent of a time gone by. In today's modern world some homes are built with pre-cut or fabricated materials produced by our technologically advanced world. Some of these products are nice however the artisan's touch; the art of hands-on-craftsmanship is slowly becoming a thing of the past.



In caring for others, especially women and men with complex developmental disabilities, nothing technology has to offer can ever replace the human touch. Often times the indifference of business, technology, increasing profits, the drive for success, and the impersonal nature of our civilization today can make for a society of individuals who are indifferent to each other.

Nevertheless, in the hands of The Carpenter of Nazareth, a life can be transformed into a life of service with love and compassion being at the forefront of all things. At Rainbow Acres our caregivers are the hands, feet and voice of that Carpenter who said "the greatest commandment is to love one another." Caregivers are the heroes of caring for those in need. Their gift of patience, mercy, and encouragement are indeed gifts from the heavens.

Our modern world struggles with seismic shifts in human values; depressed wages that cannot sustain a livable wage, and an uncertain economy. The increasing acceptance of addictive substances such as alcohol, marijuana and our current opioid epidemic are signs of the times in which we live. Attracting and retaining men and women who understand work ethic, have the talents and skill sets required for their field of study, and live a drug free lifestyle is hard to come by. Also, because of "our sometimes indifferent world" finding employees who have compassion for those who are less fortunate is one of Rainbow Acres greatest challenges! Rainbow Acres is a "safety sensitive environment". This applies to not only medication, meal preparation, transportation but a 24/7 scope of everything that is "life at the ranch". We are diligent in our quest to attract the best caregivers within the Verde Valley who are dedicated to the Rainbow Acres Mission and to our Ranchers. It is difficult at best to attract qualified caregivers with a base pay of \$10 per hour and Arizona's commitment to continue increasing the Minimum Wage in Arizona from \$10.00 per hour until it reaches \$15.00 per hour.

While Rainbow Acres has excellent benefits for employees, benefits do not pay rent or purchase groceries. We simply cannot meet these challenges alone! Your help is vital. To all who have renewed and/or increased their giving in 2017, please accept our heartfelt thanks. You are making an impact on the Ranchers lives. We are eternally grateful.

As the Holiday Season and the end of the year approaches please consider a special gift for the Ranchers and their Caregivers.

For the Ranchers!

Gary W. Wagner, President & CEO





## *The Meaning of Caregiver*

The definition of a Caregiver in the Merriam-Webster dictionary was very disappointing in its definition which simply said "a person who provides direct care (as for children, elderly people, or the chronically ill)." The Oxford dictionary was not much better in its definition. It actually was bothersome that maybe this big wide world of human beings truly doesn't understand the importance of such a word; Caregiver. A Caregiver truly walks this world in service to those in need, without judgment and with a profound love and understanding that is a gift beyond their hourly pay. It is embedded in their hearts. Why then is the definition in many dictionaries so void of the true meaning of "caregiver"?

At Rainbow Acres we know and understand what sacrifices it takes to possess the many talents and skills needed to be a stellar caregiver. We understand that empathy, compassion, and a firm yet gentle approach to those in your care is indeed a gift from the heavens. We wanted to interview a few of our Caregivers and share why they are Caregivers and service those in need.



### **Sandy Koonce**

Sandy has shown her dedication in service to our Ranchers by being recognized in 2015 by ALFA (Assisted Living Federation of America) now known as Argentum as the Arizona State Caregiver of the year. Her endless energy and organizational capabilities are unmatched. She truly has the human touch in making a difference in the life of a person with developmental disabilities. She connects with them and they connect with her. It is a match made in heaven. I asked Sandy what keeps her focused on her life's mission to serve; her answer was simple . . . "She loves the Ranchers". There is no manual on how to become Caregiver of the Year yet in knowing Sandy one would surmise that

her quiet understanding and love of a human being in need is her driving force in staying the course in providing such nurturing and loving care to the Ranchers at Rainbow Acres.

We are blessed to have Sandy on the staff. She shared that many years ago she applied to Interchristo job placement in search for the job. She received over 250 available jobs and while scanning the information she saw the name "Rainbow Acres". Sandy personally has always loved rainbows and she felt a connection with the name, however Camp Verde, Arizona was miles away from the state of Wisconsin. Her church in her home state raised the money for Sandy to travel to Rainbow Acres for a four day interview process which happened to be when the

local Camp Verde Days event started so the quiet rural town was in full swing. Sandy got the caregiver job at just \$500.00 a month in 1991. Sandy mentions that it was more difficult to leave Rainbow Acres after her four day interview process than it was to leave her Wisconsin home. She had deeply connected with the Ranchers and she was home. Sandy's long tenure with Rainbow Acres is because she loves working directly with the Ranchers because of their unconditional love.

A Rancher memory (and Sandy has thousands) is about a previous Rancher named Michele. Michele was smart, witty and had a deep faith in God. She became what Sandy called her "Spiritual Checker". Michele would always question Sandy and come back with the reply . . . "What would Jesus do?" An example would be if Sandy said to Michele, your shirt doesn't match your pants, would you like to change? Michele would reply "What would Jesus do?" Sandy was always kept on her toes with Michele; of course Jesus most likely wouldn't mind if Michele wore checkered pants with a striped shirt.

The local pastor at the time learned like Sandy to always be ready for Michele's quick questions about what would Jesus do? During a camp trip she drilled the pastor about heaven and captivated the campers for close to an hour with questions to ponder. Michele had a deep faith in God, wanted to share her faith and was a good disciple in spreading the word of God.



### **Kathy Namingha**

Kathy, has worked at different jobs in her life but shared that her job as a Caregiver at Rainbow Acres does not seem like a job at all. She actually enjoys coming to work where the Ranchers in Aria have become a part of her heart. Kathy's first caregiver job was at the Hopi Reservation in northeast, Arizona where she had a lot of hands-on-training and learned to do whatever was necessary to create a home like environment for those in her care. She also worked at a group home for people with developmental disabilities in Flagstaff, Arizona and learned more skills in understanding that each person in

her care was uniquely different from the each other and different approaches in communication was important. Rainbow Acres became Kathy's third experience where people were in need of daily care, supervision and as Kathy put it "daily conversing" with one-on-one interaction or as a larger family unit . . . in this case, Aria House. Kathy states that respect is key in building relationships and in this case our Ranchers and Kathy have a deep respect for each other.

Kathy also shared that she "believes that things happen for a reason" and her journey in life to work in service to Rainbow Acres, the Ranchers and their mission is not to be taken lightly. She takes a quiet joy in knowing that her love and care can



make for another human being to “feel valued and loved”. Kathy is a special talent who quietly understands the Ranchers, attends to them with love, compassion and is always gentle in her approach. As we say at Rainbow Acres, “It’s all about the Rancher”.

A Rancher memory that touches Kathy’s heart is when she was getting to know each individual in her house and one Rancher in particular was not going to open up his heart and accept Kathy into his daily life. He played the stubborn game and would not listen, would test the caregiver’s directive and no matter what . . . the game was on. Kathy in her quiet knowledge used her gentle way and over time gained the respect and trust of John. One day he ran to her, gave her the biggest hug of all times and since then . . . the relationship is solid.



### **Leonard Filner**

Leonard’s caregiving career started with in-home caregiving for two clients just over six years ago and he later heard about Rainbow Acres from Sandy Koonce who gave him a referral. Leonard Filner is known for always wanting to help and he too, has a special gift when interacting with the Ranchers. He shares that “He is nothing more than a servant and came to minister at a very special and unique place on this earth”. He shares that when he sees the smiling faces of the Ranchers and witnesses their unconditional love he is taken aback by their goodness, it is pure love. Again, Leonard says “I serve and I understand that a mission such as working for the Ranchers at Rainbow Acres is a job that is/must be guided by the Spirit”.

The artistic side of Leonard is where he enjoys such things as landscape design and working with Rainbow Acres, Construction Superintendent, Marvin Phelps in beautifying the grounds of the Rainbow Acre Ranch. He enjoys recommending plants, the design placement of the plants and adding his opinion as needed. He also leads the Stepping Stone Crew where once again, he lends his artistic talents and enjoys working the crew with the Ranchers.

Leonard shared the story of Trudy and how her words and actions touched his heart. Upon leaving the house one day Trudy called to Leonard and while holding out her arms as far as possible she said “I love you this much”. It is these moments in time, and there are many of them that make Rainbow Acres a special place.



## Happenings at the Ranch

### *Family & Friends Talent Show and Western Round-Up*

A great time was had by all at the Talent Show on Friday evening, October 27th which drew rave reviews for its originality and song and dance routines. The cheering crowd and standing ovations could not even begin to express the delight of the audience. A real show stopper!

Saturday, October 28th brought many family, friends and neighbors to the ranch to enjoy the Barn Crew and Greenhouse Crew demonstrations. Our guests enjoyed tours of the ranch and the Arizona Rangers were in attendance as well to help direct traffic and have a "Meet & Greet" with their horses. The brand new Gift Shop was busy with shoppers and the picnic style lunch on the Daehler Lawn drew crowds of people to enjoy the food and listen to the great country music of the Blazin' M Cowboys. Some folks were singing along with the band while others swayed to the music. It was a very warm day but the Dugan Ice Cream truck provided refreshing homemade ice cream.

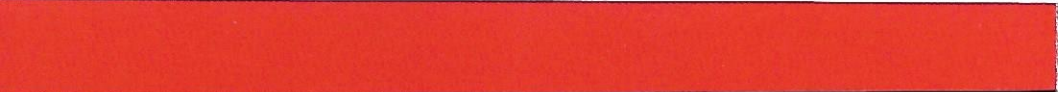
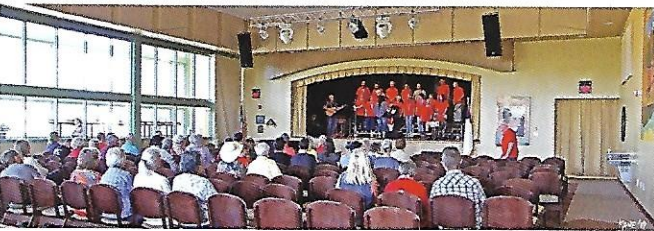
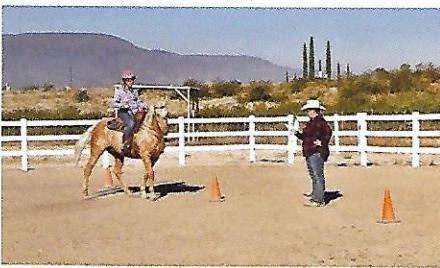
A memorial dedication to a long time Rainbow Acres friend, Betty Malicki (whose son Jeff lives at Rainbow Acres) was held at the construction site of the new Paint Brush Park. April Palmer, our Rainbow Acres chef sang a beautiful rendition of the Ava Maria. It was touching and heartfelt. There were many tears in the crowd of spectators. What a wonderful tribute to a very special lady.

***Thanks to our many volunteers who without their generous help this event could not have happened:***

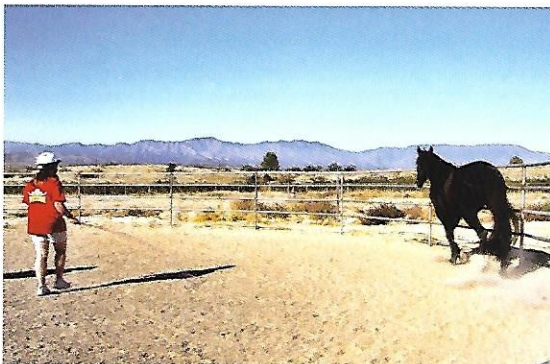
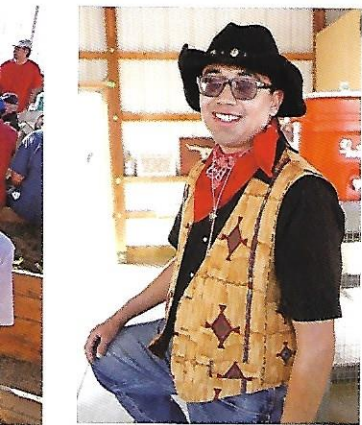
Hillside Community Church, Larry Kane (Photographer), Mission Linen, Arizona Rangers, Stephanie Peed, Jayelle Sargent, The Sedona Women, Rainbow Acre staff and all of our Rainbow Acre friends.











## Happenings at the Ranch

# The Special Olympics Bocce Tournament

On September 30th Special Olympians from the Mountain Area region division of Arizona descended upon the property of Camp Verde residents, Allan and Judy Roughton to have fun, work as a team, and to win. Athletes from Flagstaff, Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Sedona, Williams, Verde Valley, Page and surrounding cities and towns came in droves and they came to compete; they wanted to win the highly coveted medals. As the Special Olympics motto states: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt".

For those of you who have attended Special Olympic events you know the joy of seeing a Special Olympian compete. They give their all in the pursuit to win for their own accomplishment and for their team. They work hard in preparing for the event and they are focused and diligent in their attempts to aim for the gold. It is an awe inspiring tournament.

The Color Guard, representing the American Legion Post 135 from Cornville, AZ paraded onto the grounds to our National Anthem and seeing the American flag brought the crowd to full attention. It was beautiful to see. All stood, hands over heart and proudly listened to the music.

Camp Verde Mayor Charlie German, a Rainbow Acres Board of Trustee gave the invocation and as always his words invoked an excitement throughout the crowd that this indeed was going to be a blessed day.

As always, the Camp Verde Marshalls and Camp Verde Marshall Volunteers came to help as they are great supporters of Rainbow Acres. They not only gave tours of their patrol vehicles but walked amongst the crowd and offered their friendly comradery. They also presented each and every medal to the many Olympians who won either a bronze, silver or gold medal. We cannot thank these wonderful Camp Verde Marshalls enough for their service. They truly give from their hearts.

To all the volunteers we thank you! This event was a huge success.





## Happenings at the Ranch

### *A Move Here, A Renovation There*

A Move Here, a Renovation There . . . is indeed a testament to the pulse of activity driven by the forces of Kevin Jones, the Director of Building and Grounds and Marvin Phelps, Construction Superintendent at Rainbow Acres. Kevin, Marvin and their team consists of staff, ranchers and volunteers who are dedicated in their mission to be of service to Rainbow Acres.



Each and every day we see the team's work ethic in motion juggling the many projects on ranch and we marvel at their attention to detail and craftsmanship in all they do. Rainbow Acres is home to our Ranchers and this great team of men understand that a home is to be loved, nurtured and taken care of . . . they do indeed take care of the entire ranch of Rainbow Acres.



Also, thank you to our generous donors of whom we can never thank enough. Your donation makes “creating a home and a community” possible. Our continued sustainability is because of you!

Trail Blazer Road, the road which heads up the hill to the apartments and the Agricultural Center has been graded to improve the road and make it easier for our Ranchers to walk safely and maneuver more easily. New curbing has been installed and sidewalks added as needed. This project has been needed for a long time and soon we are hoping to be able to pave this road so our scooter and wheel chair bound Ranchers can enjoy a bit more freedom.

The Agricultural Center, in front of the barn has a new sidewalk of poured concrete installed in front of the barn door. The added sidewalk not only looks great but it is much safer to walk on than the previous gravel. Also, the grounds in front of the barn and greenhouses have been graded to allow parking for an additional 120 cars.

The groundbreaking ceremony for Paint Brush Park in memory of Betty Malicki showed the landscape design elements of the park which at this time has only had the curb edging of the park completed. We look forward to the finished project and know that the Ranchers and visitors to Rainbow Acres will enjoy it for years to come.

### ***Thank you to the Malicki Family***





## Life at the Ranch

### *New Rancher, Molly R*

Molly arrived at Rainbow Acres in the summer of 2017 from Durango, Colorado. She shared that it was hard to leave all she knew and what she had considered - home. She was not happy and did what she could to share her feelings of "I want to go back home". It made for a difficult transition which is quite understandable and was a natural way to respond to such a big change. We all struggle with changes in our lives and adapting to new challenges.



Molly has become a popular Rancher and a few months later I asked her what had changed? What was the magic thing that now made her happy to be here? Her answer was not surprising but it was all that we at Rainbow Acres had hoped for. She shared that she has made many friends and has built a circle of relationships. Molly likes people, likes having friends, likes to talk with her friends and hear what her friends have to say. She shared that she "cherishes her friendships at Rainbow Acres". An avid walker, Molly likes to walk around the ranch with her group of friends. She likes the exercise but more importantly she gets to hang out with the girls.

Another reason for her decision to transition was her love of being able to choose her crew of choice. She initially enjoyed creating stepping stones but found her niche in being on the Barn Crew. She looks forward to crew where she cares for animals, works alongside the animals and works as a team with the other Ranchers and staff. Molly has a gentle nature about her and the animals enjoy her interaction with them. Molly also joined the Rainbow Acres Choir and her beautiful voice is a wonderful addition to the talent at Rainbow Acres. She definitely sings with heart.

Molly likes participating in off ranch activities and is usually one of the first to sign-up for such events. She enjoyed her outings to the NAU College Football Game, the Go-Go-Mini Golf trip and most especially the trip to Out of Africa Wildlife Park in Camp Verde, AZ. She is looking forward to the Christmas Shopping Spree in Phoenix.

One of Molly's favorite hobbies is reading books. She is an avid reader of novels and has diverse reading interests. She especially enjoys books written in series form because the story goes on and on. She doesn't like a great story to end.

She is also a music enthusiast and enjoys listening to music such as classic rock, 70's, 80's, and pop. Her most loved song is by Belinda Carlisle of The Go-Go's titled *Live Your Life Be Free*. Also, add dancing to any event and Molly is happy. She shared that she loves to dance and wants Rainbow Acres to promote more dance events. We'll work on that.

As a future goal, Molly is excited to be able to become a volunteer at the Verde Valley Humane Society as she has discovered an affection for animals. She wants to work in service to provide homeless animals with their daily care needs. She particularly would like to work with the cats as they are one of her favorite animals.

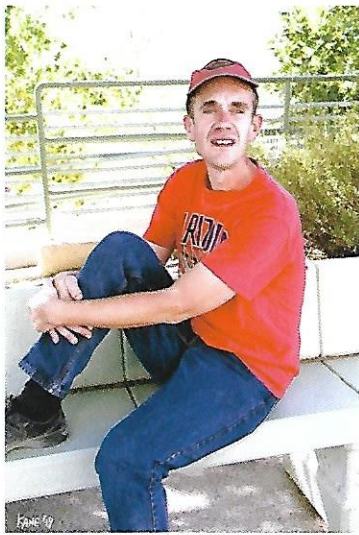
If you have the opportunity to visit Rainbow Acres, you may have the pleasure of meeting Molly. She is polite and cordial when saying hello, she likes to communicate and truly believes that being nice is important.

## Life at the Ranch

### *Rancher, John Brian D.*

*by his parents*

John Brian was born in a little town in Canada, January 1976. He was actually born Brian Paul, but when he moved to Rainbow Acres, he wanted us to call him John. We don't really know why. We compromised and settled on John Brian. At that time we didn't really know what his diagnosis was. There were some autistic type traits but not enough to say he was on the autism spectrum. It wasn't until we moved to Aurora, CO in 1987 that he was diagnosed Fragile X.



JB grew up around classical music. He liked to be near his mother Pat when she was playing the piano, and could even identify the music she had been playing by pointing to the page in the book. He had memorized the pattern of the notes. He also loved bluegrass. We had a double album of the Bill Monroe Bluegrass festival live recording, and we practically wore that album out playing it for him. Later on, he also took a shine to the Beach Boys. So it was pretty much Bach, Bluegrass, and Beach Boys that dominated his musical tastes. Today he also listens a lot to Mozart, Handel, and a variety of bluegrass bands. In his mind, he is either a member of a bluegrass band, always getting ready to perform, or, he is Mozart, composing another requiem. His appreciation for music is off the charts. He also likes to watch sports and can name most of the teams of all the major sports.

JB moved to Rainbow in January, 1999. He had just turned 23. He doesn't like snow so we think the AZ climate suits him just fine. JB also has a sister in Toronto who is married with two young children. JB is extremely proud to be an uncle of two nieces.

Looking back on almost 19 years, we can say without any doubt at all, that Rainbow Acres was the best thing that could have happened to JB and our family. The love we were promised, when we were considering Rainbow, is the love that has sustained us, and sustained JB. It has helped him grow into a more confident and peaceful man, who both loves and is loved by all around him.





## Give from the Heart ♥ Adopt a Rancher Our Ranchers are in Need of Help

The "Adopt-A-Rancher" Fund is a donation that supports an individual such as Tommy B who due to life circumstances has either outlived their family resources or in some cases; a Rancher's family has exhausted their personal resources.

Tommy is from Missouri and is proud of his Midwestern roots. He grew up in a small family and has outlived his immediate family. Tommy has one nephew John and his sister-in-law Judy, who try to help with his care.

Tommy arrived at Rainbow Acres in 1982 and had lived previously at Starlight Cattle Ranch. A gentle and thoughtful man Tommy enjoys people, likes dogs and likes to reminisce about his life in Missouri. He misses his family and considers Rainbow Acres his forever home.

If you would like to sponsor Tommy B, please visit: [www.rainbowacres.com](http://www.rainbowacres.com) and click on the donation tab/Adopt-A-Rancher info or call Dawn Jones our Donor Relations Manager at 928.567.5231 for more information.