

The Promise Spring/Summer 2017



**Rainbow Acres**  
*A Residential Christian Community  
Serving Adults with  
Developmental Disabilities*



# 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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## New Wine for New Wineskins

A new Rancher arrived recently. He came in, sat down, pulled his hat down to his glasses, avoided eye contact, and kicked off his shoes. Then he turned to the person next to him and said, "I am bright and intelligent, so don't speak to me like a child!" Moments later he followed the person next to him as she moved across the room and said, "I am sorry, I am a little nervous and afraid about this move to Rainbow!"

Those of us who reflected on that experience realized that was the beginning of a new chapter of caring for persons with disabilities at Rainbow Acres. The chapter of serving young adults called "Twice Exceptional" or 2e.

They are persons who are incredibly gifted intellectually with challenging disabilities. The disabilities are varied: dyslexia, visual or auditory processing disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, sensory processing disorder, autism, Asperger Syndrome, Tourette Syndrome, ADHD, anxiety, depression or any other disability interfering with the student's ability to learn effectively in a traditional environment.

There is no clear-cut profile of twice-exceptional individuals because the nature and causes of twice exceptional are so varied.

When Rainbow Acres began serving adults with developmental disabilities, our founder Ralph Showers talked about tender loving care and unconditional love as an antidote to disability. We talked about adults with developmental ages attributed to stages of childhood development. Programs and activities were designed around that understanding of disability. No one could have imagined how rapidly the disability world would change. The rules have changed forever.

In Matthew 9:17 Jesus told the parable: "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved."

The new "Twice Exceptional" 2e generation calls for a whole new way of caring, teaching, guiding, coaching, mentoring, supporting and responding to highly intelligent individuals with challenging disabilities. The complexity of disability today, requires new insight, understanding, knowledge and compassion.

Thank you for your compassionate and generous support. It enables Rainbow Acres to serve adults with complex disabilities in new ways; and empowers each adult to become successful in his/her own way with purpose and peace of mind.

For the Ranchers!  
Gary W. Wagner, President & CEO

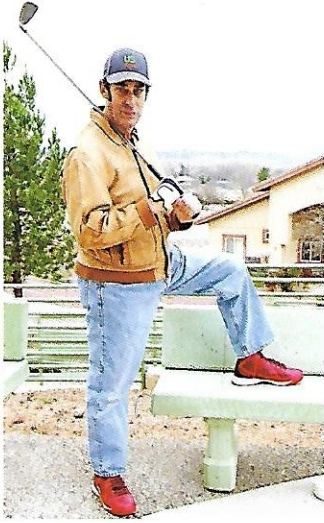


## Guest Editorial

By Jayelle Sargent

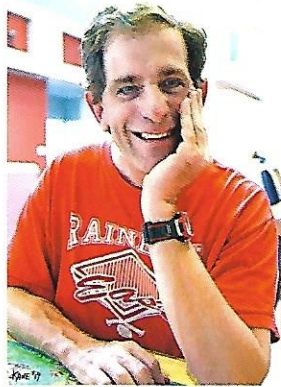
### RAINBOW ACRES *The Gift of Heaven on Earth*

As the mother of four sons, I am not exaggerating when I say during their early childhood the energy in our home was akin to a stadium of sports enthusiasts regaling their winning team. On most days, an outsider would not have been aware that the two youngest boys, Greg and Darren were each born with Fragile X Syndrome causing brain damage. In the midst of those days I buried a nagging fear, "What will happen to Greg and Darren when I can no longer care for them".



As a young child Greg exhibited behaviors associated with autism. Between my intervention as his home therapist and his older brother's examples, he began showing normal social skills along with his amazing ability in basketball. At first, neighbor kids invited him to play. What they didn't know was Greg could not grasp the concept of the game. Before long he withdrew asking, "Mommy, why won't they play with me? What does stupid retard mean? He was ten years old.

Darren, born two months premature was not expected to live through the night. Apparently God had other plans. By the time Darren was eighteen months old his development, far below the norm, was initially assigned to his prematurity. Ultimately that was not the case, he too had suffered brain damage as a result of Fragile X Syndrome. When I reflect on those days, I often feel the need to bow my head in thanks that I was chosen to be a part of bringing this special Soul to earth.



Greg was five, Darren one, when I was scheduled for a serious surgical procedure. It would not be the first or last time I would "tell" God I trusted Him to care for my four sons should I not survive. "Dear God, Thank you for these wondrous gifts you have given me. I know Brad and Matthew will be fine but if anything happens to me, I need your promise that you will take care of Greg and Darren for the rest of their lives."

During the years my older sons were carving out their independence, I was dutifully reminded it would be up to me to insure that Greg and Darren, regardless of their special needs, would also receive the opportunity to live full and prosperous lives. Comforted by my faith, I was able to let go of my deep fear and began a two year search for their future home.

On April 1, 2011 we were guided to Rainbow Acres, Homes with a Heart. God's Promise to care for Greg and Darren was fulfilled. Everything I imagined possible was at Rainbow Acres; a healthy environment where their mental, physical and spiritual needs will be met for the remainder of their lives. Where they will be accepted within a peer group without shame. They will have committed caretakers, job opportunities, and exposure to music, art, sports, and encouragement to reach their potential. And finally, for this mother's heart, I know they will be safe within the loving arms of each member of the Rainbow Acres family.

Respecting Greg and Darren's individuality, any conversation about moving was done privately. After viewing Rainbow's website, Darren let us know he was ready to move. After our Rainbow tour, Darren spoke out, "How do you like my new home?" Oh my son, my most beloved teacher, he knew Rainbow Acres was the place where he could be himself, where he would love others as he wished to be loved, where he could serve those who needed his special gift of Spirit. A place he would call home.

Greg would have no part of moving. Against his will, we scheduled a meeting with Rainbow's admission committee...that is a full story in itself. I cried a lot during his first year since he refused to speak with us. The pain was eased by the love and patience we received from his caregivers and staff members insuring us that Greg would eventually accept his life at Rainbow. Although it took him two years to become "a rancher", he now happily calls Rainbow home. These days while the Alper men work side by side helping Chef April prepare healthy and nutritious meals for rancher's and staff, their mom and dad share daily prayers of gratitude.



## Supporting Our Annual Fund Campaign Meeting the Challenges

Our Annual Fund goal is to help fulfill the promises made by Rainbow Acres since 1974 that no Rancher would ever be without a home. Many of our long-term Ranchers have now exhausted their family resources.

Your gifts to our Annual Fund help us support and sustain these Ranchers.

### **Thank You!**

*(The need for scholarship has been so great that we can no longer offer this promise to new Ranchers. We look forward to the day when we can offer new scholarships again.)*

## Save The Date Family & Friends Weekend October 26th, 27th and October 28th

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director of the American Baptist Home Mission Society will be the Keynote Speaker at the Legacy of Love Luncheon on Friday, October 27th.

### ***Other Family & Friend events include:***

- Dinner at the Rancher Homes, Thursday, October 26th
- Workshops for families on Friday, October 27th
- Dinner and Rainbow's Got Talent Show on Friday, October 27th
- Arts and Craft Sale
- Rainbow Acres Choir performance
- Plus other surprises

## Happenings at the Ranch

# The Green Side of Rainbow Acres

The **Greenhouse Relocation Project** has proven to be a big success. The Greenhouse Crew, under the direction of Rainbow Acres staff, Rodolfo Morales, PhD, Soil Sciences, work diligently to help establish the two brand new greenhouses situated in the upper part of the ranch. The greenhouse infrastructure at Rainbow Acres provides unique opportunities for the Ranchers to enjoy the natural surroundings of the ranch while actively participating and helping to plant, cultivate and harvest vegetables. All the vegetables are delivered fresh to the Rainbow Acres kitchen where April Palmer and the Kitchen Crew create delicious soup, salads and entrees. There is nothing better than farm fresh produce.

The principles of sustainable agriculture are directly applied in our farming operations as soil fertility is improved with additions of animal manure from our barn and organic waste from the main kitchen and homes. The Ranchers haul the horse manure from the barn, gather the waste from food scraps from the Rainbow Acres kitchen and use it as a healthy and safe fertilizer base to nourish the young seedlings. The Ranchers look forward to the miracle of growing plants each and every season. They are proud in their accomplishment to contribute to the sustainability of their home.

The winter temperature here in the Verde Valley not only allows production of a variety of cool season vegetables without the need of artificial heating but it also facilitates production of fully organic vegetables because major pest insects do not survive throughout the winter season. It is a gift to be able to grow through all four seasons.



*Greenhouse continued*

The shade-house infrastructure allows production during the spring and early summer of a great variety of warm season vegetables including tomatoes, pumpkin, squash, zucchini, and chilies.

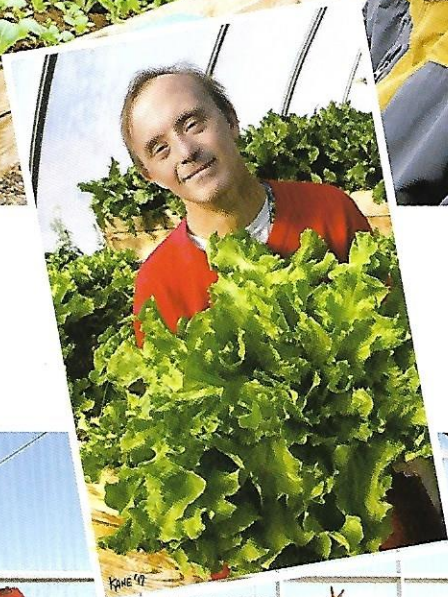
The Greenhouse Program also organizes monthly field trips during the spring, summer and fall to enhance Rancher's learning on natural vegetation ecosystems, hydrology and landscape formations along the elevation gradients typical of Northern Arizona. Specifically, Ranchers have learned about riparian vegetation communities and soil formation processes that influence high agricultural productivity along the Verde River, which also provides unique sightseeing opportunities near the ranch. To complement the practical knowledge obtained in the greenhouse and in field trips, Rodolfo also teaches a 2 hour Ecology Class weekly which is open to all Ranchers interested in learning theoretical concepts on environmental processes that influence our lives.

The Greenhouse Crew, under the direction of Rodolfo and crew leader, Leonard Filner, is an inspiring and talented crew who work endlessly through all four seasons to produce a year round bounty of fruit and vegetables. We are definitely blessed with many green thumbs.

*We would also like to recognize and applaud the generous women of the American Baptist Women of Indiana and Kentucky. Your monetary gift in transforming two greenhouses to the new Agriculture Center is greatly appreciated. A bountiful harvest of which we are forever grateful. Thank you.*





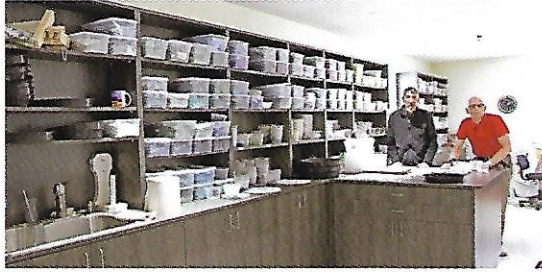


## Happenings at the Ranch

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

Sometimes, the generosity of people goes unspoken and there comes the time to tell their story. Rainbow Acres, is blessed with the abundance of volunteers and donors who are the fabric of sustainability at Rainbow Acres. Without their giving hands and hearts we would not be successful in our mission before God to “create lives of purpose” for our Ranchers. We thank you from the Ranchers and the staff. What a blessing each and every one of you have been. Your continued generosity is humbling.

The work of many hands and hearts have provided the following gifts:



#### **Projects:**

##### **- Daehler Building:**

- The Stepping Stone Room storage area has been completed. It is wonderful to have additional space and organization for our supplies.
- The addition of a brand new Gift Shop is proceeding nicely with the room built to perfection. The check-out counter/cabinets have been designed and installed. Additional cabinets and displays are a work in progress. Soon the Ranchers crafts and fine art painting will have a designated sales space for visitors to our ranch who enjoy shopping.
- A larger sink for the 2nd floor kitchenette has been installed.

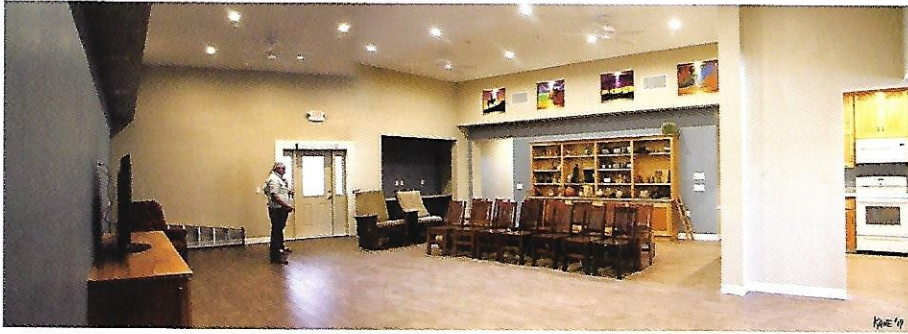
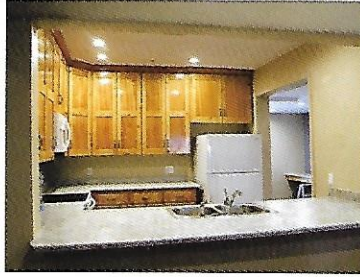


## Happenings at the Ranch

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

#### **- Dakin House:**

- The extensive remodel is almost complete and we are very pleased with the results. The house is now heated via electric heat which will be cleaner and quieter. The dining room chairs are being refurbished, the storage room shelving has been fabricated and soon the Ranchers will be moving back into their home.



**- Greenhouses:** have been relocated to the upper corner of the ranch, along- side the barn to provide an agriculture center.

- Lots of dirt moved to bring this project to completion
- All planting boxes filled with topsoil
- Pea gravel has been placed in the greenhouse walk areas

**Thanks to those who have helped in the months of January, February and March with our renovations and maintenance projects! Your service is greatly appreciated.**

#### **Individuals:**

*Dan and Linda Lunt • John & Marilyn Lee  
Kerry Gibbon • Jim Mattia • Peter Malmgren*

#### **Churches:**

*First Baptist Church, Santa Clara, CA  
Northwest Hills Community Church, Corvallis, OR*

#### **Sowers (Servants on Wheels Ever Ready):**

*Malcom and Joan Petteys • Jim and Marilyn Proudfit • Ken and Marlene Boggs  
Kent and Jan Shacklett • Doug and Trish Wilhelm • Dennis and Jenny Chapman  
Jim and Linda Bender • Ross and Pam Dunfee*

## Life at the Ranch

### *New Rancher, David F.*



David, a new Rainbow Acres Rancher is a “very sociable guy” as he noted when being interviewed for this story. David is proud of his endearing personality and says that being nice to people makes for forming new friendships. He thinks being nice is one of the most important things in life. He likes having made many new friends at Rainbow Acres and wants to make more. He says he is fun, friendly and a good conversationalist. I have to say . . . we at Rainbow Acres agree.

He thoroughly enjoys talking about his parents and 2 brothers and mentions how he is the oldest. Having lived with both parents until he was eighteen, David likes to reminisce about his family ski vacations when he lived in Massachusetts and Missouri. He loves his family and tells great stories about his life before coming to Rainbow Acres. His stories are nice to hear.

One of David’s favorite things is waking up in the morning to have a hearty breakfast and a good cup of Jo. He informed me that “a cup of Jo was coffee”. David easily makes one smile in that his heart is good, he is a caring individual and he believes strongly in being kind. David truly enjoys his home, the Ranchers who live in his home and his caregivers. He also likes the ranch community where he can make his own choices and decide what he wants to do. He shared that he likes his freedom to decide what he wants to do each and every day.

His crew of choice is the Learning Center where he enjoys math class and his math worksheets. His favorite class is history. He likes the stories of what has happened previously in the world. He occasionally attends the computer lab whereas he considers himself tech savvy. He likes Facebook, You Tube and likes how the computer world is always advancing and moving toward bigger and better things.

Another favorite crew is the Craft Crew and Painting Crew where David enjoys creating bead work and painting. He enjoys the quietness of crew and being part of a team. He likes to begin a project, finish a project and see the final piece. He likes that he can be creative. It is fun.

At Rainbow Acres each Rancher gets to choose what type of birthday cake they want for their birthday celebration. They also get to choose their favorite meal to share with the other Ranchers in their home. David’s request was Tom Jefferson’s Mac and Cheese and a strawberry birthday cake. That is exactly what he got made by the Kitchen Crew. It made for a grand birthday celebration.

To relax, David enjoys video games and especially Kingdom Hearts, a crossover of various Disney settings based in a universe. Another favorite hobby is star gazing and the excitement of looking for UFO’s. What if there really are UFO’s? David likes to wonder about such things.

If you have the opportunity to visit Rainbow Acres, you will meet David. He will firmly shake your hand, look you in the eye, and give you a heartwarming welcome. His sincerity and authenticity is such a gift. He is a rare gentleman and we are thrilled to have him here. We are proud of David and his accomplishments.

## Life at the Ranch

### Caregiver, Starlene Brogdon

Starlene fell upon the path of Rainbow Acres in 1995 and states with a quiet gratitude that on “the very first day I walked on the ranch, there was no way I could walk off”. She goes on to say how Rainbow Acres is a special place that is abundant with endless unconditional love. How can you leave such a place?



She initially came to Rainbow Acres to inquire about volunteering at the thrift store but was told that a cook was needed for the kitchen.

Always one to help, Starlene having been a professional cook said “sure”, and officially became an employee. She took on the responsibility, trained a kitchen crew and kept Ranchers and staff well fed.

An opportunity arose where Starlene had the opportunity to become a caregiver and start a new profession after her many years as a cook. She wanted to do something new, different and be involved with the Ranchers on a more personal level. She jumped into her new role as a floater (working between two homes) which she did for three years. Starlene is now one of the caregivers at Nash House where she considers the Ranchers part of her family and most importantly, a part of her heart. The ladies in Nash House enjoy Starlene as much as she enjoys them. It is a match made in heaven.

Starlene shared that she “wasn’t looking for a job but God knew best”. A personal circumstance had caused her much sadness and aloneness in her life, and she was truly sad. She had lost a dear husband and her best friend, yet somehow Rainbow Acres and the Ranchers touched the “core of her” and she got her heart back. She states that for twenty two years she has always looked forward to coming to work at Rainbow Acres.

All of the caregivers at the Rainbow Acres work different crews, in addition to managing their particular homes and caring for the Ranchers. Starlene, works the Extended Crew where she interacts and cares for those Ranchers that may not be able to be on regular crew duties. She may play a memory card game with John, she may deliver new magazines to JJ or help Phillip adjust to his new hearing aids. Starlene understands the needs of each Rancher in her care, and showers them with her quiet love. It is beautiful to watch.

In visiting Nash House, you see a wonderful family dynamic between Starlene and the Ranchers. They share meals together, read The Daily Bread each day as a family would, share stories about their day, they look out for one another, they help each other with household tasks, they play games, they laugh and like any family, they truly love one another. Starlene has a gift for understanding our Ranchers, sharing her heart and quietly directing them in her gifted way of explaining things. She knows it is a gift to be of service to our Ranchers, to do God’s work and take the small blessings of each day with a grateful heart.

***Thank you Starlene for being part of the Rainbow Acres team!  
And thanks to all our Caregiver Staff!***

# Planned Giving

***Make a difference today in the lives of our Rainbow Acres Ranchers.  
Consider Rainbow Acres as part of your Estate and Planned Giving directives.***

Our Ranchers at Rainbow Acres depend on the generous financial support of people like you to ensure that they have a forever home at Rainbow Acres. Please consider our mission in helping adults with developmental disabilities live in a residential Christian community that provides homes with heart. A community where loving care, and nurturing with understanding does indeed create miracles. As you know, miracles do happen here and we are always humbled by such occurrences. It is a special place!



It is suggested that every one to two years you review your Estate and Planned Giving directives to ensure that your financial plans are still in-line with your current wishes. It is important to protect the people and organizations you care about most, including Rainbow Acres.

## ***9 Tips to Ensure Estate Planning Success***

1. Meet with an attorney to update your will or trust to ensure that it reflects your current situation as well as any tax law changes. You may also want to add or increase your gift to your favorite charity, such as Rainbow Acres.
2. Evaluate your life insurance policies to make sure there is adequate coverage for your loved ones: If you no longer need a policy, consider using it to make a gift to Rainbow Acres, by naming Rainbow Acres as a beneficiary of the policy's payout at your death.
3. Review the designated beneficiary of any life insurance policies and retirement plans so that they coordinate with your overall estate plan. If you want to remember Rainbow Acres in your plan, retirement assets are the most highly taxed assets to leave your family, making them excellent charitable gifts.
4. If you are nearing retirement, talk with a financial advisor to map out strategies for maximizing savings. Discuss how making a gift to Rainbow Acres can also provide you with tax benefits.
5. Update your health care power of attorney to ensure that someone you trust makes medical decisions on your behalf in the event of an illness or disability. You should also create or update your living will to protect your wishes regarding prolonged health care and terminal conditions.
6. Formalize your financial power of attorney to ensure someone will handle your financial decisions if you become unable to do so.
7. Encourage adult family members to create their own estate plans.
8. Remind your aging parents to review their plans so that their intentions are followed.
9. Decide if including a percentage of your estate through a charitable bequest to Rainbow Acres makes sense to you and/or your family at this point in your life.

Your gift is a meaningful way to ensure the Ranchers who call Rainbow Acres home continue to live in a loving and safe environment with dignity and purpose. Contact Susan Hall, Director of Planned Giving at [Susan@rainbowacres.com](mailto:Susan@rainbowacres.com) or 602-321-4346 to learn more.

The information provided here is not intended as legal or tax advice. It is recommended that you seek out the advice of either a tax attorney or tax advisor. References to estate and income taxes include federal taxes only. State income/estate taxes or state law may impact your results.



## 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 Debbie T. who due to tough life circumstances as either outlived their family resources or in some cases; a Rancher's family has exhausted their personal resources.

Debbie is from California and is proud to be a California girl. She grew up in a small family and has outlived her relatives. She is very much alone in this world with absolutely no family.

She considers Rainbow Acres her home and shares that "she loves it here". She has friends and staff who have become her family and being part of a family is important to Debbie. She is a social butterfly in that she truly likes people and interacting with them on a daily basis. She is compassionate and has a wonderful talent for caring about the other Ranchers. She is just a "good heart" of a person and her beautiful smile touches the hearts of all who meet her. Having once lived a difficult life on the streets, Debbie understands that living at Rainbow is a gift and she will tear up with gratitude when she talks about having a home, with friends and staff that truly adore her.

If you would like to sponsor Debbie T, 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.