



# Rainbow Acres

*A Residential Christian Community  
Serving Adults with  
Developmental Disabilities*

KANE '17

## Letter from the President

### A “Wake-Up Call” for the Future

This past October, Rainbow Acres hosted its annual Open House with Rancher families, friends and neighbors taking tours, enjoying lunch and entertainment, and experiencing the daily lives of the Ranchers and the caring Christian community we have all helped to grow and nurture here.

Amid the excitement, I was walking past the Greenhouses when I noticed a group engaged inside. I was delighted to observe six Ranchers giving poster presentations on topics of great personal interest.

Each Rancher had thoroughly researched their topic and was presenting their findings (without notes) to an audience of about 50 individuals. Each Rancher presentation was intellectually challenging, scientifically accurate, and presented by a Rancher/educator! Presentations covered complex topics, including “Functions of the Human Brain”, “Cold and Flu Viruses”, “Our Oceans Need Our Actions” and more!

The Ranchers had been encouraged to work to their greatest potential – their highest level of thinking – by Rodolfo Morales, the lead educator at the Greenhouses. The results for the Ranchers were outstanding: increased self-confidence, a greater understanding of themselves and the world, and applause for their achievements. All of that positivity translates into dignity and respect. The participating Ranchers that day were Dale Czarnecki, Chipeta Difani, Jamie Gutmann, Robert Mills, Nancy McGraw and Daniel Weisbin. I stood in awe of their achievements.



For me, it was a “**wake-up call**” that the Ranchers crave intellectually-stimulating challenges, not rote learning exercises! Also, it was “a wake-up call” to challenge and empower the staff to embrace the understanding that “every Rancher is an active learner.” We need to make THAT the purpose behind every work crew, educational class and enrichment activity. This is a **paradigm shift** for Rainbow Acres, from focusing on serving as a Caregiving Community to becoming an **empowering Learning Community**. Staff members are educators whose role goes beyond “caregiving” to nurturing Ranchers to reach their fullest potential.

As the leaders of Rainbow Acres look to the future, prospective Rancher families with an adult child have new and higher expectations for programs and services that will more effectively prepare their loved one for life in the larger community. **Rainbow Acres must meet these new expectations**. New resources are needed for new educational programs. Watch – and you’ll see new Rancher programs emerging in the coming months and years.

It is our hope that Rancher families, friends and community leaders will embrace Rainbow Acres as an active “Learning Community” where Ranchers discover compassion, dignity and purpose in life. To all who give so generously for the Ranchers, thank you for your faithful support. If you have not joined the Circle of Friends who make the Rainbow Acres community a reality, please join us, now!

For the Ranchers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary W. Wagner'.

Gary W. Wagner, President & CEO

## 'Fulfilling the Promise' begins with Health & Wellness

For many years, Rainbow Acres wasn't able to offer on-campus medical services for its residents, except for visits from mobile labs. Instead, Ranchers were transported off-campus for most aspects of their medical care.

Today, the Health and Wellness Program takes a holistic approach to physical and mental health care, focusing not only on administering medicines and scheduling treatments, but also on providing preventative health care that anticipates the growing complexity of needs as the Ranchers live longer, healthier lives.

Rainbow Acres' progress in fulfilling its promise to Ranchers of living "to their fullest potential" begins with health and wellness – needs that are vital to current Ranchers as well as new and prospective Ranchers.

On any given day, the Health and Wellness Center is a beehive of activity under the direction of Christine Walker, RN, Director of Health and Wellness, who joined Rainbow Acres over 10 years ago and has created a modern system for addressing the needs of the Ranchers. When she started, she was the only RN on the staff. Today, she's assisted by a team of six, which includes two additional RNs and two LPNs. "On site, we provide everything we can in terms of first aid, triage, intervention and education," Walker said. "We make the rounds every day, intervene when we become aware of issues, order and distribute all medications, oversee staff training, and fill a lot of different roles."

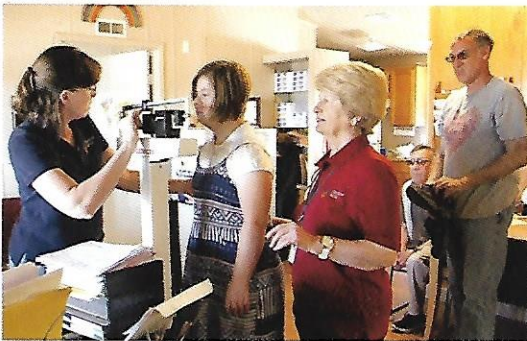
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*"On site, we make the rounds every day, intervene when we become aware of issues, order and distribute all medications, oversee staff training, and fill a lot of different roles."*

– Christine Walker,  
Director of Health and Wellness

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With Ranchers ranging in age from their early 20s to their 80s, the staff serves a diverse set of medical and mental health needs, for which they coordinated almost 2,750 on-campus and off-campus appointments last year. "When I first came here, I thought we would decrease the number of appointments. Instead, they've significantly increased because we're responding to a greater range of needs, and because we have so many good providers available," Walker said. "We now have specialists who are willing to see our Ranchers – because they can be very medically-complex patients. They look healthy and are always friendly, but they have a lot of medical needs."



**"Weigh Day" – a monthly event at the Health and Wellness Center on campus – allows the nursing staff to interact with every Rancher and monitor their progress. Here, (from left) Lori Evartt, LPN, works with Rancher Sarah and Donna Chalmers, RN, while Ranchers Peter and Shawn await their turn. During "Weigh Day", the staff focuses on providing positive reinforcement, with Ranchers offering words of congratulations for accomplishing goals – and additional encouragement if work still needs to be done.**

## 'Fulfilling the Promise' (continued)

Every day, Rainbow Acres transports dozens of Ranchers to primary care physicians and a wide range of specialists including cardiologists, neurologists, dermatologists, physical therapists, dentists, optometrists and more in Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Sedona, Flagstaff and Phoenix. Last year, Rainbow Acres transported Ranchers to over 1,100 off-campus appointments. Fortunately, access to local healthcare received a big boost with the opening of the new Verde Valley Medical Center in Camp Verde. The new medical facility, along with an affiliated Northern Arizona Healthcare clinic in Cottonwood, manage to fill the vast majority of the Ranchers' off-campus medical needs. "The Camp Verde facility has made a huge difference because specialists rotate through more often than in the past," Walker said. "Also, they have nurse practitioners who can address unscheduled appointments since we don't have an Urgent Care clinic."

The demand for on-campus health services also has increased annually, with over 1,500 appointments last year. At the Health and Wellness Center, the staff facilitates monthly weigh-ins, regular checks-ups, routine vaccinations, lab work and x-rays (through a mobile lab). They also schedule all off-campus appointments and maintain detailed medical records for each Rancher. Medications are ordered, tracked and dispensed using computer software similar to that used in hospitals. And the staff makes frequent house calls when notified by staff and caregivers that a particular Rancher is experiencing difficulties.

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*"Over the years, family expectations have gone way up, as has desire for frequent communication. It's not unusual for me to communicate with six or more Rancher families per day by e-mail or phone. Most of our Rancher families don't live near here, so communication is really important."*

— Christine Walker,  
Director of Health and Wellness

Another major change over the past decade has been the level of communication expected by Rancher families. "Keeping them informed is a high priority. Over the years, family expectations have gone way up, as has their desire for frequent communication," Walker said. "It's not unusual for me to communicate with six or more Rancher families per day by e-mail or phone. Sometimes, they just have a question or they're checking in. Other times, I'll notify them because there's been a change or a new appointment they need to know about. Most of our Rancher families don't live near here, so communication is really important."

Health and Wellness staff to respond proactively to needs as they arise. For mental health treatment, Rainbow Acres utilizes specialists at the mental health clinic in Camp Verde but also professionals available through telemedicine. "We use psychiatry more than ever, mostly to deal with either behaviors or medications needed to help control behaviors," Walker said. "With many of the Ranchers who require mental health treatment, we've been utilizing telemedicine with psychiatrists in Maine and Utah, who can interact with the Ranchers and provide interaction and treatment online."

In addition to Ranchers in group housing, the Health and Wellness staff serves Ranchers who live on their own, in Rainbow Acres' two apartment houses. Ranchers who opt for apartment living have to master living skills, including cooking and cleaning, but especially the ability to manage their own medications. "For those living more independently,

they receive some oversight so they can be successful there,” Walker said. “Then we have Ranchers who are transitioning to become more independent: learning how to take their own meds, with some oversight, and learning how to make their own meals, choosing nutrition properly and so on. We still monitor their progress to help them avoid issues that can arise from lifestyle choices, such as obesity.”

As the on-site Health and Wellness Program has grown, Rainbow Acres’ efforts have helped every Rancher, from older individuals who are maintaining their health to make sure that they transition well as they age, to younger people who expect to address not only their medical needs but also socialization and vocational needs as well. “Many of the younger adults with disabilities fall on the Autism spectrum, or exhibit ADHD or OCD behaviors, which can be more difficult to manage in a community,” Walker said. “We work with families to address these needs in a way that demonstrates that we’re knowledgeable and approachable, so they can feel good about the decisions they’re making now and about working with us in the future.”



**The Health and Wellness Center staff (from left): Kathy Nennenger, RN; Jody Grizzle, Medical Records Assistant; Gail Uhler, Medical Records and Appointment Coordinator; Christine Walker, RN, Director of Health and Wellness; Lori Evertt, LPN; Donna Chalmers, RN; and Nikki Griffin, LPN.**

For donors who wish to support the Health and Wellness program, donated medical items are fine, but often don’t meet the specific needs of the Ranchers. “We have had a few donated items that we’ve been able to use – like walkers, canes and the like – but we often require funding to obtain exactly what will work best for each individual Rancher.” The Adopt-A-Rancher program, in which private donors “adopt” a particular Rancher and provide donations to help address their needs, helped support 38 Ranchers last year.

Walker has been honored with awards for her work at Rainbow Acres. In 2014, she received the Shining Star Award for “Nurse of the Year” from Arizona ALFA (Assisted Living Federation of America) and, in 2009, was voted “Employee of the Year” by the Rainbow Acres staff. Still, she’s quick to credit the entire Health and Wellness team. “We are so blessed in terms of the quality and dedication of our staff,” Walker said. “They are our eyes, ears and hands in making sure that each Rancher receives the best quality of care we can provide. At Rainbow Acres, it’s all about the Ranchers.”



## New sign welcomes visitors to Rainbow Acres

Ranchers are always eager to welcome visitors, family members and friends to Rainbow Acres! That eagerness took on a new meaning for a hard-working group of Ranchers last fall when they created a larger-than-life “welcome sign” by spelling out the words with river rock and other types of stone.

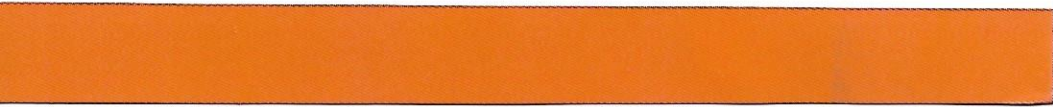
The idea for the new welcome sign came about last October when the Ranchers and staff were preparing for Family & Friends Weekend, Rainbow Acres’ annual open house.

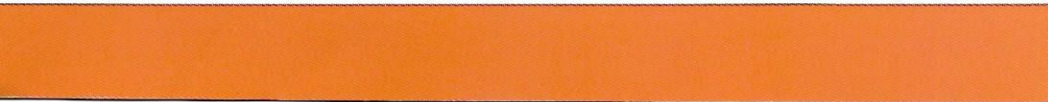
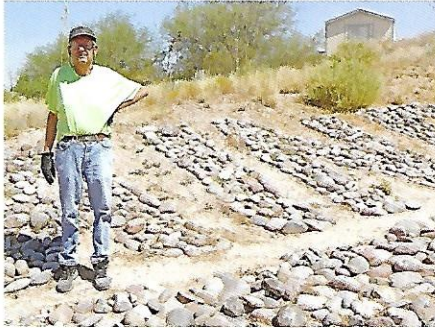
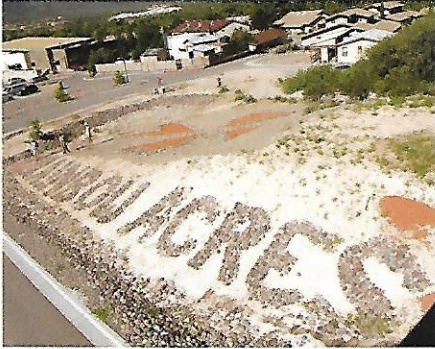
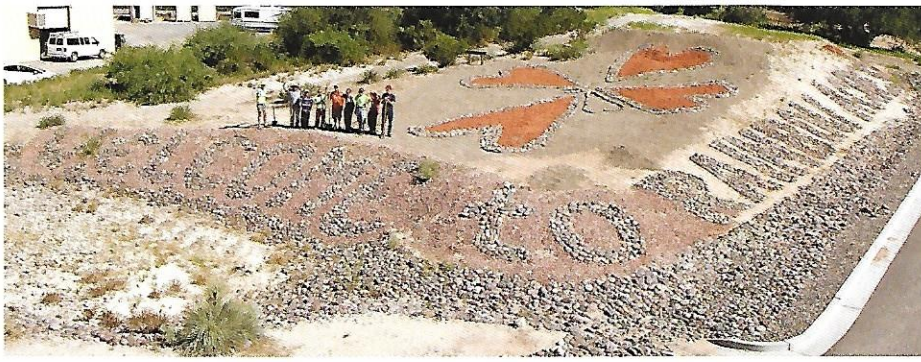
As part of ongoing efforts to establish greenhouse operations, tons of stone had been removed from an area in front of the greenhouses to create a new road and parking lot. Instead of having the construction company dispose of the stone, the Greenhouse Crew’s ingenuity came to the rescue. How could the rock pile be put to good use? Rodolfo Morales, lead educator at the Greenhouses, mapped out a plan for the letters, then drew them on the ground using sticks as a guideline. The Greenhouse Crew relocated the stones and placed them to form letters that say “Welcome to Rainbow Acres.”

Because they had plenty of stones remaining, Morales asked the crew to recreate the rainbow-colored cross symbol from the new Rainbow Acres logo in the upper part of the area. Ranchers also set the stones one-by-one inside the hearts to form the cross. The following Ranchers volunteered to provide the hard work and creativity to make this project possible: Dale Czarnecki, Robert Mills, Steve Walker, Jamie Gutmann, Joseph Lindsey, John David Bryan and John Anderson.

Later, the crew found they had plenty of red gravel in storage, so they worked with Morales to use the red gravel around the letters. They also had a lot of gray gravel in storage which they used around the hearts to give it a better presentation. The project took a couple of months to complete, but the Ranchers are so proud to have done such amazing work.

If the Greenhouse Crew acquires more stone, they plan to draw a sun and rainbow (in the empty area in front of the sign’s left side) to further beautify the area. Great job, everyone – not only will guests enjoy your work, even people in airplanes overhead will be welcomed to view Rainbow Acres!





## Ranchers develop new retail skills for Gift Shop with help from NAU Occupational Therapy students

Ranchers are learning about the retail industry thanks to a partnership between Rainbow Acres and the Occupational Therapy Program of Northern Arizona University (NAU).

A team of Occupational Therapy (OT) Master's degree students from NAU Phoenix began visiting Rainbow Acres in the fall of 2017. The NAU student team studied the systems of the new Gift Shop to develop a unique retail training curriculum appropriate to the Ranch's population and environment.



**Rancher Katie Flores (left) works with Cari Hobbs, an OT student from NAU Phoenix, using one of the step-by-step pictorial guides to help Katie learn retail skills by way of hands-on training.**

Photographing the steps of the cash register system, gift wrapping process and other aspects of Gift Shop operations, the NAU students developed step-by-step pictorial guides to help Ranchers learn retail skills by way of hands-on training. These guides became part of a curriculum that includes a Program Manual for instructors, an Activities Manual with team-building activities, and Guide Books for the Rancher participants.

In addition to a general overview of Gift Shop operations, the training program also allows each Rancher enrolled to specialize in a specific Gift Shop role. Areas of specialization are greeter, cashier and bagger – and Guide Books unique to each specialization are provided. Ranchers also review basic work skills such as timeliness, getting along with co-workers, and keeping the workspace clean and organized.

Caregivers Cindy Shaw and Julieann Brogdon were selected to teach the Retail Skills Course and each trained with the NAU students prior to implementation of the program. The inaugural session of the one-month course took place on February 12 with NAU students launching the program.

Enrolled in the first course were Chipeta Difani who specialized in the bagger role, Katie Flores who specialized as a greeter, and James Clark who specialized in cashiering. The course took place weekdays on site in the Gift Shop from 9 a.m. until noon each day.

A skills assessment administered on the first day of the class and re-administered at the conclusion of the course measured the gains of the Ranchers and found that all had progressed.



With high Rancher interest and a waiting list to take the course, Rainbow Acres anticipates that the class will be offered continuously with a new group of students each month. Eventually, Ranchers will also have the option of retaking the course, reviewing the previous area of specialization or choosing a new specialization (if so desired).

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*“With adequate funding and staffing, the future will bring additional vocational education opportunities for the Ranchers along the lines of this class. Ideally, we would like to develop and offer classes in food services, housekeeping and other areas. With the help of the NAU students, we have a model of what this looks like and we know it can work with the Ranchers.”*

– Andy Rogers,  
Vocational Director

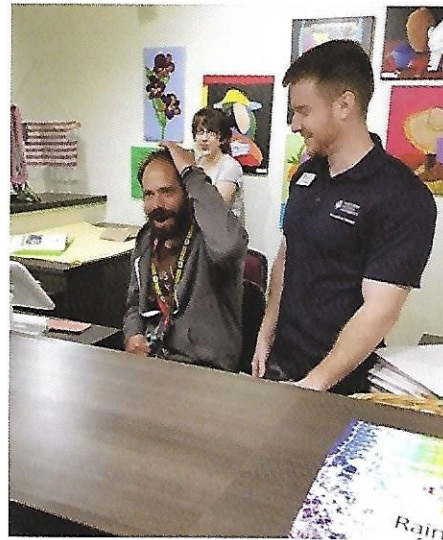
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Ranchers who excel in the class will have the opportunity for paid hours in the Gift Shop during events such as Church Group visits and the annual Open House.

Community employment of Retail Training class graduates is a possibility as well. Andy Rogers, Vocational Director, believes the Retail Training Course is an enriching and valuable experience for Ranchers regardless of whether they end up working in retail. “We want every Rancher to have the opportunity to live up to their potential. The opportunity to take a class like this is part of that,” Rogers said. “Even for those who do not end up working in retail, the skills learned and gains made in this class can carry over to other parts of life.”

Rogers believes the retail training class is a preview of things to come at Rainbow Acres: “With adequate funding and staffing, the future will bring additional vocational education opportunities for the Ranchers along the lines of this class. Ideally, we would like to develop and offer classes in food services, housekeeping and other areas. With the help of the NAU students, we have a model of what this looks like and we know it can work with the Ranchers.”

This program reflects the “paradigm shift” that Gary Wagner, President & CEO of Rainbow Acres, outlines in his column in this issue of *The Promise*. He emphasizes the need for Rainbow Acres to increase its efforts to become “an empowering Learning Community” and calls for the non-profit to take a major leap forward in order to meet the expectations of current and prospective Ranchers who want and need programs that are more intellectually stimulating.

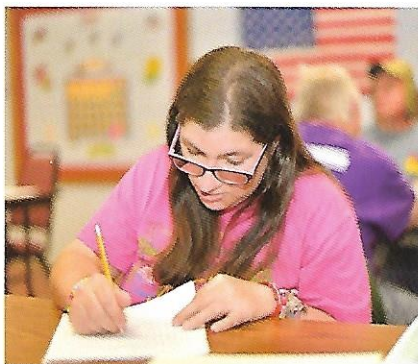


**Rancher James Clark (left) works on his skills as a cashier after receiving instruction from Garret Thomas, an OT student from NAU Phoenix, during training exercises in the Rainbow Acres Gift Shop.**

## Getting big bang for your charitable bucks

At Rainbow Acres, we work hard to ensure that your contributions really make a difference. We take stewardship of resources very seriously, ensuring that each gift generates maximum impact for Rainbow Acres to serve as a safe, supportive, thriving Christian community for the developmentally disabled.

Each year, Rainbow Acres focuses on several "special needs" campaigns that address its most dire funding areas, including the **Adopt-A-Rancher Fund** (in which donors can "adopt" a particular Rancher who needs financial support due to family circumstances); the **Good Samaritan Fund** (which assists those Ranchers who do not have adequate insurance for medical or dental needs); and the **Scholarship Fund** (which supports general scholarships, to be distributed at the discretion of Rainbow Acres for Ranchers in need). Also, later this year, Rainbow Acres will launch the **Annual Fund Campaign** for 2018, which provides critical support for general operations.



While many individuals give directly to these funds each year, some take advantage of Matching Gift Programs in which their employer matches their personal donations to a non-profit organization like Rainbow Acres. In previous years, individuals who work for Alcoa, Honeywell, Home Depot, Intel, Motorola, Owens-Corning Glass, UPS and other companies have given to Rainbow Acres in this way – and many times have doubled the amount (and the impact) of their contributions.

To everyone who has shared their abundance with generosity, please accept a heartfelt "Thank You" from the Ranchers and staff. It takes a lot of prayer, commitment and donations to maintain the caring environment at Rainbow Acres. Thank you for caring and sharing in the lives of the Ranchers!

**SAVE**  
the  
**DATE**

**Annual Family & Friends Weekend**  
**Friday, October 26th & Saturday, October 27th**  
(including the **Legacy of Love Luncheon**  
on Friday, October 26th)

We are very excited to announce that Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA), will be the keynote speaker for the Legacy of Love Luncheon on Friday, October 26th. Dr. Spitzer is the author of *Endless Possibilities: Exploring the Journeys of Your Life* (1997), *Making Friends, Making Disciples* (2010), and *Baptists, Jews and the Holocaust: The Hand of Sincere Friendship* (2017).

**Other Family & Friends Weekend events include:**

- Thursday evening dinner in the Rancher Homes
- Workshops for families on Friday, October 26th
- Dinner and "Rainbow's Got Talent" Show on Friday, October 26th
- Picnic Lunch, Arts/Crafts Sale and other events on Saturday, October 27th

## 'Employee of Year' ensures Rancher benefits

Congratulations, Jackie! In March, Jackie Brown, Rancher Benefits Coordinator for the past four years, was named the 2017 Employee of the Year at Rainbow Acres.

Jackie ensures that each Rancher receives all of the benefits they are entitled to receive (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Prescriptions, etc.). She also assists the Ranchers with managing and budgeting their petty cash. Plus she schedules the caregivers who address the Ranchers' day-to-day needs.

Brown thoroughly enjoys her role in making sure that the Ranchers receive the maximum benefits possible. "Working at Rainbow Acres has enhanced my life tremendously," Brown said. "The Ranchers here are very special and dear to my heart. I have fun at work EVERY Day because of those I work with, Ranchers and staff alike. Having the opportunity to work, teach, learn and laugh with this group of people is an honor and joy."



**Jackie Brown, Rancher Benefits Coordinator and 2017 Employee of the Year, with Gary Wagner, President/CEO of Rainbow Acres.**

Prior to coming to Rainbow Acres, Brown worked for 26 years at the same nursing home in Sedona. She held many jobs there with her last (and longest) being Business Office Manager when she "retired." Then, for several years, she waited for the right job at Rainbow Acres to become available. "My patience and prayers finally paid off," Brown said. "Lucky me, here I am."

No, the Ranchers and staff members are the lucky ones, Jackie! We're fortunate to have you! As Employee of the Year, Jackie received a nice bonus, several days off, gift certificates and a gift basket full of goodies and surprises. We appreciate Jackie's hard work for the Ranchers.



## 'Wish List' addresses need for campus improvements

Springtime is here and summertime is coming. It's time for Rainbow Acres to address its "Wish List" of capital improvement projects that would benefit the entire Rainbow Acres community.

The Buildings & Grounds Department has been busy with recent improvements including completion of roofing repairs on Dakin House, with Baldwin House and Frese House next (and all three to be completed by May). Also, Patrick House has been rehabilitated, with some remodeling, bathroom improvements and new appliances. In Paintbrush Park, the retaining wall has been erected and stucco has been applied, and sidewalks and a concrete pad in the central part of the park have been poured in preparation for the next steps (installing irrigation, lighting and plants by early summer).

Still, many "small project" needs remain – some of which require the support of donors to move them forward. This year, these are the top three items on Rainbow Acres' "Wish List" of small improvement projects that need funding:

- **Energy-Efficient Lighting Project – Palmer Community Center**

Rainbow Acres recently replaced all of the florescent lights in the Learning Center and now would like to do the same in the Palmer Community Center. Many Ranchers at Rainbow Acres are sensitive to the "flickering light" from florescent bulbs. Also, even though the Community Center is fairly new, it was built before the widespread use of LED lighting. The cost of the conversion to cost-efficient LED lighting is \$14,500 – and it can be done in phases.

- **Showers Well/Irrigation Project – Water Management/Grounds**

Currently, the same well that provides water for the houses and facilities on the Ranch also provides the water used for irrigation in the greenhouses and landscaping. This water source is being treated for human consumption, which adds significantly to its cost of use. Rainbow Acres has another well that could be used for current and future irrigation purposes but needs \$6,000 to activate the well and install connections to the system.

- **Material Handling/Safety Project – Buildings Maintenance**

Rainbow Acres frequently has to handle large items such as appliances that must be removed or installed in Rancher housing units. Two purchases would make this easier (and safer): a palette jack for moving these items inside facilities and a Tommy Lift for the back-end of one of the Ranch's pick-ups that would enable bulky, heavy items to be lifted to/from the truck bed to the ground. The palette jack requires \$2,000; the Tommy Lift is a \$4,500 investment.

If you would like to grant any of these wishes, please visit our website ([www.rainbowacres.com](http://www.rainbowacres.com)) and click on the Donation tab, or call Dawn Jones, Donor Relations Manager, at (928) 567-5231 for more information.



## Rainbow Acres receives 'Golden Plate Award' for food handling safety three times in a row



The Kitchen Crew on any given day includes multiple Ranchers. Some of the familiar faces include (from left) Greg Alper, Roman Battistone, Marcus Sanders, Trudy Schock, Chef April Palmer, Darren Alper and Jeff Pitts.



With lunch and dinner to prepare for all of the Ranchers, the crew stays busy from morning to late afternoon. Here, Rancher Marcus Sanders helps Chef April Palmer and Volunteer Stephanie Rust prepare the day's meal.

For the third consecutive year, Rainbow Acres has received the Golden Plate Award, which indicates an exceptionally strong commitment to food safety in terms of handling and preparation standards.

The award was established in 2004 as a joint effort of Yavapai County Community Health Services, the Yavapai County Food Safety Industry Council, and the University of Arizona's Cooperative Extension Office.

Recipients of the Golden Plate Award have met three criteria: operate throughout the entire year without a critical food handling violation; have an approved and implemented food safety plan; and have a person in-charge with an accepted and current manager-level food safety certificate throughout the year.

Chef April Palmer, kitchen volunteers and an extensive crew of Ranchers handles food preparation and service in the Palmer Community Center, preparing lunches and dinners daily. "The Ranchers should be very, very proud of themselves," Palmer said. "They take it very seriously, they work hard, and they deserve all the credit." About a dozen Ranchers work on the Kitchen Crew Mondays through Saturdays every week.

Palmer has served in food service off and on since the 1980s, when she first worked with developmentally disabled adults. "We were the only Burger King store in our group that employed individuals with disabilities," Palmer said. "They were thrilled to be there, and that inspired me to make it work. And that's what I love about working with the Ranchers. They want to be here and want to do a great job."

Congratulations to Chef April, the kitchen volunteers and the Ranchers on this accomplishment. Their dedication to excellence ensures high quality food service for everyone who eats at the Palmer Community Center.

## *Rancher David Butler leaves legacy as pioneer*

On February 18, Rainbow Acres held a Christian service celebrating the life of David Butler, 65, who passed away on January 18 at Valley View Care in Cottonwood, AZ. One of the original four Ranchers who came to Rainbow Acres in 1974, David was widely recognized as the “Goatherd Man” for his interest in tending to livestock, and for being featured in a *Reader’s Digest* article about Rainbow Acres in 1986.



David was born and lived in California until age 22, when he moved to Rainbow Acres after his family saw an article about Ralph Showers in a local newspaper. The Ranch was in the beginning stages and the article outlined Ralph Showers’ dream to establish a new kind of community for developmentally disabled adults. A few months later, David moved to Rainbow Acres and began living in a household with three other Ranchers.

One of the highlights of David’s earlier tenure at Rainbow Acres was being featured, along with founder Ralph Showers, in an article that appeared in the February 1986 issue of *Reader’s Digest* magazine (titled “Rainbow Acres and the Goatherd Man”).

The article told how David, under Ralph’s tutelage and with Rainbow Acres’ support, blossomed as a caretaker of livestock and became increasingly more independent, to the point of serving as a “full-time Rancher” at Rainbow Acres’ Starlite Cattle Co., where he “had his own room and the job of goatherder, earning \$150 a month,” the *Reader’s Digest* article said. “As soon as there was an opening, he was told, he would be eligible for promotion to staff assistant. The new position would make him financially independent. “Now,” he said, “I feel like a real person.”” The article touched the hearts of millions of the magazine’s readers worldwide.

Also known as the “unofficial weatherman” of Rainbow Acres, David loved the outdoors – fishing, walking, gardening, beachcombing and more. He also loved Special Olympics and, of course, tending to the goats and other livestock at Rainbow Acres. In David’s obituary, the Butler family expressed their appreciation to Rainbow Acres: “Thanks to the patient, loving guidance from staff and caregivers, and purposeful work alongside fellow Ranchers, David lived a life rich in dignity, peace and meaning at Rainbow Acres.”

Rainbow Acres thanks the Butler family for granting us the privilege of knowing and caring for David, who will be missed dearly by everyone who knew him. David was very proud of being one of the original Ranchers – a true pioneer. We’re proud of him too, and the life he lived as part of the Rainbow Acres community.

## Give from the Heart ♥ Adopt-A-Rancher

You can make a profound difference in the life of a Rancher in need at Rainbow Acres! The "Adopt-A-Rancher" Fund supports Ranchers like Patti W. who, due to life circumstances, have either outlived their family resources or are in need because their family has exhausted their personal resources. Last year, over 430 donors provided support for 38 needy Ranchers through this vital support program.

Patti W. has been very successful at Rainbow Acres since she arrived in 2014. Born in California, Patti lived with her parents for 30 years as an only child. She moved to Pine, Arizona with her parents in the mid-1990s where she resided with her grandparents until they passed away. A family friend, who served at Patti's legal guardian, found Rainbow Acres and pursued getting Patti admitted despite the obstacles of having very little background information and few legal documents. She just knew that Patti would have a chance to have a full life with many friends and was determined to get Patti admitted.



Patti has cerebral palsy with a weakness on her left side. She walks with a limp and really works hard to maintain balance. Still, this never deters her from staying active and keeping up with her housemates. At Rainbow Acres, she loves participating in all kinds of activities and especially enjoys, music, dance, parties and Special Olympics. Patti loves to tease and laughs easily. She is also proud of her fitness level since she has come to Rainbow Acres, her social skills and the many friends she has made. Patti loves working on math in the Learning Center and using her artistic skills in crafts and stepping stones. It is easy to make Patti smile. A friendly gesture, a compliment or a joke will make her day.

If you would like to sponsor Patti W., please visit our website ([www.rainbowacres.com](http://www.rainbowacres.com)) and click on Donation/Adopt-A-Rancher, or call Dawn Jones, Donor Relations Manager, at (928) 567-5231.

### Rainbow Acres – *The Promise* (Summer/Spring 2018)

The Mission of Rainbow Acres is to serve as "a Christian community with heart that empowers persons with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose."

Founded in 1974, Rainbow Acres is an independent, non-profit Christian ministry related to the American Baptist Churches USA. Licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services, Rainbow Acres is governed by an independent, self-perpetuating Board of Trustees from Arizona and across the nation. Rainbow Acres has earned and was awarded EAGLE accreditation by the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare.

Rainbow Acres is made possible by generous contributions from numerous churches of all faiths, as well as individuals, foundations and corporations. Rainbow Acres has been designated a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the IRS code.

#### Contacts and Credits

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