



Rainbow Acres

A Residential Christian Community
Serving Adults with
Developmental Disabilities

INSIDE:

- *COVID-19 Update*
- *Sedona Lago Gardens and The Imagine Gala*
- *Weaving Studio Renovation*

...and more!

COVID-19 UPDATE

Ranch closed to all visitors; group events/activities postponed

Rainbow Acres takes measures in response to outbreak

Minimizing the risk of exposing our Ranchers to COVID-19 is our highest priority!

As we go to press with this issue of The Promise, it seems that we have entered a new era as a world and nation dealing with the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its implications. To begin this issue, we want to provide you with insights into how Rainbow Acres is addressing this pandemic on the Ranch.

As always, Rainbow Acres is closely monitoring the health status of our Ranchers on a daily basis. Our Health and Wellness Team is diligent – monitoring is their top priority. And the entire staff has been proactive in their efforts to minimize risk and protect the Ranchers from contracting the illness. Everyone is being strongly encouraged to follow daily precautions including washing hands frequently, covering coughs and sneezes, avoiding handshakes and contact, and practicing social distancing as much as possible.

Rainbow Acres has reinforced its existing infection control practices in each of the homes and common areas. In late March, the Ranch was closed for all visitors. For those who need access (employees, vendors and Rancher families) entry requires a health screening that includes checking temperatures, asking about possible

symptoms in the last 24-48 hours, and checking for potential exposure to those infected with the virus. As an additional measure, the Kitchen staff is maintaining a rotating 14-day food supply to carry the Ranch through possible disruptions of the food supply chain.

Rancher families and friends are being asked to avoid airline travel and large public events with their Rancher. When the Rancher leaves the campus for a period longer than a day, they are required to have a health screening when they return. If they have a fever, have been ill, or have attended a public event, we're asking the family member/friend to keep the Rancher with them rather than return them to the Ranch. Ranchers who require quarantine are being asked to stay at their family/friend's home for 14 days or longer.

Until further notice, all group activities that involve campus visitors or Ranchers leaving the campus – Rancher Vacations, Special Olympics, volunteer group visits, choir performances, off-campus employment, etc. – have been postponed, including The Imagine Gala (rescheduled for September 18).

Small group interactions among the Ranchers and employees will continue as long as we can ensure the health and well-being of all involved. While attending local churches has

been placed on hold for now, we've established a Sunday morning church service on the Ranch led by our chaplain.

In addition, we're doing everything we can to support the Ranchers in reducing their anxieties and fears of the COVID-19 virus. Many watch the evening news on TV, which can be upsetting. To maintain normalcy, we will make every effort to continue as many daily activities on the Ranch as possible, including educational classes, arts and crafts activities, and work opportunities.

Our approach is to be calm, steady and transparent. While measures have been implemented, Rainbow Acres will continue to follow directives from federal and state health agencies, including the Arizona Department of Health Services, and will adopt additional protective measures as needed.

Please stay safe! Thank you for your patience, prayers and support! We are dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of the Ranchers and our employees throughout this ongoing national health crisis.



Letter from the President

Addressing COVID-19: *In human presence, there is Hope!*

Throughout history, as humans have spread across the globe, infectious diseases have maintained a constant presence. Even in this modern era, worldwide outbreaks frequently occur, most recently with SARS and the Swine Flu.

Now, COVID 19 is striking fear into every heart in the world. To slow the spread of this contagion, we are asked to isolate the sick and dying, the weak and vulnerable, the strong and healthy. However, in human presence, there is Hope!

God's presence is revealed through human hearts and hands. Your neighbors and mine embody unconditional love. They are doctors and nurses in Emergency Rooms and ICUs, firefighters, police officers and paramedics who respond to our anxious calls. All are faithful to their calling. It is where divine love meets our greatest needs.

At Rainbow Acres, we embrace the opportunity to care for some of society's most vulnerable women and men. Like the faithful of Israel who painted their doorposts, we work and pray that this dread disease will pass over us. Our employees have strong bonds of love for the Ranchers; they also are faithful to their calling. It is where Agape love, Tzedakah, is revealed in human presence, hearts and hands.

Yet, we are struggling with the new limitations imposed on daily life at Rainbow Acres by COVID-19. Every day, we must interpret to the Ranchers and employees the changes we must make to protect their health. Continual change evokes frustration and frequently results in angry responses. In human presence, there is Hope! Please pray that the Ranchers and their families may be comforted, safe and secure. Pray for every employee and their families!

In recent weeks, I have been reflecting on the impact of the "Greatest Generation" on the life and service of Rainbow Acres. This group helped us build nine of the 12 modern homes and the Palmer Community Center. Only two of these individuals are alive and active today. We are thankful for everything they helped us accomplish. In human presence, there is Hope!

When we least expected it, Jim and Barbara Lago arrived. True to the Greatest Generation, they gave a lifetime of service to make our world a better place. Now they are involved in preparing the way to extend the service of Rainbow Acres into Sedona.

It began with their desire that others might enjoy the beauty of their rose gardens and the peaceful setting of their home. The growing need for residential programs for individuals with Autism

inspired Mrs. Lago. Learning about the sensory needs for quiet surroundings generated a new vision for their home and gardens: to create a residential environment for individuals with special needs in Sedona. In human presence, there is Hope!

This new place will be called Sedona Lago Gardens. A legacy gift from the Lago Trust offers an opportunity for Rainbow Acres to serve where there are no services. Sedona Lago Gardens will provide a new option for families with a high-achieving adult with special needs who desires the least-restrictive environment with intensive support. The vocational, cultural and recreational opportunities unique to Sedona will have great appeal. There is much to celebrate as we launch this new endeavor. We value your mindfulness, insights, wisdom and prayers.

We are deeply grateful for one and all who have been faithful in their support for the Ranchers and Rainbow Acres these past 45 years! You have blessed the Ranchers in so many ways! We covet your thoughts, prayers and continuing support.

God's promises and our Hopes are brighter than we ever imagined.

For the Ranchers!



The Promise Spring/Summer 2020

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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New project will expand Rainbow Acres' impact to Sedona

After 45 years as a residential community for adults with special needs, Rainbow Acres has been given an opportunity by a generous benefactor to establish a new community in Sedona. The project will be planned and operated by Rainbow Acres with separate resources, facilities and staff.

Whereas Rainbow Acres serves a diverse spectrum of adults with special needs, the new community – to be named Sedona Lago Gardens – will be planned specifically for adults on the Autism spectrum or with similar disabilities. The planning process is underway. Rainbow Acres will propose a “soft launch” to the Board of Trustees in October

“We’re taking a careful, deliberate approach as we lay the groundwork,” Gary Wagner, President and CEO, said. “We want to take the principles we’ve applied at Rainbow Acres and adapt them for a residential community in

an urban setting with all that has to offer. Expanding on the core values of Rainbow Acres, the plans for Sedona include providing safe and secure homes, job coaching and employment opportunities, and cultural and outdoor recreational activities.”

The Lago Trust, established by Sedona residents James and Barbara Lago, is the project’s primary benefactor. The Lagos first came into contact with Rainbow Acres when they donated a farm tractor to the Ranch. The gift provided them with insights into how Rainbow Acres interacts with donors and how the community provides quality services for adults with special needs. “We developed a relationship that inspired Mrs. Lago to envision creating an environment in which adults with special needs could thrive in an urban setting,” Wagner said.

To establish the project, they offered to

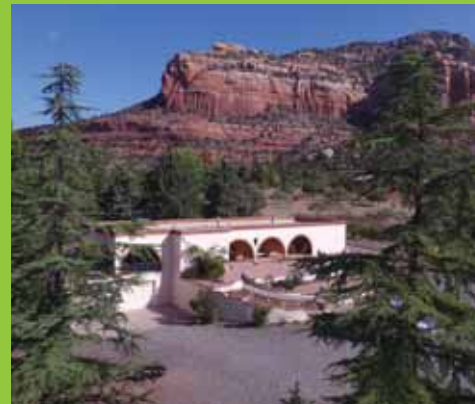
bequeath their home to Rainbow Acres. As the vision grew, the Trust acquired three adjacent properties with single-family houses. In total, the property encompasses 10 acres with four dwellings, outlying barns, and amenities. Through careful planning, they have made significant improvements to each of the newly-acquired houses and continue to “fine tune” the four contiguous properties, which are located in a picturesque neighborhood off Dry Creek Road in Sedona.

As a non-profit, Rainbow Acres is governed by an independent Board of Trustees, which vetted every aspect of the project. Fulfilling their responsibilities, board members visited the properties and reviewed the covenants. In April 2019, the Board accepted the legacy gift from the Lago Trust. In summer 2019, the Lago Trust documents and Rainbow Acres

covenants were signed. The properties are detailed assets in the irrevocable agreement between the Lagos and Rainbow Acres. Also, to help address operating expenses, the Lago Trust provided a major gift to establish the “Lago Gardens Endowment” for the new location’s maintenance and upkeep, with additional contributions included in the trust documents.

As an early step, Wagner met with Sedona city officials to confirm that plans for Sedona Lago Gardens would meet the city’s zoning requirements, which indicate that each of the homes can be used to house up to four adults with special needs. Between the four houses, Sedona Lago Gardens could serve up to 16 residents. Each house will be operated in compliance with City of Sedona and State of Arizona licensing requirements. Residents will be able to take advantage of everything

Continued >





New Project, Continued

Sedona offers, including the creative and performing arts; hiking and enjoying the outdoors; and participating in community events.

In August 2019, Wagner, along with Sedona resident and former Rainbow Acres board member Claudia Ault, met with homeowners in the neighborhood to inform them about the details. Wagner assured the homeowners that Sedona Lago Gardens will become “an involved and contributing member of the neighborhood.” Plans exclude the construction of any commercial buildings, institution-style fencing or signage. “Individuals with special needs don’t want to be viewed differently,” Wagner said. “No visual identity, other than a name on the mailbox, will be posted on the property. These houses will continue to serve as homes.” Local homeowners have been largely sympathetic and supportive of the concept.

Mrs. Lago has expressed an interest in seeing the project launched as soon as possible, and has offered to allow occupation of one or more of the houses in the near future. To prepare

for this “soft opening” of the project, Rainbow Acres is generating funding to support the planning process that will engage an advisory group of leaders in the field. “We want to ensure that the services provided by Sedona Lago Gardens will take into account ‘best practices’ and position us on the cutting edge for serving adults on the Autism spectrum,” Wagner said. The planning process includes establishing the new facility’s core services and programs, as well as admissions criteria, staffing patterns, marketing strategies, and other considerations.

Throughout, Rainbow Acres will remain a separate entity, maintaining operations on the Ranch while also planning for operations at Sedona Lago Gardens. “We don’t foresee that the two communities will share any resources including employees. Sedona Lago Gardens will have its own operational parameters, while being managed by Rainbow Acres,” Wagner said. Key to the project’s prosperity: bringing the values that have made Rainbow Acres such a success to this new endeavor in Sedona.

LAGO TRUST

donates homes/property
for new residential
community



Becoming familiar with Rainbow Acres was all the Lagos needed to foresee the possibility of gifting their home and beautiful gardens as a new residential community for adults with special needs in Sedona.

The relationship began when representatives from Rainbow Acres visited the Lago home in response to their donation of a farm tractor. The staff’s courtesy and prompt follow-up made a positive impression. In time, they met Gary Wagner, President and CEO, which led to a tour of the Ranch. As a result, they formed the Lago Trust to acquire adjacent properties and establish a similar community in Sedona, the first of its kind in the city

The Lagos met more than 50 years ago while both were employed at Merck & Co. in New Jersey.

Jim’s career focused on chemical engineering. He earned a B.S. from Brooklyn Polytechnic University in 1943 and served during World War II in the Manhattan Project at Columbia University. After earning an M.S. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1947 for creating the first economically and environmentally efficient process for production of natural gas from lignite,

Jim joined Merck and held increasing responsibilities in pharmaceutical process development, which led in 1979 to his appointment as Vice-President of Process Research and Development. During his tenure, the company never had a failure of manufacturing processes and no new discovery from the research laboratories failed to reach the marketplace because of inadequate manufacturing. He was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering in 1990, the first to be selected from the pharmaceutical industry.

After earning a PhD in Biology from Stanford University, Barbara focused on genetically enhancing the production of medicinals by microorganisms that had been isolated from soil samples collected around the world. Barbara was ultimately appointed Director of Developmental Microbiology at Merck.

Rainbow Acres is thankful to have established a strong bond and relationship with the Lagos. “Their vision and determination are inspiring,” Wagner said. “Through their efforts, we’re seeing the concept of Sedona Lago Gardens come to life right before our eyes. It’s an exciting time for expanding our mission to serve adults with special needs.”

The Imagine Gala to highlight the Aults, Rainbow Acres and Sedona Lago Gardens



To help underwrite the creation of Sedona Lago Gardens, a group of Sedona residents has come together to host “The Imagine Gala” on Friday, September 18 at Enchantment in Sedona. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Gala was postponed from Saturday, March 28 to safeguard everyone’s health.

In September, The Imagine Gala will pay tribute to George and Claudia Ault, long-time Sedona residents who have played active roles in giving back to the Verde Valley area, from George’s service as pastor of The Church of the Red Rocks and with Verde Valley Caregivers, Sedona 30 and other local groups, to Claudia’s role as a leading Sedona REALTOR and community volunteer with Rainbow Acres and other non-profits.

In 1998, Claudia joined the Rainbow Acres Board of Trustees and became

Chair of the “Building Homes with Heart” Campaign which raised \$3.5 million for new housing for the Ranchers. Claudia and George were the first to make their major gift, leading the way to the campaign surpassing its goal. Over the past 20 years, Claudia has continued to serve on the board with rotating terms.

The Imagine Gala also will recognize Rainbow Acres’ 45 years of serving adults with special needs and provide attendees with an up-close look at the property and houses that will become Sedona Lago

Gardens. The goal is to serve in both a fundraising and a “friend raising” capacity in Sedona.

“This event will ask Sedona residents to take a closer look at Rainbow Acres and imagine a Rainbow connection in their own community,” Martha Mertz, Chair of The Imagine Gala Steering Committee, said. “Nothing like this exists in Sedona today, and there are a significant number of families residing in Sedona who have an adult child or sibling with disabilities and desire such a program here.”

A Sedona couple, upon learning about Rainbow Acres’ plans for Sedona Lago Gardens, has donated part of their fine art collection to decorate and enliven Rainbow Acres in Camp Verde as well as the homes that will become part of this new residential community.

Paul and Florence Chevalier made their donation after Florence became involved with Rainbow Acres by serving on The Imagine Gala’s Steering Committee. Florence told Paul about Rainbow Acres, who said that, while he was aware of the non-profit, he

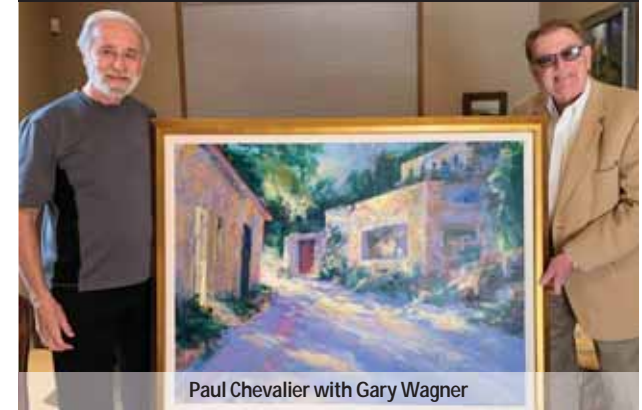


had never visited. “After my wife talked about Rainbow Acres, I looked at the website and liked what you’re doing there,” Paul said. “I could see you needed good art for the residents’ homes.”

Ultimately, the Chevalier



Sedona couple donates painting collection to Rainbow Acres



Paul Chevalier with Gary Wagner

Collection will be utilized in the décor of the homes at both Rainbow Acres and Lago Gardens. The Chevaliers donated



45 paintings (oils, watercolors and pastels) by a variety of artists. Included among the paintings are depictions of wildlife, seascapes and landscapes.

The collection was valued at close to \$50,000, with individual works ranging

from \$250 to \$10,000. “The aesthetic value for the residents of Lago Gardens and the Ranchers at Rainbow Acres is even greater,” Gary Wagner, President and CEO, said. “We are deeply grateful for the Chevaliers’ vision, compassion and generosity.”



'Wish List' addresses need for Ranch improvements



Spring is here! It's time for Rainbow Acres to address its "Wish List" of capital improvement projects that would benefit the entire community. The Buildings and Grounds Department has been busy with recent improvements including the relocation and renovation of the Weaving Room in the Daehler Building and the renovation of the Finance Office next to the Administration Building. These improvements are expected to be completed in the coming months. Still, many "small projects" remain – some of which require the support of donors to move them forward. This year, these are the top three items on the "Wish List" of small projects that need funding:

LED Lighting for Palmer Community Center

Even though the Community Center is fairly new, it was built before the widespread use of LED lighting. Rainbow Acres has begun to replace the florescent lights in Palmer Community Center with energy-efficient, cost-reducing LED bulbs. This also benefits the Ranchers because many residents are sensitive to the "flickering light" from florescent bulbs. The remaining cost of the conversion to LED lighting is \$4,500 – and can be done in phases.

HVAC for the Barn Classroom/Offices

Currently, the Barn building (which houses a large classroom and offices) relies on small, portable heating and cooling units year-round, even during the summer months when the classroom can become too hot for practical use. Rainbow Acres needs to install permanent HVAC for this building. The classroom is used primarily for equine classes for the Ranchers. The cost of installing a permanent HVAC system for this purpose is \$7,500.

Small Vehicle for One-Rancher Medical Trips

Rainbow Acres frequently transports Ranchers to/from off-campus medical facilities. Many times, only one Rancher requires transportation. Currently, the smallest vans in the fleet are used for this purpose but they're still too large for cost-efficient transportation. To reduce expenses, Rainbow Acres would like to acquire a small sedan (preferably a hybrid or four-cylinder vehicle) for this purpose. Cost is market value of the vehicle.

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

Admissions and Retention Team ready to serve Ranchers

Rainbow Acres is focused on attracting new residents and taking care of existing Ranchers, a holistic care approach overseen by the Admissions and Retention Team, which is led by Jen Murphree, Director of Admissions. With the new year, the team welcomed one new member and another member in a new role.



Heather Scott, Admissions Counselor

New to Rainbow Acres, Heather works closely with Jen to welcome new Rancher prospects. Heather has an extensive career as a social worker, most recently with Northern Arizona Healthcare, but also with schools and healthcare facilities in Minnesota. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin. "I believe God called me to Rainbow Acres and am so grateful," Heather said. "A calling can be described as an intersection where passion, skills and experience come together. I am excited to learn new things and serve here at Rainbow Acres." Heather and her husband, Russ, enjoy horseback riding, traveling and movies.



Laura Chesney, Resident Care Coordinator

After serving as Admissions Counselor since 2018, Laura now focuses on retention of current Ranchers. Prior to Rainbow Acres, Laura worked as an intake coordinator for a private practice counseling agency, matching clients with specialists in Illinois. She has a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from Lewis University. "At the heart of everything I do is seeking ways to improve the lives of our Ranchers," Laura said. "I want to strive to provide the best services possible, tailored to each Rancher's needs and help them have a great quality of life here." Laura has adopted two children from China and enjoys camping, hiking and kayaking.



Weaving Studio renovation

transforms space, adds storage



For decades at Rainbow Acres, as weaving became more popular and new looms were added, the Weaving Studio became a very busy place – sometimes too busy given its cramped quarters. But soon, Ranchers will have an entirely new, roomier space to engage their talents on the looms and create woven works of art.

Going back, weaving was among the first arts and crafts activities established at Rainbow Acres. Weaving was introduced by Mary Pendleton, an accomplished Verde Valley weaver who created the program and served as volunteer supervisor for 30 years. With help from countless employees and volunteers over the years, the Weaving Program has served many Ranchers, male and female, young and old.

Carrying forward the “western town” theme from recent renovations of the Gift Shop and the stepping stones and fine arts studio areas, the Buildings and Grounds Team has designed and built a seamless addition to the Daehler Building with the new studio’s western façade and expansive murals that open up the space.

The current transformation involved relocating the Weaving Studio to the former group recreation area inside the Daehler Building and renovating the new space so it would better accommodate the program. The renovated space provides new storage for materials, yet still connects to the studio’s storage room. The previous studio space soon will become the new music studio and classroom.

Adopt-A-Rancher

Give from the Heart ❤️

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 Josh L. who needs financial assistance.

Josh grew up in Marshall, Texas with great love for his family, which included four siblings: an older brother and sister and two younger brothers. Growing up, he enjoyed camping and attended several camping programs for persons with special needs. Even today, he enjoys every style of camping, from tent to RV/motorhome.

Prior to arriving at Rainbow Acres several years ago, Josh developed a habit of working out and applying his athletic skills to recreational activities and a variety of sports. He also enjoys kayaking and is good at it. Given his Texas roots, Josh is a rabid fan of the Texas Longhorns and the Dallas Cowboys.

Josh’s disability has severely impacted his speech and communication skills. At Rainbow Acres, he has improved as the staff has worked closely with him. An on-campus job and therapeutic programs have helped Josh work on his speaking and vocabulary skills, with everyone seeing marked improvement.



Josh is employed about 20 hours each week in the Palmer Community Center’s kitchen. He is known for his strong work ethic and likes to follow the staff’s directions to complete assigned tasks in a quick and efficient manner. His enthusiasm while working in the kitchen is evident and

often inspires others to approach their work with a high level of energy.

At home, Josh likes to keep his room neat, clean and well organized. He enjoys living and interacting with other Ranchers and has developed strong bonds and friendships. Several employees have said, “Josh is worth the investment” of their time and attention. We celebrate his every achievement here!

Josh is dependent on donor support to help cover the gap between his resources and monthly expenses. Adopt-A-Rancher provides critical support to help underwrite his cost of care.

If you would like to sponsor Josh, please visit our website (www.rainbowacres.com), then click on the “Give” tab, and the Adopt-A-Rancher donation tab. Or you can call Dawn Jones, Donor Relations Manager, at (928) 567-5231.

Save the Dates!

THE IMAGINE GALA honoring George and Claudia Ault

Friday, September 18, 2020
at Enchantment Resort in Sedona

This evening event will recognize the Aults for their leadership and work in the Verde Valley (and with Rainbow Acres) at the beautiful Enchantment Resort, set among the dramatic red rocks of Sedona.

FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEKEND

Friday, October 23rd and Saturday, October 24th, 2020
at Rainbow Acres in Camp Verde

THURSDAY: Parent Workshops and evening dinner in the Rancher homes
FRIDAY: Legacy of Love Luncheon and “Rainbow’s Got Talent” Show in the evening
SATURDAY: Picnic Lunch, Arts/Crafts Sale and other events



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