



PURPOSE

friendship



dignity



thrive



growth

community



PURPOSE

empowerment



community

faith



HEART

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

RENEWING THE PROMISE



## Rainbow Acres

A Residential Christian Community  
Serving Adults with  
Developmental Disabilities



# RAINBOW ACRES CEO CHAT – *Reflections with Gary W. Wagner*



## PURPOSE

**In 2021, Rainbow Acres celebrates Gary Wagner's 25th Anniversary year as President and CEO. Gary's vision and leadership have enabled Rainbow Acres to steadily improve the quality of life for adults with developmental disabilities.**

Reflecting on the last quarter century, Gary Wagner takes a rare moment to sit down and reflect on his 25 years in service to Rainbow Acres...For the Ranchers!



## DEDICATION

**What excited you about taking the CEO role with Rainbow Acres 25 years ago?** I was so thrilled to join the Ranchers for lunch on my first day. Rancher Bill Downs thrived on being the first to see or know something no one else knew. He recognized me and was so excited to shout my arrival. I motioned for Bill to use his inside voice, so Bill announced the news in his loudest whisper, "The new President is here!"

**Over the years, you've developed so many friendships with donors and supporters to advance the mission of Rainbow Acres. Please share a few relationships that have really made an impact in the growth of Rainbow Acres.** Every individual donor is important! Churches, Sunday School Class's, businesses, foundation or corporation is lead and comprised of individuals!

Kent S. was a Rancher with Cerebral Palsy from birth. He had an innocent, childlike, joyful personality. When he heard about the Building Homes with Heart Campaign, he wanted to be a part of building new homes. When Kent saw me at lunch or a Ranch activity, he would grab my arm and press coins into my hand that totaled \$17.68 over time and he said..."for the new houses." In return, I wrote him a Thank You letter as his little gifts gave so much!

Several dedicated donors made generous contributions over the years to building homes and special spaces for the Ranchers. The Dakin and Van Dyck families each built a new Rancher home; a speech pathologist,

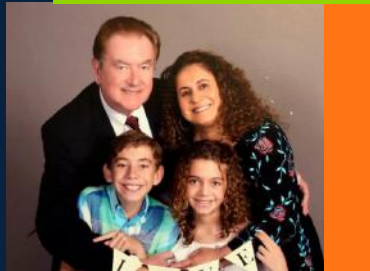
Virginia Palmer, who worked tirelessly in life for children with developmental disabilities; the Nash Family; the Hoovers; the Barkers; the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii; and many more all embraced the opportunity to build new homes and facilities for the Ranchers. I'm so grateful to all!

**Volunteers have been the lifeblood of Rainbow Acres for so many years. Please share a few projects that volunteers really moved forward to benefit the Ranchers.** Mission Volunteers, youth from 4th grade to college ages, intergenerational groups and adult groups have all made a difference in the lives of the Ranchers. It hasn't always been about the projects but rather Volunteer connections to the Ranchers to help them feel important in the Kingdom of God. Jeff Wagner grew up at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Santa Anna, visited on a Mission Team throughout his youth and college years, now he leads youth groups to Rainbow from the same Church a relationship over 30 years.

John and Mary Chandler led intergenerational groups from Hillside Community Church in Rancho Cucamonga for 17 years and passed that leadership to others. One of their many projects was installing the beautiful white fence around the Ranch. In addition to helping at Family and Friends Weekend, they were famous for hosting events for the Ranchers...a Prom, a Beach Boy Ocean Party and a Disney Party!

In 1990, Kirk of the Hills sent Erwin King and a small volunteer group to experience Rainbow Acres and the Ranchers. It was the beginning of a 30-year relationship. Erwin's was nearly 90 years old on his last trip but still shared in fellowship with the Ranchers.

**What is your proudest achievement (s) at Rainbow Acres and why?** My education and professional training may not be the traditional pedagogy in working with disabilities but that gave me freedom to approach the Ranchers in a new way. The Ranchers have always appreciated being treated as adults with clear expectations and they rise up every time! Also, I'm especially



## blessings



## FRIENDSHIP



## community



proud of working with team members to create a holistic approach to providing Rancher care, programs and activities while building new homes that offer the comforts of home for our residents. Over the years, we have continued to raise the bar on professional qualifications of our leaders across the Ranch.

**You've shown unwavering dedication for your Rainbow Acres work family. Given such all-encompassing workdays, how has your personal family on the home front been engaged in Rainbow Acres over the years?**

I have tried to live by a "work hard, play hard" lifestyle so vacations and holidays were devoted to family time.

Jussara is an awesome Mom and incredible wife. She sets the tone for our children Isaac and Abigail. We are a tight knit family and treasure the time we are together.

**You keep the Ranchers front and center in daily endeavors. What does your personal slogan, "For the Ranchers" mean to you?**

"For the Ranchers" is my way of keeping all who love Rainbow Acres focused on the Ranchers. It is not about an institution but more about the vision we have for the people we serve. When one catches the vision and feels a personal connection with those we serve, they want to become involved.

**Thank YOU Gary Wagner for 25 years of devotion and dedication to Rainbow Acres!**

*family*



## RAINBOW ACRES RANCHERS STAY ACTIVE AND INSPIRED IN 2020!

Despite unprecedented circumstances during the pandemic period, Rainbow Acres Ranchers continued to thrive in meaningful and inspiring activities and programs that lifted the heart and mind. We hope you enjoy reading about a few of these program highlights in 2020!



## RAINBOW ACRES OPEN DOORS TO NEW OIKOS HOUSE

In October 2020, Rainbow Acres celebrated the opening Oikos House with five female Ranchers who moved in over the course of the month. Three are new to Rainbow Acres, relocating from Florida, Minnesota and California. Increased demand also has filled the last of Rainbow Acres' eight apartments with a new resident from Arizona.

The opportunity to open this most recent in a series of new homes has lifted the spirits of the Rainbow Acres community despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. "Everything slowed down in order to protect our Ranchers and Staff, which gave us the time we needed to communicate with a long list of families on the wait list and gauge their level of commitment for taking the steps of opening the new house," said Jen Murphree, Director of Admissions.

## RANCHERS ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF NATURE AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

A few months in 2020 offered some flexibility for Rainbow Acres Ranchers to participate in great adventures together on nature hikes to nearby parks, forests and nature preserves to enjoy physical fitness while hiking on beautiful trails and scenic sights. Ranchers are always curious about how Mother Nature creates such beauty, so there is no better outdoor classroom to learn about our local eco-systems. Ecosystems Ecology class helps the Ranchers to learn about soil-plant-animal interactions that are important in the build-up natural ecosystems. Another informative course, Landscape Ecology, inspires Ranchers to learn about the formation of natural landscapes at regional and local scale and conservation strategies.





## RAINBOW ACADEMY INSPIRES ACTIVE LEARNERS AT EVERY LEVEL

Rainbow Academy – our life-enriching experiences for resident Ranchers – offers an incredible variety of opportunities for each Rancher based on their personal goals and interests. Each quarter, Ranchers select their own courses and activities, and assemble a weekday schedule with the help of our team. Ranchers choose from nearly 50 educational, recreational, vocational and cultural enrichment activities and classes such as music theory and appreciation, musical instrument or choir performance, handcrafts such as weaving and jewelry making, physical fitness and sports, equine science, horticulture, nature hikes and ecology, equestrian and animal care, foreign languages such as French or Spanish. Our Educators work alongside the Ranchers, guiding their progress as active learners. Even through the most restrictive parts of the pandemic period, Ranchers benefited from creative and thoughtfully planned curriculum that motivates personal engagement and growth.



growth

## RAINBOW ACRES RENOVATES A REVIVAL IN ARTS & CULTURE PROGRAMS

The new Weaving Room completed a consolidation of all Arts & Crafts classes in the Daehler Building. The remodeling began with the Stepping Stones Room, the Fine Arts Studio, and the Gift Shop. The western town theme provides an inviting atmosphere, the spaces are functional and modern with new murals, flooring and lighting and cabinets for weaving supplies. There's even a new coffee bar in the hallway that will feature an electronic information board. The weaving program, first founded by Verde Valley weaver and volunteer Mary Pendleton, has a larger space that has helped Rainbow Acres accommodate groups of Ranchers from each home during the pandemic. "Due to their participation in activities by individual houses, we were able to expose Ranchers to the arts programs," said Colleen Murphy, Director of Practical Arts.



connections

## NEW MUSIC CLASSROOM PLAYS ALL THE RIGHT NOTES!

During 2020, our Music Classroom relocated to the Honeywell Building (moved from the Worden Taber Center, opening up a classroom there). The space was reimagined and renovated for future use, focusing more on small groups and personal instruction. Classroom technology was upgraded (Smart TV, Thinkpad laptop, document reader, sound system) and new musical instruments (violins and cellos) joined the Clavinova keyboards. "With each of the houses sheltering in place, we needed to think about how to accommodate small groups," Courtney Yeates, Music Educator, said. "This facility enabled us to expand our offerings and consolidate programs in a single space."



PURPOSE

## RANCHERS LOOK FORWARD TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Many Ranchers have expressed an interest in life skills and vocational training to prepare them for part-time work assignments on and off the Ranch. During part of 2020, Ranchers worked mostly at enticing on-Ranch work opportunities. In preparation for vocational pursuits, Rainbow Academy offers a rotating schedule of Job Skills courses that help Ranchers seek fulfilling employment such as kitchen food service, landscaping, animal care and barn management or greenhouses maintenance to name a few. Many Ranchers are eager to learn new life skills such as reading and writing, building self-confidence, social conversation skills, public speaking, money management, computer skills and more. We are passionate about helping every Rancher develop to their fullest potential!



community



## FARM TO TABLE DOESN'T GET ANY FRESHER!

Rainbow Acres maintains its own greenhouses to offer true hands-on learning to the Ranchers on environmental factors that influence a highly organic vegetable production system. They learn about seasonal variances in soil composition, humidity, light, energy, moisture, organic insect control, and other variables that contribute to successful harvests in cool or warm weather. Rainbow Acres residents, staff and even neighboring community partners, such as schools, food banks and senior centers enjoy organic beets, lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, tomatoes, squash, zucchini and many other crops. The Ranchers play an integral role in planting, cultivating and harvesting nearly 4000 pounds of produce annually. Our talented Chefs use the organic produce for recipes to be enjoyed by all. "A nice advantage of doing activities by home (designed to reduce Rancher contact among houses during COVID), is that we see Ranchers trying greenhouse activities for the first time!" says Rodolfo Morales, Horticulture and Ecology Educator.

## Warmest Greetings from the Trustees, Ranchers and Employees of Rainbow Acres!



**Rev. Gary W. Wagner**  
President & CEO

On behalf of the women and men (called Ranchers connotating dignity and worth), thank you for your compassionate and generous support in 2020. It has been an honor to serve the Rainbow Acres community for 25 years. And it is a privilege to gratefully acknowledge your support for the Ranchers.

As I reflect on the past 25 years, I remember having been drawn to the incredible needs of the Ranchers for a more fulfilling life and to the significant needs of the organization! A significant group of friends believed in Rainbow Acres and more importantly caring for individuals with cognitive, intellectual, and developmental disabilities. Together we have accomplished much in the last 25 years. Please accept my humble thanks.

We entered the 2020 calendar year with great excitement about new Ranchers joining the Ranch community, expanding programs, and new enrichment activities. Then the COVID19 pandemic presented us unprecedented operations and financial challenges. In accordance with federal, state and county guidelines, with an abundance of caution we implemented health and safety protocols, closed the Ranch to visitors and furloughed volunteers. Through it all, the Ranchers continued to thrive and benefit from holistic care, modified educational formats, recreational and life-enriching programs.

We remain grateful for the generosity of our families, donors and supporters. The pages of this 2020 Annual Report reflect on some of our strengths, special moments and memories through the eyes of Ranchers and dedicated Rainbow Acres teams.

**For the Ranchers!**

Gary W. Wagner  
President & CEO

### RAINBOW ACRES SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET

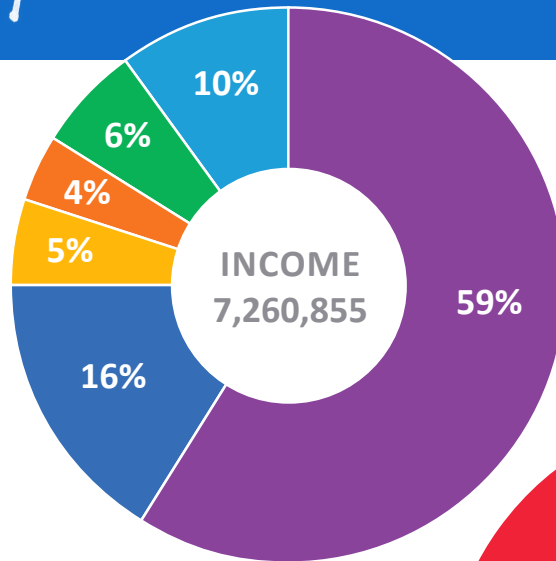
As of December 31, 2020

#### ASSETS

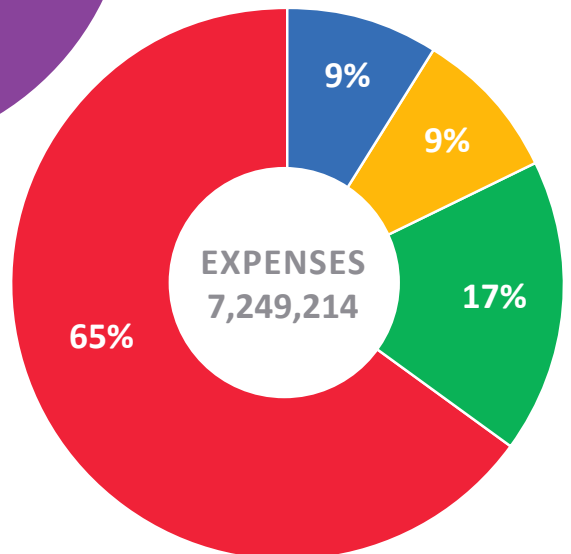
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	771,080
Accounts Receivable	141,467
Other Current Assets	<u>58,489</u>
Total Current Assets	971,036
Fixed Assets	10,262,997
Other Assets	4,411,712
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>15,645,744</u></b>

#### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	53,833
Other Current Liabilities	<u>1,624,443</u>
Total Current Liabilities	1,678,276
Long Term Liabilities	<u>129,365</u>
Total Liabilities	1,807,641
Equity	<u>13,838,103</u>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b><u>15,645,744</u></b>



- Fees from Ranchers & Families 59%
- Annual Fund 16%
- Endowment Earnings & Contributions 10%
- Other Designated Support 6%
- Adopt-A-Rancher 5%
- Miscellaneous Income 4%



- Program Operation 65%
- Scholarships for Ranchers 17%
- Administration 9%
- Fundraising 9%

## OUR MISSION

Rainbow Acres is a Christian community with heart that empowers persons with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose.

## ABOUT US

Founded in 1974, Rainbow Acres is an independent, not-for-profit Christian ministry associated with the American Baptist Churches 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. The 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 is a 501(c)(3) organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service, and all contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the IRS code.

## CONTACT US

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W [rainbowacres.com](http://rainbowacres.com)

## *quick facts*

We're proud to report that Rainbow Acres received the **PLATINUM SEAL FROM GUIDESTAR**, the industry standard for evaluating performance and program delivery of nonprofits!

Rainbow Acres remains the **ONLY EAGLE ACCREDITED SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY IN ARIZONA**, a quality standard administered by the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries.

Health & Wellness managed **NEW COVID19 PUBLIC SAFETY PROTOCOLS** for our Ranchers and Staff as our highest priority. In accordance with federal, state and county guidelines, Rainbow Acres developed a detailed matrix that guided the daily decision-making process on-Ranch, resulting in minimal exposure and coronavirus infections to Ranchers or Staff.

Ranchers from coast to coast call Rainbow Acres home. In 2020, Rainbow Acres served **91 RANCHERS FROM 18 STATES** across the country. COVID19 public safety protocols necessitated restricted access to the Ranch during several months of 2020 but our Admissions team still met with 111 prospective families for modified in-person tours, virtual video tours or phone visits.

**THE BUILDING & GROUNDS TEAM RENOVATED** the Honeywell building, replaced the roof, and moved the Music Department; built the Worden-Taber Center for Rancher enjoyment; completed the Finance office renovation with fresh landscaping /sidewalks; cleared site of dormant swimming pool area, installed a putting green; and installed a new VOIP (Voice over IP) phone system.

Rainbow Academy Educators adapted and modified curriculum for **50 LIFE SKILLS AND EDUCATIONAL CLASSES/ACTIVITIES** within pandemic social restrictions.

Rainbow Acres is an EAGLE Accredited Organization as established by the Accreditation Commission of the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries.



**Rainbow Acres**

*A Residential Christian Community  
Serving Adults with  
Developmental Disabilities*