

SHINING BRIGHT



Rainbow Acres

SPRING 2023
NEWSLETTER

LEARNING NEW SKILLS

The spring semester sparks
curiosity & brain health
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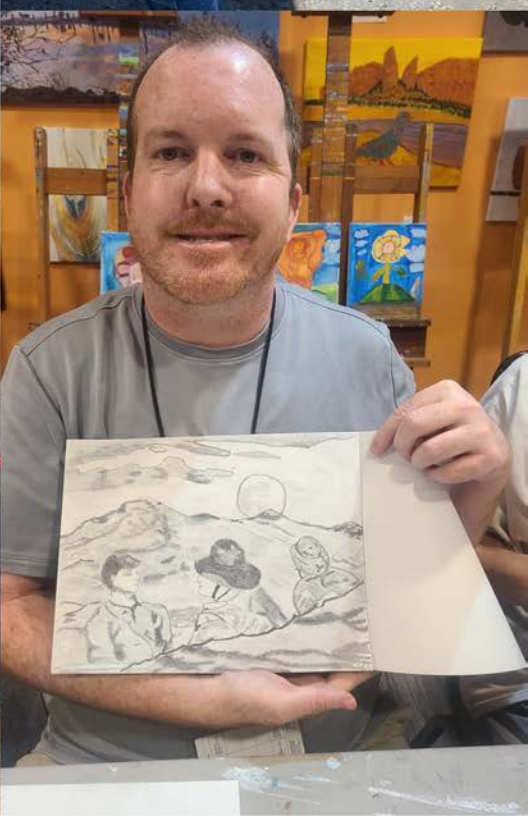
STATE BASKETBALL ATHELETS SCORE

The Athletes triumph at the
State Special Olympics
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NIGHT TO SHINE

The Ranchers sparkle at the
prom night at Rainbow
Acres and in Scottsdale
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RAINBOW ACADEMY SPRING SEMESTER

BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND SKILLS

At Rainbow Acres, we take seriously our commitment to providing residents with new experiences and ongoing learning opportunities. These opportunities improve cognitive abilities, strengthen social skills, and increase overall quality of life. They spark curiosity and help maintain brain health.

As part of our **Continuous Quality Improvement** process, we ask our residents what they would like to accomplish in the next year. Their sense of self-worth is boosted by achieving a goal they have personally chosen and are invested in. This, in turn, gives them the confidence to go beyond their comfort zone and try new things. Classes are one way of helping our Ranchers reach these milestones in personal growth.



SPRING COURSES

After a great deal of planning and collaboration, the semester's class schedule was complete. Merging quality material with an atmosphere of fun, each class provides an exciting opportunity to grow, learn, and explore.



800 HOURS

INSTRUCTOR PREPERATION

3990 HOURS

DEDICATED TO RANCHER'S
SUCCESS PLANS

11,000 HOURS

RANCHER JOBS ON-RANCH AND
OFF-RANCH

107,000 HOURS

INDIVIDUALLY TAILORED
INSTRUCTION



NEW CLASSES ADDED

Movin' & Groovin' combines body movements and free dance, so students can improve their overall physical abilities in an environment that promotes self-expression.

Rancher Joanne says that **Movin' & Groovin'** is challenging, but she loves the free dance part. *"I'll be moving all the time."*

Cooking Skills teaches more than just cooking. Beyond basic instruction, the class includes lessons on budgeting for ingredients, reading receipts, and planning the order of cooking steps before one begins. *"I enjoy it,"* Rancher Michelle says. *"I learned something new — how to cut with a plastic knife. My favorite part is turning on the oven."*

Computer skills are important in today's digital age, so the Rainbow Academy offers **Introduction to Computers** and **Open Computer Lab**. In these classes, students learn computer safety protocols, keyboard and mouse functions, typing skills, and how to use search engines. Rancher Julie says, *"I enjoy Computer Lab. My favorite part is everything."*

Public Speaking is another exciting opportunity to build confidence. This course teaches basic and advanced presentation skills and introduces effective communication strategies. *"I'm enjoying the class,"* Rancher Greg says. *"It's teaching me how to present myself to others better."*

Art Appreciation will take the students on a journey through time, from the earliest cave paintings to modern art movements. *"We draw some of the old paintings, and we talk about their history,"* Rancher Daniel says. *"I like the history part best."*

In **Photography 101**, Ranchers learn the basics of photography through verbal, visual, and hands-on learning. Classes include lessons on photographing nature, people, food, and events. By the end of the semester, students will take stunning photos that capture the beauty of the world around them. *"I love this class,"* Rancher Craig says. *"It is fun to take the pictures."*

A mix of new and returning classes include Karaoke, Choir, Bible Stories, Drawing, Painting, Current Events, Beginning Science, Introductory Spanish, US History, Animal Behavior, and Barn Crafts.

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

The Academy offers a variety of extracurricular or class extension activities on Wednesday afternoons. The activities include trips to the library, guest speakers, hikes, educational field trips, and hands-on learning. The goal is to provide opportunities for exposure to innovative ideas and creative explorations that the Ranchers may have yet to experience.

Recently, we had the pleasure of welcoming Hopi Elder and artist Ruben Saufkie Sr. to our community. He taught about the Hopi culture, Silver Smithing, and we joined in on a circle dance.

Additionally, we traveled up to Flagstaff to visit the USGS Astrogeology Science Center, where the Ranchers took a tour and learned how scientists map the planetary bodies in the solar system, drive the Rover on Mars, and teach the astronauts how to drive on the Moon.

To read the entire Rainbow Academy Spring Semester article, visit our website or scan the QR code.

RainbowAcres.com/neurodiverse-adults-building-confidence-and-skills-with-rainbow-academys-spring-semester/





SPECIAL OLYMPICS STATE BASKETBALL

STATE TOURNAMENT

The Special Olympics not only allows athletes to showcase their skills and abilities, but it also promotes inclusion and acceptance. This spirit of togetherness is never more evident than when the athletes interact. They cheer each other on regardless of team affiliation.

This spring, twenty-four Ranchers from Rainbow Acres joined with Verde Valley athletes to form three teams at the Arizona State Special Olympics Basketball Tournament. After several practices throughout January and February, they were ready to take on their competition.

The athletes played their hearts out, using every skill they had as they competed against challenging opponents.

Each team played two games on Thursday and three on Friday. In each game, they showed tremendous teamwork and fair play.

Throughout the tournament, there was a high level of sportsmanship and encouragement.



The athletes played through intense noise and chaos in an unfamiliar space housing twelve simultaneous basketball games and a volleyball tournament at the far end. They remained focused and positive despite overwhelming stimulation.

Their hard work and perseverance paid off. The teams earned two bronze and one silver medal, taking the podium to receive their medals with great pride.

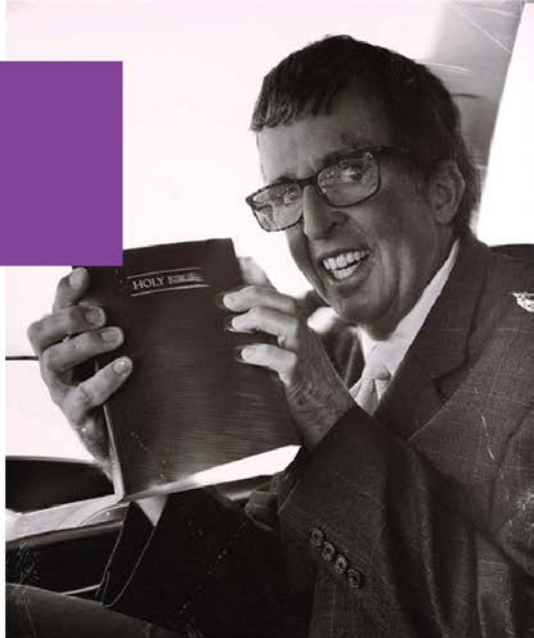


OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

At Rainbow Acres, community engagement is a priority. By connecting with the community, residents can grow and learn while sharing their unique skills and talents. The Ranchers are enthusiastic about participating in many community activities and events.

VOCATIONS

One way our residents engage with the community is through employment. Several locations throughout the Verde Valley have hired our Ranchers. In performing their assigned tasks, they gain valuable skills and experience while contributing to the local workforce. Grocery stores, the recycling center, hotels, and the National Park Service all benefit from our Ranchers' excellent work ethic.



These employment opportunities allow our Ranchers to connect with others in a professional manner and promotes inclusion.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Spiritual growth is also an important aspect of our community engagement. Our residents attend Sunday services at several area churches, including the historic Rock Church, which sits across the road from Rainbow Acres.

For over forty years, this church has been ministering to our Ranchers, providing a sense of belonging and spiritual guidance.

VERDE VALLEY FAIR

Rainbow Acres is represented at the Verde Valley Fair. Seeing displays of the woven items, stepping stones, and jewelry art they have created fills the Ranchers with delight. The fair is a highlight of the year and many of our Ranchers often receive ribbons for their creations.





VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is also a meaningful way our residents engage with the community. The Ranchers are pleased to volunteer with a variety of area organizations. Local vets and the humane society benefit from Ranchers who remain calm and focused around animals. A nearby assisted living facility is grateful for the time one of our Ranchers helps in their laundry and walks their residents to lunch. In the community outreach class, the Ranchers have organized donation drives to support the local woman's shelter.



THROUGHOUT ARIZONA

In March, our Ambassador Choir was asked to sing the National Anthem at the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall opening in Camp Verde. Despite the cold weather, they sang beautifully.

The residents also participate in Rancher Vacation Day Trips, including local hikes, riding the train, attending sports games, getting pedicures, fairs and festivals, escape rooms, and going out for ice cream.

The Ranchers are proud to represent Rainbow Acres in town parades. They bring their vibrant enthusiasm and creativity to the project and help create the Rainbow Acres float.

The Ranchers are a pivotal part of the local community. They exemplify what is possible when we prioritize community engagement and embrace the diversity of those around us.

To read the entire article about The Ranchers in the Community, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit our website.

www.RainbowAcres.com/ranchers-in-the-community-ambassadors-for-adults-with-differences-in-az/





NIGHT TO SHINE



A NIGHT OF GLITZ, GLAMOR, AND GOD'S LOVE

On a beautiful February evening, Rainbow Acres was transformed into a magical wonderland, filled with twinkling lights, shimmering stars, and a red carpet leading to a night of celebration and joy. This was all thanks to Night to Shine, an annual high-energy, inspirational event sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation.

With the help of volunteers and local churches worldwide, the Tim Tebow Foundation provides an unforgettable prom night experience centered on God's love for people with special needs.



This year, Rainbow Acres hosted a satellite Night to Shine. Dressed to the nines and with brilliant smiles on every face, the Ranchers danced the night away while being reminded that they are loved.

The evening was a huge success thanks to the many volunteers and staff who generously contributed their time and energy.

THE PREPERATIONS

In the weeks before the event, many gowns and dress shirts were donated and carried from house to house here on the Ranch. Each Rancher found an outfit that expressed their own personal style, and volunteers altered the clothing for a perfect fit.





GETTING READY

In the hours before the party started, several volunteers converged on Rainbow Acres to make the best night possible. A dozen or more took on decorating the Palmer Community Center. Other volunteers set up tables for refreshments.

Next door, another group of volunteers established hairdressing, makeup, and accessory stations. Organized chaos swirled around the hairdressing stations as the volunteers worked their magic. Buns, braids, and bouncing curls—each hairdo was stunning.

PROM NIGHT

At the appointed hour, our guests of honor, dressed in all their finery, entered the front doors of the Palmer Community Center. When each of the Ranchers approached the entryway, they were reminded that they are Kings and Queens while being given a crown or a tiara.

When the announcer called their name, each beaming King or Queen ducked through the streamers, under the balloon arch, and walked down the red carpet to the cheering of their friends, family members, staff, and volunteers.

Some were shy. Some were bold. A few were happy to show off, opening their suit jackets and spinning around so everyone could see how handsome they were.

These minutes of wonder, pride, and joy were the highlight of the evening. Each Rancher was recognized and applauded for being the beautiful, amazing person they are. They shone as brightly as stars.





SHINING BRIGHT

When the last VIP was announced, the projector screen filled with a prerecorded video featuring Tim Tebow and his wife, Demi-Leigh, greeting the Kings and Queens. The footage showed a photo montage of the many different Nights to Shine held worldwide.

"Those people in the video are like me. They are celebrating people like me!"

-Sarah M.
Resident Rancher at Rainbow Acres



Throughout the video, Tim and Demi-Leigh reminded the Kings and Queens that they are royalty because they are children of God.

When the video finished, a playlist began, and the dancing continued for over an hour.

As the music increased in tempo, the dancers crowded into the center of the room. Arms lifted, smiling brightly, and everyone danced with joy.

Night to Shine recognizes that each King and Queen shine in their own unique and special splendor.

Together, all of our Shining Stars create a beautiful symphony of love and light.

To read the entire article on the Night to Shine Prom Night, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit our website.

www.RainbowAcres.com/night-to-shine-event-sponsored-by-the-tim-tebow-foundation/



VOLUNTEERS

"The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped."

-Proverbs 11:25 *The Message*

AN ESSENTIAL PART OF TEAM RAINBOW

Over the decades, Rainbow Acres has been blessed by countless volunteers. One cannot walk across campus without encountering the enduring work of the hands which have helped us. Construction projects, safety lines on the curbs, looms strung in our weaving room, and a favorite photograph on a Rancher's wall are just a few indelible examples of our volunteers' impact on the quality of life at Rainbow Acres.

Our volunteers come alone, in couples, or as part of small and large groups. They help refresh fading, paint, put up our outside Christmas decorations; pitch in to help with maintenance upkeep; spend time assisting in the kitchen; lead worship for Prayer and Praise; play Bingo or lead a crafts session with our Ranchers. Past projects have included building "rock ponds" for drainage during the Monsoon season, adding a porch on the Worden Taber Center, and renovating the houses of Freese and Agape.



There is such a variety of tasks that there is something for every skill set and preference.

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE LOVED

On days when large groups join us for lunch, the dining hall is filled with the happy chaos of ranchers chattering away, exchanging stories, and sharing their joie de vivre with our visiting volunteers. The energy is palpable. The Ranchers are never more excited than to meet and work with someone new.

Rancher Kelly says, *"Everyone who comes to volunteer is so nice. I appreciate that they put in all their effort and time to help us out. Everything they do for Rainbow is amazing."*

We are so grateful for every volunteer who has passed through our gates.

To read the entire article on the Volunteers of Rainbow Acres, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit our website.

<https://rainbowacres.com/volunteers-an-essential-part-of-team-rainbow/>



VOLUNTEER STORY

Over the decades, Rainbow Acres has been blessed by generous churches and organizations.

First Baptist Church of Grand Junction raised funds and assisted with renovating the gazebo that sits on top of Glory Hill here at Rainbow Acres. We are grateful for their sacrifice of time and money to help us with this project.

"All this is to say it is with enthusiasm that we send this check to Rainbow Acres for their work refurbishing Glory Hill Gazebo. We see this as a potential sacred space for Ranchers who would climb the heights and see their home from a different vantage point. It also can become a point of remembering for those who have had significant experience with this institution."

By the generosity of the congregation in Colorado, we can further our mission to provide a loving and safe community for the Ranchers to live fulfilling lives with dignity and purpose.

"We at First Baptist have enjoyed our relationship with the people of Rainbow Acres for over five years. Interaction with the staff has made our visits productive. Contact with Ranchers highlights the calendar year for many. As a not-for-profit, RA is an example of good stewardship of people and material resources provided by local and national entities."

2024

VOLUNTEER GROUP



REGISTRATION IS OPEN

(928) 567-5231

Volunteer@RainbowAcres.com
www.RainbowAcres.com/Volunteer



Before Renovations



During Renovations



CELEBRATING **50** YEARS OF LOVE

LOOKING FORWARD TO CELEBRATING

FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEKEND & THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

We are excited to announce that we will kick off our year-long celebration of 50 years of love at Rainbow Acres this fall!

On September 21, 1973, Ralph Showers filed for incorporation of Rainbow Acres, and in the summer of 1974, the first residents moved in. Ralph's vision to provide a safe and loving home for individuals with developmental disabilities has blossomed into the beautiful 50-acre Ranch and thriving community we know today.

Please celebrate with us starting in October 2023 at Family & Friends Weekend and throughout 2024 by remembering the past and looking forward to the next 50 years.

We need your help to share the story of Rainbow Acres and the smiling faces of the Ranchers throughout the years. If you have pictures and stories of your experience with the Ranchers at Rainbow Acres throughout the 50 years, please mail your pictures and stories to the address on the next page or email them to Media@RainbowAcres.com

Please note: Pictures will only be returned upon request

DONATIONS

Credit Card



Fill out the form on the envelope and mail it in.

Phone



Give us a call
(928) 567-5231

Check



Fill out the form, place your check in the envelope and mail it back.

Online



Scan the QR code with your phone or visit us at

www.RainbowAcres.com/Give

KEEP IN TOUCH

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-  @rainbowacresAZ
-  @azranchers
-  @RainbowAcres1974
-  @rainbow-acres

Phone

(928) 567-5231

Address

2120 W Reservation Loop Rd.
Camp Verde, AZ 86322

Newsletter Sign Up

Help Rainbow Acres by sharing a social media post, passing along a pamphlet, or even have your **friend sign up** with their information to receive their own updates on Rainbow Acres!



SCAN QR CODE
or visit our website

www.RainbowAcres.com/Newsletter



Rainbow Acres

*A Residential Christian Community
Serving Adults with
Developmental Disabilities*

**2120 W Reservation Loop Rd
Camp Verde, AZ 86322**