

ON THE HORIZON



Rainbow Acres

FALL 2024

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BACK TO OUR ROOTS

FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEKEND 2024

This year's Family & Friends Weekend brought a spirited mix of nostalgia, celebration, and forward momentum. In true Rainbow Acres fashion, the weekend served as a special occasion for family, friends, staff, Ranchers, and community partners to reconnect, reflect, and revel in the strides made over five decades of dedicated service. From heartwarming reunions to landmark announcements, it was a celebration that honored our legacy and the exciting path ahead.

The weekend began with a warm welcome reception at the Palmer Community Center, where parents and guardians met with Rainbow Acres Board Members and Senior Staff.

Friday morning opened with music and the spoken word. The prayer circle devotional on the Worden-Taber Center (WTC) patio was led by guest speaker Rev. Jeff Wagner, Associate Pastor of Student & Family Ministries of Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Santa Ana, California.

The Ranch Gift Shop and Daehler Café welcomed guests for shopping and refreshments. The shelves were filled with handmade items crafted in Academy classes—beautiful pieces that showcased the creativity and hard work of each Rancher.

The Legacy of Love Luncheon, where Rev. Jeff Wagner gave a heartfelt keynote speech, recognized those who have left Rainbow Acres in their will, allowing our great work to continue for generations to come. The Rainbow Acres Ambassador Choir, led by Kirstie Bruno, performed moving renditions of "10,000 Reasons" and "What A Beautiful Name." We inducted Phyllis Hall and Ronald Banes into the Legacy Society and recognized those who had named Rainbow Acres in their will but wished to remain anonymous.





The afternoon was an opportunity for guests to connect with Resident Care Coordinators, Health & Wellness staff, educators, and other dedicated team members. It was a time to learn about the latest programs, share updates, and celebrate the positive impacts these relationships foster.

The day wrapped up with a Town Hall Meeting in the WTC. Here, Rainbow Acres leaders shared news of upcoming projects, unveiled the Ambassador Program, and answered questions from parents and staff.

The evening's Talent Show in the Palmer Community Center (PCC) was a joyful highlight. The Ranchers were thrilled to perform, showcasing talents ranging from singing and dancing to comedy and storytelling. The crowd cheered, laughed, and clapped along, celebrating each Rancher.



OPEN HOUSE

Saturday was a vibrant Open House, welcoming guests to explore the beautiful grounds and participate in activities that embody Rainbow Acres' mission. On the Daehler Lawn, yard games and friendly competitions brought guests together. Obodo Energy hosted a popular Bean Bag Toss Baseball game, inviting attendees to learn about Rainbow Acres' solar journey and our commitment to a sustainable future.

At the Barn Animal Showcase, guests watched demonstrations of the Ranchers working with horses and other animals. It was a hands-on experience that showcased the skills and compassion Ranchers develop through their interactions with animals—a vital part of our mission to build life skills and confidence.





THE 50TH, SOLAR, & A NEW CEO

The excitement culminated with the 50th Celebration and Solar Project Ribbon Cutting on Daehler Lawn. A large crowd gathered to honor Rainbow Acres' five-decade journey and commemorate the milestone solar project.

Representatives from the Town of Camp Verde, Horses with Heart, Obodo Energy, board members, Rancher families, and friends joined us in this significant moment. The speakers shared stories and marveled at the progress Rainbow Acres has made over the years.

As the ribbon was cut, marking the official launch of the solar project, it was a culmination of over 13 years of dedicated planning and persistence. Attendees were reminded that this project not only symbolizes our commitment to sustainability but also promises long-term financial benefits. Solar energy will significantly reduce our electric bill, with the savings covering the project's loan payments each month. We are proud to say that this initiative is projected to pay for itself within a decade, making Rainbow Acres more self-sufficient.

The celebration continued as the chair of the Board of Trustees made a surprise announcement: Paul Higgins, our CFO and Acting President and CEO, had officially accepted the position of President & CEO.

The announcement was met with enthusiastic cheers and applause. Guests flocked to congratulate Paul, offering handshakes, hugs, and words of support as he embarks on this new leadership chapter.

A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

Family & Friends Weekend 2024 was truly a time of coming "Back to Our Roots." It brought together the values, relationships, and vision that have guided Rainbow Acres since its founding. As we move forward, bolstered by our new solar initiative and energized by the dedication of our leadership team, we are more committed than ever to transforming lives and expanding opportunities for the Ranchers.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, supported us, and shared in the joy of our journey. Here's to another 50 years of growth, impact, and community at Rainbow Acres!



Rancher Spotlight



Kelly O. has made incredible strides in horseback riding under the guidance of Aireal Cowen, Rainbow Acres' Animal Science Educator. Her natural affinity for horses and her determination to overcome challenges led her to a spot on the Horses with Heart Competition Team.

Training on a large, strong mare and competing in a western saddle—something entirely new for her—Kelly has embraced learning new techniques and strategies.

Her hard work and persistence paid off recently during the latest competition, where she confidently navigated six obstacles to secure third place in her category.

Watching Kelly's journey from rider to competitor has been inspiring. In under a year, she transitioned back into the saddle, adapted to a new style, and faced new challenges with grace and courage. Kelly's story is a testament to her grit and a reminder of our mission here at Rainbow Acres.



PAUL HIGGINS

THE NEW PRESIDENT & CEO OF RAINBOW ACRES

Rainbow Acres is pleased to announce that its Board of Trustees has extended the offer of the Chief Executive Officer position to Paul Higgins, who has been serving as Acting President & CEO, as well as Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

The official announcement was made during Rainbow Acres' annual Family & Friends Weekend, with Karla Dye, Board Chair, delivering the news to a crowd of Ranchers, Rancher families, friends, staff, and community members at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Rainbow Acres' 50th-anniversary celebration and newly started Solar Project.

“When considering what Rainbow Acres needs in its leader at this time, the Board unanimously agreed that Paul Higgins’ financial expertise, integrity and commitment to service were of

utmost importance,” said Karla Dye, Chair of Rainbow Acres' Board of Trustees. “For over 14 years, Paul has served the Ranchers, Rancher families, and the mission of Rainbow Acres. We are excited to have him lead Rainbow Acres into the future.”

Paul stepped into the role of Acting President & CEO on July 5, 2024, bringing a wealth of experience and commitment to Rainbow Acres and its mission. He joined Rainbow Acres in 2010 as Vice President of Finance, later assuming the role of CFO, where his financial leadership and dedication to Rainbow Acres' core values earned him recognition and respect.

In his new capacity as CEO, Paul looks forward to building on Rainbow Acres' legacy of care, compassion, and community.

FROM THE PROGRAMS

We are excited to announce that our dedicated Programs team, now led by our newly promoted Programs Manager, Deidra Barringer, is working on a range of initiatives designed to empower the Ranchers through learning, connection, and personal growth.

The team is currently revamping the beloved horse-riding program with a focus on therapeutic engagement and skill-building.

Meanwhile, the greenhouse will undergo an exciting transformation with updated techniques and technology to draw more Ranchers to this unique learning space.



This shift includes the integration of the Project Discovery curriculum, which introduces structured approaches to life and vocational skills, supporting Ranchers' growth across various areas.

Life skills development remains at the heart of these initiatives, and the Programs team is excited to expand classes tailored to each Rancher's needs. These classes will cover essential skills from cooking to budgeting, enhancing independence and confidence.



New clubs based on Rancher interests—such as scrapbooking, bike riding, knitting, and languages—are on the horizon in the new year, offering Ranchers a chance to dive into hobbies that foster creativity, friendship, and a sense of belonging.

With the holiday season fast approaching, the team is also coordinating ways for Ranchers to connect with the local community. This year, they'll be ringing bells in support of the Salvation Army and collaborating with other local nonprofits, forming new volunteer partnerships that will make a positive impact.

The Ranch's choir is already preparing for the busy season, with performances planned at churches and organizations throughout Arizona. To further enrich our music program, the team is offering more music classes, bringing back beloved Clavinova sessions to give Ranchers even more avenues for creative expression.



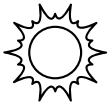
Though Rainbow Academy is not a traditional school, these thoughtfully crafted programs keep Ranchers engaged, learning, and progressing toward the goals they set for themselves. By focusing on life skills, social interaction, and self-discovery, the Programs team strives to make every Rancher's journey fulfilling within our supportive community.



BRIGHT CHANGES

SOLAR PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Here's a snapshot of our new Solar Project, designed to make Rainbow Acres energy-independent and eco-friendly! Thanks to your support, we're excited to share these impactful updates:



Solar Panels Installed:

Multiple rooftops across campus now house solar panels, maximizing our ability to harness the sun's energy every day.



Steel Framework in Progress:

The new carport structures are going up in the Palmer Center and Freese House parking lots, adding shade and solar generation all in one.



Energy Efficiency:

By early 2025, our solar panels will be fully operational, generating up to 95% of our own clean, renewable energy to power the Ranch.



Savings that Matter:

Every dollar saved on the electric bill will go toward covering monthly loan payments, creating a financially sustainable model for the Ranch.



Payback in 10 Years:

With this setup, the project will pay for itself in just a decade, creating a long-term benefit for our Ranchers and community.

Thanks to this Solar Project, Rainbow Acres is on track to achieve significant cost savings, environmental impact, and independence. Here's to a sustainable future!

Learn more at RainbowAcres.org/Solar





LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025

In 2025, Rainbow Acres is excited to embark on a year of growth, community engagement, and enhanced programs for the Ranchers.

Our Solar Project will be completed, allowing us to operate with 95% efficiency, which will be a milestone toward sustainable living.

We are also looking forward to welcoming volunteer mission teams and still have space for a few more groups to join us. Call us to check availability.

Most of all, we are excited to see what is on the horizon under the leadership of Paul Higgins, our new President and CEO, who will guide us into a bright future.

NEEDS LIST

To donate in-kind items, please visit our website or call us for more details.

MEDICAL & PERSONAL

- Band-Aids
- First Aid Kits
- Personal Hygiene Products for Men & Women
 - Deodorants
 - Shampoo & Conditioner
 - Bars of Soap
 - Body Wash
 - Lotion
- Neosporin
- Epsom salt

RAINBOW ACADEMY

- Equestrian Riding Helmets
- Small Parlor Guitars
- Adult Scissors
- Fabric Scissors
- Rotary Cutters

OFFICE & KITCHEN

- Cases of Water Bottles
- Batteries - AA, AAA, 9 volt
- New flatware- dinner forks, table knives, and soup spoons
- New plates and bowls for PCC
- 5-gallon Beverage Dispenser
- Upright, lightweight vacuum for each house

MAINTENANCE

- 6' Wood Steel Frame Pressure Treated Picnic Tables - ULINE
- 55" 4K Smart TV
- 65" 4k Smart TV
- IGLOO Large Cooler, White, 142 Liters
- Genie GS-1930 Electric Scissor Lift

RainbowAcres.org/Needs-List

SHARE

Would you like a presentation at your church or organization? Call us for more details.

TOUR

Call us to schedule a tour.

MISSION GOUPS

Call to see our mission group openings for 2025.



WAYS TO GIVE



CREDIT CARD



STOCKS & SECURITIES



CHECK



QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS (QCDs)



PHONE



DONOR ADVISED FUND (DAF)



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RainbowAcres.org/Give

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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 the QR Code
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Rainbow Acres

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