

SEASON OF GROWTH



Rainbow Acres

SPRING 2024

IMAGINE GALA

Imagine what we can do together! A night to honor George and Claudia Ault and neurodiversity
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SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN

Helping to raise awareness and fundraise for the athletes to participate year-round
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THE SPRING PROM

The Spring Prom at Rainbow Acres was a celebration of community and connection
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IMAGINE GALA

The Imagine Gala, hosted in April at the Enchantment Resort in Sedona, marked a significant milestone in the history of Rainbow Acres and its affiliate, Sedona Lago Gardens.

The evening began with a lively reception featuring performances by the Comeback Buddy Band and Terrie and Bob Backes. Ranchers Jennifer T. and Kelly O. welcomed attendees at the check-in table. Guests enjoyed a selection of fine wines while participating in the Wall of Wine fundraiser and a silent auction.

The dinner program opened with heartfelt speeches from Ani K. of Sedona Lago Gardens and Jennifer T. of Rainbow Acres. Each shared their personal journeys and the significant impact that their respective communities have had on their lives, offering guests a deeply personal look at the mission of these organizations.

Mike Prochelo, President and CEO of Rainbow Acres, and Gary Wagner, Founder and President of Sedona Lago Gardens, gave insights into their organizations' achievements and goals.

Pictured: Nelson Roos, Linda Roos, Claudia Ault, George Ault
Photo Credit: Larry Kane Photography



Their speeches were complemented by compelling videos that illustrated the transformative work being done at both Rainbow Acres and Sedona Lago Gardens, highlighting the profound differences made in the lives of the residents.

The gala honored George and Claudia Ault for their enduring support and profound impact on Rainbow Acres and the local community since the 1990s. A touching video tribute highlighted their advocacy and compassion, culminating in the presentation of the inaugural Pillsbury Humanitarian Award by Linda Roos and Nelson Roos of the Pillsbury Foundation.

Pictured: Kimberly Prochelo, Barbara Lago, Mike Prochelo Photo Credit: Photography by Janise Witt



Pictured: Jennifer T., Rancher of Rainbow Acres Photo Credit: Larry Kane Photography

The gala also recognized James and Barbara Lago for their generous support of Rainbow Acres.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the sponsors, donors, committee members, and staff from both organizations who worked tirelessly to ensure the gala's success. It was an evening of meaningful connections, inspiring stories, and a renewed commitment to supportive and nurturing environments for adults with neurodiversities and their families.



Pictured: Conrad Braaten, Nikki Pruitt, CJ Pruitt, Rachel Sonnett
Photo Credit: Photography by Janise Witt



Pictured: Kimberly Prochelo, Mike Prochelo, Gary Wagner, Jussara Wagner
Photo Credit: Photography by Janise Witt

RANCHERS SHINE

AT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN

The vibrant community of Sedona, Arizona, recently hosted a thrilling and heartwarming event—the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for the Special Olympics. This year’s event, held at Cultural Park in Sedona, saw an incredible turnout.

LETR for Special Olympics serves as the organization’s largest public awareness vehicle and fundraiser. Known as Guardians of the Flame, law enforcement members and Special Olympics athletes carry the Flame of Hope into the Opening

Ceremonies of local competitions and into Special Olympics state, provincial, national, regional, and World Games.

This year’s event was particularly notable as it adopted a more visible format, focusing on shorter distances but greater involvement across multiple agencies. This change ensured broader participation and allowed the community to engage more deeply with the athletes.

Photo Credit: David Jolkovski/Sedona Red Rock News





Through partnerships like the one between LETR and the Special Olympics, athletes are given opportunities to empower and transform not only themselves but also their communities and the world at large.

Local law enforcement works year-round to fundraise, helping to provide the Ranchers and other Special Olympic athletes with the resources they need to compete. It costs \$500 per athlete to compete in sporting events for a year, a small price for invaluable experiences.

The LETR included members from 12 police and fire agencies across Northern Arizona joining forces with the Ranchers, along with the Sedona Red Rockers Unified Athletes and the Verde Valley Mountain Region Unified Athletes, amongst whom our Ranchers stood proudly.

The Ranchers' involvement in this event is not just about participation—it is a profound demonstration of their capabilities, determination, and the joy they derive from being part of a community that cherishes inclusivity. These athletes, along with their peers, carried the Flame of Hope, symbolizing courage and the celebration of diversity that unites communities worldwide.



RAINBOW SHUTTLE

EMPOWERING INDEPENDENCE

Rainbow Acres has long been a home where individuals with diverse abilities find support, belonging, and opportunities to thrive. Among the many initiatives aimed at fostering independence and community engagement, the Rainbow Shuttle stands out as a pathway to empowerment, connecting Ranchers with the vibrant life beyond the ranch's borders.

A ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

The Rainbow Shuttle isn't just a transportation service; it's a testament to the unwavering dedication and vision of the Rainbow Acres community. This program officially launched at the end of November 2023, marking a significant milestone in the journey towards independence for Ranchers.

Spearheaded by Naomi Gray, a caregiver at Rainbow Acres who seeks out strategies and initiatives that help drive independence, alongside other dedicated staff, the Rainbow Shuttle represents a collaborative effort to realize the aspirations of the Ranchers.

EMPOWERING RANCHERS, ONE RIDE AT A TIME

The Rainbow Shuttle is a carefully curated program open to Ranchers who demonstrate essential skills, such as time management, problem-solving, and money management. Resident Care Coordinators work alongside the Ranchers to prepare them for this monthly opportunity to embark on adventures within the town of Camp Verde.



EXPLORING BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

The Ranchers are given a route and schedule to various drop-off and pick-up points strategically placed around town. These points offer a mix of free activities and opportunities for shopping and dining. From the serene surroundings of the public library and local parks to the shops and museums of downtown Camp Verde, Ranchers have the chance to immerse themselves in the richness of their community.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE JOURNEY

On a recent excursion, eight Ranchers embarked on their independent journeys:

Greg D visited Thanks A Latte.

Jeff W got off at Thanks A Latte, visited the barbershop, and walked around downtown Camp Verde until the last return shuttle.

Jennifer T visited the Fiber Festival at the Community Center and then used the second shuttle to go to the Bashas' Plaza, where she remained until the last shuttle.

David K went to Bashas' and CVS.

Julie F went to the Bashas' Plaza, met with a coworker, and visited the Archeology Museum before eating lunch at Crusty's.

Nita B visited the thrift shop before taking the next shuttle to meet up with Julie and her friend for lunch.

David W went to the Fiber Festival at the Community Center.

Scott N visited the Bashas' Plaza until the last shuttle.

BEYOND TRANSPORTATION

By providing Ranchers with the opportunity to explore the world around them independently but with support, the program paves the way for a more inclusive and vibrant community, dismantling barriers and challenging perceptions.





Leave a Legacy
MONTH

May has been designated as Leave-A-Legacy Month, a time when you are encouraged to create an estate plan to protect your loved ones.

In addition to protecting those you love, we want to share one powerful way you can support Rainbow Acres.

Just as you can leave cash and non-cash assets to heirs and loved ones, you can make a bequest to nonprofit organizations of your choice, ensuring that your legacy giving makes a charitable impact on those organizations you hold near to your heart.

Please consider including Rainbow Acres in your estate plan
Contact us today to learn more

THE SPRING PROM

We hosted a Masquerade-themed spring prom at the Palmer Center, which turned out to be a spectacular celebration for everyone involved. The preparation for this event was a true community effort; the Ranchers, staff, and dedicated volunteers spent weeks planning and preparing to create a wonderful evening.

One of the highlights of the preparation was the mask-decorating session. Both Ranchers and staff showed their creativity by designing their own unique masks, adding a personal touch to the masquerade theme.



The Palmer Center was transformed into a dazzling ballroom. Everyone arrived dressed to the nines, masks adding to their festive attire. Smiles were everywhere, and the Ranchers, staff, guests, and volunteers danced the night away.







It was a joy to see friends made through Special Olympics joining us this year to celebrate with the Ranchers and staff at the prom. We are already looking forward to

next year's prom, inspired to make it just as memorable. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this event a success.





WEAVING OUTREACH

The Ranchers possess talents as diverse as the colors of the rainbow. Among their many skills, weaving showcases their creativity, and also serves as a bridge to connect with communities far and wide.

WEAVING STORIES

At Rainbow Acres, weaving is more than just a craft; it's a means of expression and connection. Guided by skilled artisans, the Ranchers have honed their weaving talents over the years, creating intricate patterns and vibrant designs that reflect their unique perspectives and experiences. From vibrant tapestries to cozy blankets, each piece carries with it a story, woven with threads of resilience, determination, and joy.



NEW THREADS, NEW STORIES

Recently, the Rainbow Acres weaving community welcomed new members, bringing fresh perspectives and talents to the loom. These newcomers, who joined the seasoned weaving Ranchers, have infused new energy and ideas, further enriching the tapestry of creativity that defines Rainbow Acres.

Together, they have embarked on a journey of collaboration, blending traditional techniques with innovative approaches while creating beautiful woven products that captivate the senses and inspire the soul.



TAKING WEAVING BEYOND BORDERS

The fruits of their labor are not confined within the borders of Rainbow Acres. Instead, they reach far and wide, touching the lives of individuals across the United States. Their woven creations, crafted with love and care, find homes not only in the Ranch's gift shop but also in churches, fairs, fiber festivals, and conferences throughout the country.

Through these outreach efforts, the Ranchers share not only their talent but also their stories, fostering connections and spreading joy wherever their woven treasures go.





NEWS & EVENTS IN 2024

We welcomed a new horse named Blanco and two rabbits to the barn this spring.

We are looking forward this summer to welcoming eight volunteer mission teams and two interns from American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS).

We are diligently planning to host the regional

Special Olympics Bocce Ball Tournament again this Fall.

We are also getting ready for the second annual Verde Valley Glow at Rainbow Acres on October 26 during Family & Friends Weekend. It's shaping up to be even more spectacular this year!

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION

We have a fantastic lineup of virtual and in-person events planned to mark the momentous occasion of our 50th Anniversary. From heartwarming stories to fun-filled activities, we're going all out to ensure this year is unforgettable.



LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

In the spirit of giving and community, we'll use this year of our 50th Anniversary to raise funds that will support Rainbow Acres' mission now and in the years to come. Every contribution counts. Your involvement will have a positive impact.



STAY CONNECTED

To keep up with all the exciting events and updates, be sure to follow us on social media, visit our website, and subscribe to our newsletter. We'll be sharing stories, highlights, and details about how you can get involved.



SPREAD THE WORD

The success of our 50th Anniversary celebrations depends on you! We encourage you to invite your friends, family, and colleagues to join us on this remarkable journey. Together, we can open the way to the next 50 years of spreading love and support in our Rainbow Acres community.

WAYS TO GIVE



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RainbowAcres.org/Give

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KEEP IN TOUCH

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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 the QR Code
or visit our website

RainbowAcres.org/Newsletter



Rainbow Acres

A Residential Christian Community
Serving Adults with
Developmental Disabilities

2120 W Reservation Loop Rd
Camp Verde, AZ 86322