



# GOLDEN MOMENTS



Rainbow Acres

FALL 2023

## 50TH OPENING CEREMONY

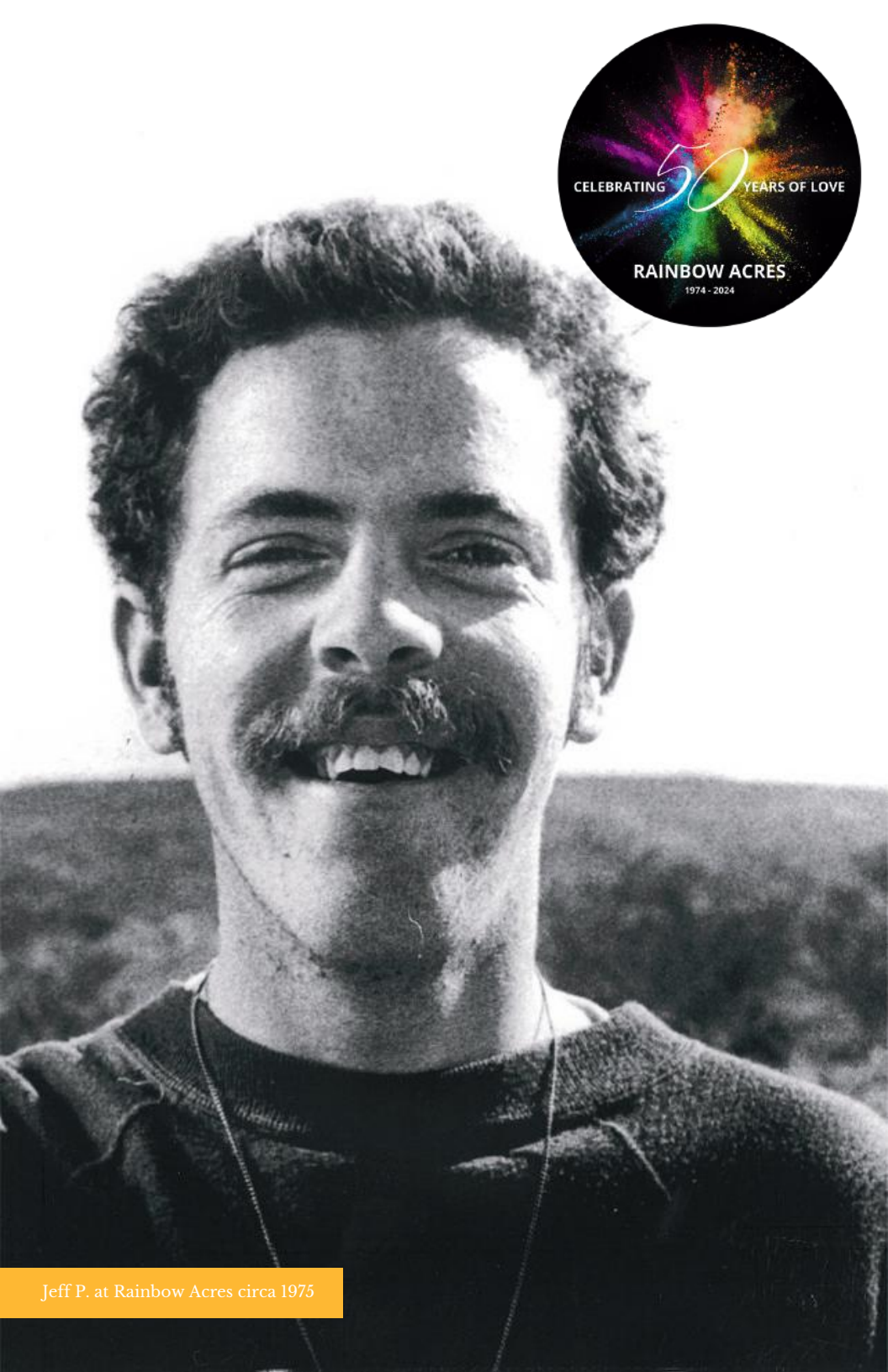
We opened the 18-month long 50th anniversary celebration with a ribbon cutting  
Pg. 03

## RANCHER VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Recognizing current and new jobs for Ranchers  
Pg. 08

## VERDE VALLEY GLOW LIGHTS UP THE NIGHT

During Family & Friends Weekend we held the inaugural Verde Valley Glow at Rainbow Acres  
Pg. 12



Jeff P. at Rainbow Acres circa 1975

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY OPENING CEREMONY

With a beautiful ceremony and a ribbon cutting, we opened the 50th Anniversary of Rainbow Acres, a journey that began with the visionary founder, Ralph Showers. Our opening ceremony marked a monumental milestone as we looked back with pride and gratitude at Ralph's dream becoming a reality.

Five decades ago, Showers filed the pivotal incorporation papers on September 21, 1973. He was planting what would become Rainbow Acres, a haven of love and inclusion for adults with developmental disabilities.

We gathered to celebrate a remarkable milestone in the heart of Rainbow Acres. The Rancher-led program was a tribute to the incredible talents and contributions of the Ranchers. We recognized that Rainbow Acres is what it is today with the Ranchers' dedication, creativity, and spirit.

The Ranchers are the living embodiment of Ralph's dream, showcasing their abilities and uniqueness in a program designed to spotlight their talents. Through their eyes and hands, the beauty of Rainbow Acres has come alive.







Charlie (Rancher) practices ribbon dancing in the STARS class.



Lori V (Rancher) keeps everyone laughing as she gets her hair cut by Chris McGrath (Volunteer).



Shaina (Rancher) shows off her creation in Barn Crafts class.



Michele (Rancher), Jennifer (Rancher), and Bob (Staff) performed in the talent show on Family & Friends Weekend.

# RANCH CHANGES

This year, we have supported the Ranchers in making great strides with academic and vocational goals. Ranchers and staff produced our first-ever play, “OZ,” which was a great success! Andy, our Vocational Director, helped Ranchers find work at a fast food restaurant, an event center, and a veterinary clinic. Additionally, we have continued to support others in their vocational careers at a grocery store, a recycling center, a hotel, and other local businesses.



## NEW HIRES

We are working towards sustainably delivering excellent service by strengthening our workforce in several ways. We have brought on new staff for the following departments: caregivers, rancher care coordination, culinary, development, and human resources. We have also revamped our training and onboarding for new staff and volunteers. With additional support, we continue to consistently provide excellent service to the Ranchers.



## NEW SEMESTER

We welcomed new educators to the Rainbow Academy who are excited about the educational courses and activities. Each semester brings a new schedule of courses and Wednesday activities within the community and on the Ranch. We have hosted local cultural experts, volunteered at the Bread of Life food bank, and attended local fairs.





Ranchers, family, friends, staff, and visitors struck a pose at the self-serve photo booth during the Verde Valley Glow



Staff and Ranchers walked and handed out 1,000 flyers during the Fort Verde Days parade, inviting everyone in the town of Camp Verde to our Verde Valley Glow.



## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

We kicked off our 50th year with an Opening Ceremony to commemorate the date we filed for the letters of incorporation. Emmy, a newer Rancher, led the ceremony and shared that living at Rainbow Acres helped her to believe that “God is here at Rainbow Acres.”

With the goal of enhancing our interaction with the community, we hosted the inaugural Verde Valley Glow, inviting everyone to come and learn about Rainbow Acres and meet the amazing Ranchers. Hundreds of locals came, enjoyed the festivities, and marveled as hot air balloons lit up the night sky.

## HOME STATES OF THE RANCHERS

Over the last 50 years, we have served Ranchers from all across the United States. These are the home states of the Ranchers. This information is to the best of our knowledge. Blue pins indicate current Ranchers' home states.



# RANCHER VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

At Rainbow Acres, the Ranchers are not just part of a community; they are an integral part of the greater communities of Camp Verde and Sedona. Over the years, many of them have demonstrated their dedication, skills, and talents by holding jobs that make meaningful contributions to society.

## RECYCLE CENTER

Several of the ways the Ranchers have been actively participating in the community is through their work at a recycle center. Their work is hard, but important for sustainability and protection of the environment. By working at the recycling center, they not only contribute to reducing waste, but also play a part in educating others about the significance of recycling.



## GROCERY STORE

Some of the Ranchers have found their place at one of the region's most popular grocery stores. Whether it's helping customers find the right products, stocking shelves, or ensuring the store runs smoothly, their work is essential to the daily operations of the store. Their friendly faces and dedication brighten the days of shoppers and staff alike.

## VETERINARY CLINIC

Recently, one Rancher had the joy of landing a job at a veterinary clinic. This is a special role for her because she has a deep love for animals. Her work at the clinic not only fulfills her passion but also allows her to receive valuable on-the-job training. It's heartwarming to see someone follow their heart and passion while contributing to the health and well-being of our furry friends.



## EVENT & RETREAT RANCH

Another Rancher found his calling as a ranch hand at a local event and retreat ranch. This is not just a job; it's a way of life. Being a ranch hand requires a range of skills, from caring for the animals to maintaining the ranch. His role showcases the Ranchers' versatility and willingness to embrace new challenges.

These examples highlight the incredible skills, dedication, and passion that the Ranchers bring to the community. They are not just holding jobs; they are building connections, sharing their talents, and showcasing that anyone can make a positive impact on the world with the right support and opportunities.



We take pride in being part of a community where inclusion, respect, and mutual support are at the core. The Ranchers who work in Camp Verde and Sedona are shining examples of what is possible when everyone is given a chance to thrive. Their stories remind us that every individual has unique strengths and contributions to make, and when we embrace diversity, our communities become richer and more vibrant.

The Ranchers' off-ranch positions help us see the power of inclusion and the potential for positive change when we all work together.



# FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEKEND 2023

Held on the last weekend in October, this year's Friends and Family festivities were incredible. From the Prayer Circle Devotional, Talent Show, Legacy of Love Luncheon, down to the inaugural Verde Valley Glow, every event was a beautiful celebration of Team Rainbow.

## LEGACY OF LOVE LUNCHEON

The Legacy of Love luncheon left everyone in attendance deeply moved. It was a momentous occasion when Rainbow Acres inducted several new members into the Legacy Society, pledging a portion of their estates and leaving a lasting impact on this incredible community.

During the Legacy Luncheon, Allan Roughton passionately shared the incredible journey he and his wife,

Judy, have embarked on discovering Rainbow Acres. Allan and Judy's narrative is one of unwavering love for both their daughter and the cherished community that is Rainbow Acres.

Marilyn Showers, the wife of Rainbow Acres' founder, Ralph Showers, took center stage as the keynote speaker at the luncheon. Her words resonated with the Ranchers and all those gathered, highlighting the legacy of love that has been at the core of Rainbow Acres for the past five decades.

One of the highlights of the event was the wonderful performance by the Ambassador Choir. The hall filled with the sweet sounds of unity and harmony as they sang. Their voices encapsulated the spirit of togetherness and the shared journey that Rainbow Acres represents.







## 50 YEARS OF LOVE

Advocates at heart, Allan & Judy's love for Rainbow Acres is deeply entwined with the joy they witness in their daughter's life.

Their inspiring story resonates as a testament to the profound impact of Rainbow Acres on both the Ranchers and their families.

## TALENT SHOW

The festivities continued with the Talent Show on Friday evening. Ranchers and staff alike had the opportunity to showcase their diverse talents.

Among the shining stars was Alex, who not only sang a song he wrote, but also recorded it, making it available on the Spotify App. His performance was a testament to the creative abilities that flourish within the Rainbow Acres community.



## VERDE VALLEY GLOW

However, the grandeur of the weekend didn't end there. On Saturday afternoon of Family & Friends Weekend, we held the inaugural Verde Valley Glow at Rainbow Acres. A truly remarkable event as hundreds of visitors flooded the Ranch throughout the afternoon and evening.

The early afternoon was kicked off with a spirited cornhole tournament, reuniting the local community with the Ranch in a heartwarming manner.

The spectacular moment came when the night sky lit up with the presence of three hot air balloons. The crowd marveled at this breathtaking sight, their hearts warmed by the radiant glow that filled the evening. Although the tethered balloon rides could not happen due to the wind, many people donated anyway, knowing that it benefited Rainbow Acres.





In hindsight, the 2023 Family & Friends Weekend was a testament to the reverence for the journey of the past 50 years of Rainbow Acres. It was a celebration of the legacy of love that binds the community together and the unwavering commitment to a bright and promising future. The weekend showcased the talents and hard work of the Ranchers and staff. We thank everyone who took part in the events. The weekend's events remind us of the precious reason we will continue to support the Ranchers in the years to come.





As a wonderful example of Rainbow Ambassadors, Dennis & Sherill Carlson have been out sharing our ministry and brought back new friends for a tour of the Ranch.



After Aireal (Staff) reached out to Derek Barnes at Quad City Auctions, he generously donated a truckload of exercise machines to replace our dated equipment. Rob (Staff), Keith (Rancher), and Reilly (Rancher), alongside Aireal and Derek, worked tirelessly to move out the old and in the new!







# EAGLE ACCREDITATION

## A JOURNEY OF EXCELLENCE AND COMPASSION

At Rainbow Acres, we believe in the power of community, inclusivity, and providing a loving, supportive environment for all our Ranchers. Our commitment to excellence and compassion was recently reaffirmed through the renewal of our EAGLE accreditation by the United Methodist Association. Their goal was to ascertain our worthiness of the EAGLE accreditation, and they did so with a keen eye and an open heart.

The journey to renewing our EAGLE accreditation was not just a bureaucratic process; it was a profound reflection of who we are, how we operate, and our dedication to serving the Ranchers. For many months, our dedicated staff members undertook the arduous task of writing detailed reports that delved into every facet of Rainbow Acres.

Their thorough examination resulted in a resounding vote of

confidence in how we operate. The review team (pictured above with Mike Prochelo, President & CEO) was deeply impressed by the incredible work that our staff carries out every day. They commended the dedication of our staff and the supportive atmosphere that abounds at Rainbow Acres.

During the review process, our person-centered planning approach was highly praised. The review team recognized that our Ranchers feel like they have a say in their personal plans and a direction in their lives.

The renewal of our EAGLE accreditation is not just a recognition of our efforts; it is a reaffirmation of our commitment to the Rainbow Acres mission.





## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

Mark your calendars and get ready to be part of a truly special year as we commemorate our 50th Anniversary! We invite you, Team Rainbow—our dear friends and supporters—to join us in celebrating this incredible milestone throughout 2024.

Let's make this year one to remember as we honor the past, embrace the present, and envision a brighter future for Rainbow Acres. We look forward to celebrating with you and are grateful for your continued support. Thank you for being a part of our remarkable journey!



# JOIN US IN CELEBRATION

We have a fantastic lineup of virtual and in-person events planned to mark this momentous occasion. 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 be using this special year to raise funds that will support the mission of Rainbow Acres now and in the years to come. Every contribution counts, and your involvement will make 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.



Tim (Rancher) works on-ranch as a part of the Maintenance Team. While removing the overgrown plants from around the Ranch, Tim helped to trim this one before removal and it ended up looking like a pineapple.



# 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

[RainbowAcres.org/Give](https://RainbowAcres.org/Give)

# KEEP IN TOUCH

## SOCIAL MEDIA

-  @RainbowAcresAZ
-  @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 the QR Code or visit our website

[RainbowAcres.org/Newsletter](https://RainbowAcres.org/Newsletter)



# Rainbow Acres

A Residential Christian Community  
Serving Adults with  
Developmental Disabilities

2120 W Reservation Loop Rd  
Camp Verde, AZ 86322