

Rainbow Acres  
**45<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY  
Keeping the Promise!



# Rainbow Acres

A Residential Christian Community  
Serving Adults with  
Developmental Disabilities

***INSIDE:***

- MISSION: POSSIBLE
- 45th Anniversary
- Show Lambs

*...and more!*



## Letter from the President

# 'Keeping the promise to Ranchers for

For this 45th anniversary year of Rainbow Acres, our theme is "Keeping the Promise." It has a nice ring to it, but it's so much more! It's a statement of commitment to the Ranchers! Since its founding, Rainbow Acres' mission has been a commitment and a promise: to empower the Ranchers to grow and thrive, achieve their potential, and discover their purpose in life.

We live by the Golden Rule, treating others as we want to be treated. There are days when that is challenging. Dr. Sue Wolf, a brain specialist, recently reminded us that the Ranchers may not always be what they appear. They may be a six-year-old child (developmentally) who is in the body of a mature adult. When a six-year-old learns to play dodgeball at recess, it's okay to throw a ball to hit a person on the other team. But the same individual could throw the ball at the teacher who is leaving school at the end of the day! They mean no disrespect, rather they just need the teacher's grace to help them understand social boundaries. Sometimes, our eyes can betray us and make us forget that the individual may be more complex than we thought.

From the beginning, our founder Ralph Showers led the way, emphasizing "unconditional love" and at least "three hugs a day!" He understood that love and acceptance was the foundation for personal growth. Ranchers have shared with me over and over their desire to be accepted by their peers and adults in their lives. Being loved and accepted are critical foundation blocks for success in learning life skills and career skills. Every day, Rainbow Acres' employees are keeping the promise of unconditional love and acceptance to the Ranchers. It is in our DNA.

Fulfilling that commitment also requires that we remain open to change. When I arrived 23 years ago, a Rancher said, "If my only option is to live in a house with nine other guys the rest of my life, it feels like a dead end." At that moment, it became clear that Rancher expectations were greater than they had first appeared. This Rancher's insight led us to develop the apartments for those who wanted to live more independently. We are deeply grateful for Ranchers and parents who have helped us lift our sights above the horizon with a greater vision for the Ranchers.

# Promise' 45 years

Animal advocate Temple Grandin visualized entering new chapters in her life as passing through a doorway. As a working professional with Autism, this process helped her face transitions with courage and determination. It is great imagery for us as well!

As the Board of Trustees looks ahead to future needs and trends in disability services, to continue keeping the promise, we can anticipate further strengthening our programs and services. Rainbow Acres will pass through new doorways into an exciting future as it welcomes new Ranchers; serves more adults with Asperger's and on the Autism spectrum; and addresses issues centered on the social needs of our day. These changes will be consistent with Rainbow Acres' core values and centered on the needs of each individual Rancher.

Thank you, faithful friends of the Ranchers! Your concern, compassion and love continue to transform lives every day! Your faithfulness in prayer and generosity make all the difference!

For the Ranchers,



Gary W. Wagner, President & CEO



## Rainbow Acres

A Residential Christian Community  
Serving Adults with  
Developmental Disabilities

### The Promise

Spring/Summer 2019

***The Mission of Rainbow Acres is to serve as "a Christian community with heart that empowers persons with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose."***

Founded in 1974, Rainbow Acres is an independent, non-profit Christian ministry related to the American Baptist Churches USA. Licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services, Rainbow Acres is governed by an independent, self-perpetuating Board of Trustees from Arizona and across the nation.

Rainbow Acres has earned and was awarded EAGLE accreditation by the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare.

Rainbow Acres is made possible by generous contributions from numerous churches of all faiths, as well as individuals, foundations and corporations. Rainbow Acres has been designated a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the IRS code.

### Contacts and Credits

Rainbow Acres

2120 W. Reservation Loop Road  
Camp Verde, AZ 86322-8408

Phone: (928) 567-5231 • Fax: (928) 567-9059

Website: [www.rainbowacres.com](http://www.rainbowacres.com)

E-mail: [info@rainbowacres.com](mailto:info@rainbowacres.com)

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*Friends' support for Ranchers makes*

# MISSION: POSSIBLE

As Rainbow Acres celebrates its 45th anniversary, we are reminded of founder Ralph Showers' promise that, for the Ranchers, this is their "forever home" – a place that will continue to provide them with unconditional love and care regardless of their financial capabilities. To this day, Rainbow Acres maintains that commitment as part of its mission.

When Rev. Showers first made that promise, he was determined to transition Rainbow Acres from charging the Ranchers monthly fees to becoming self-sufficient by selling products produced by the Ranchers with the staff's guidance. However, in Rainbow Acres' second year, he

realized that the unirrigated 10-acre property couldn't produce enough fruit and vegetables to meet the needs of the Ranchers and provide a surplus that could be sold to generate revenue. Other ideas were considered, from raising worms to producing molded concrete products, but nothing seemed lucrative enough to meet the need.

Instead, Rainbow Acres turned to friends everywhere to raise donations for general operations, in effect bridging the gap in funding between Ranchers' monthly fees and their available resources. After Gary Wagner became President/CEO in 1996, he linked Rainbow's friends more directly to the Ranchers who were receiving their support. Rev. Wagner soon established the Adopt-A-Rancher and Scholarship funds to connect individuals, families, churches and groups with Ranchers who are unable to meet the cost of their care at Rainbow Acres.

Today, eligible Ranchers receive support through three programs funded by friends: Adopt-A-Rancher, the Scholarships Fund, and the Good

## **AZ Tax Credit**

If you're an Arizona resident, you can contribute to these funds through the Arizona Tax Credit program. Arizona residents receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit when giving to Rainbow Acres. They can donate up to \$400 for individuals (or \$800 for those filing jointly) and receive the same amount as a tax credit this tax year.

***“Without friends everywhere supporting Ranchers in need through these critical programs, Rainbow Acres’ mission would not be possible.”***

– Gary Wagner

Samaritan Fund. Friends who wish to Adopt-A-Rancher can select a particular Rancher they would like to support financially. Other friends may choose the Scholarships Fund to provide support for the Ranchers with the greatest need. Another option is the Good Samaritan Fund, which assists Ranchers who do not have adequate resources to meet their essential medical, vision and dental needs.

“Without friends everywhere supporting Ranchers in need through these critical programs, Rainbow Acres’ mission would not be possible,” Wagner said. “Those who have supported the Ranchers have extended a vital lifeline to dozens upon dozens of adults with disabilities who are in need at Rainbow Acres.”

Over the past 20 years, Rainbow Acres has seen a dramatic rise in the number of Ranchers seeking financial aid. As parents of Ranchers grow older, they often have fewer financial resources. In many cases, a Rancher’s parents are no longer living. Siblings and extended family members sometimes make

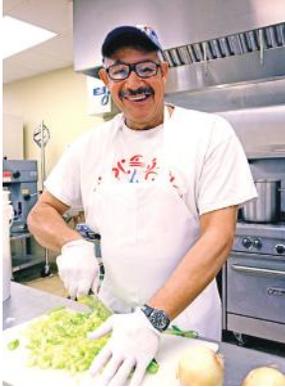
contributions that provide partial support. Other families that made plans for lifetime care through a Special Needs Trust may find that, as costs continue to rise, their trust fund no longer covers their expenses, requiring the need for financial aid.

In 2019, Rainbow Acres anticipates that 46 Ranchers will need more than \$430,000 in financial support through the Adopt-A-Rancher and Scholarships fund. Circumstances vary from family to family, but all families that are eligible for support have documented their need and are contributing all they can for their loved one’s support.

Friends can give online at [www.rainbowacres.com](http://www.rainbowacres.com) and specify their gift for these programs that directly support the Ranchers. Through the caring and compassionate support these Ranchers receive from the Adopt-A-Rancher, Scholarships and Good Samaritan funds, Rainbow Acres can continue to provide the unconditional love and innovative programs that enable the Ranchers to grow, thrive and achieve their greatest potential.

## Adopt-A-Rancher

Every year, the Adopt-A-Rancher Fund, the Scholarships Fund, and the Good Samaritan Fund help Ranchers like those featured here continue to live and thrive as a member of the Rainbow Acres community. Please consider a one-time or reoccurring gift to help us address the needs of our Ranchers. Blessings!



## Marcus Sanders

Marcus experienced many harsh realities growing up. He had no knowledge of any family, and there were no records of his actual birth date. From the ages of 8 to 18, he lived in foster homes followed by a state hospital in Kansas, then a group home until he was 28, when his aging caregiver could no longer continue.

Fortunately, a compassionate social worker took a special interest in Marcus. She had watched out for this sweet-tempered young man but was about to retire. If someone didn't care enough to advocate for Marcus, it was clear that he could "fall through the cracks" and perhaps eventually become homeless. After seeing Ralph Showers deliver a presentation on Rainbow Acres, she pursued moving Marcus here, which he did in 1987.

Over the years, Rainbow Acres gave this kind and energetic man a place to shine! Marcus proved himself to be an enthusiastic helper and a very

compassionate friend in his new environment – and the community provided him with a sense of home and a family that cared deeply about his well-being. Marcus is among the many Ranchers who work part-time on the ranch and contribute to help cover their fees.

Marcus is a central figure in the kitchen crew that prepares meals for the community every day. He also enjoys Special Olympics basketball and golf. In 2014, after winning at state, Marcus was selected to represent Arizona in the National Special Olympics in New Jersey and returned with a gold medal in golf!

The social worker who brought Marcus here and became his legal guardian died in 2010. Marcus has no known family members. After he receives his benefits, there is a gap between his resources and his monthly expenses. Adopt-A-Rancher provides critical support to help underwrite his cost of care.

## Adopt-A-Rancher



# Trudy and Terri Schock

“The twins” came here in 1978 as some of the first women to live at Rainbow Acres. While Trudy and Terri enjoy each other’s company, they live in different houses and have different personalities.

Trudy is happy and bubbly. At home, she keeps her room neat and is helpful and conscientious. Trudy’s smile lights up the world, and she loves to help everybody! Her favorite activity may be sitting on the front porch of her home, chatting with friends and enjoying all the people walking by.

Terri is one of our most active Ranchers, with a life full of activities. When she first arrived, she had her own horse, which she cared for herself and rode for recreation.

Later, she had an aquarium which she maintained. In addition to crafts, she has produced some remarkable paintings in the Fine Arts Painting class.

Trudy works with the kitchen crew, and is proud of her contributions

in preparing meals for the community. Her big smile while wearing her white kitchen jacket lets everyone know that she receives a lot of pleasure from serving. Working in the kitchen also helps her contribute to her monthly expenses.

Both sisters participate in Special Olympics events. Trudy plays basketball and has won medals with her team many times. Terri has excelled in golf. With some coaching from a local golf professional, Terri competed at the 2003 Special Olympics World Games in Dublin, Ireland. She joined 7,000 other athletes and came back with a fourth-place ribbon. Her coach said that Terri “gave it her all” and really relished the competition.



Trudy and Terri receive financial support from a Special Needs Trust created by their parents, but they depend on the Adopt-A-Rancher Fund to help cover the gap between their resources and monthly expenses.

## Adopt-A-Rancher



## Jeff Pitts

Jeff was one of first four Ranchers to make Rainbow Acres his home, within a few months after its opening in 1974. Jeff took well to life in the rustic conditions of those early years on the ranch, riding his motorcycle, developing the grounds, and tending to the horses and other livestock.

When Jeff's parents met Ralph Showers, they were encouraged to have their 18-year-old son move to Rainbow Acres. They weren't sure why they felt compelled to make this life-changing decision, since they were still relatively young. This just seemed the right thing to do for Jeff.

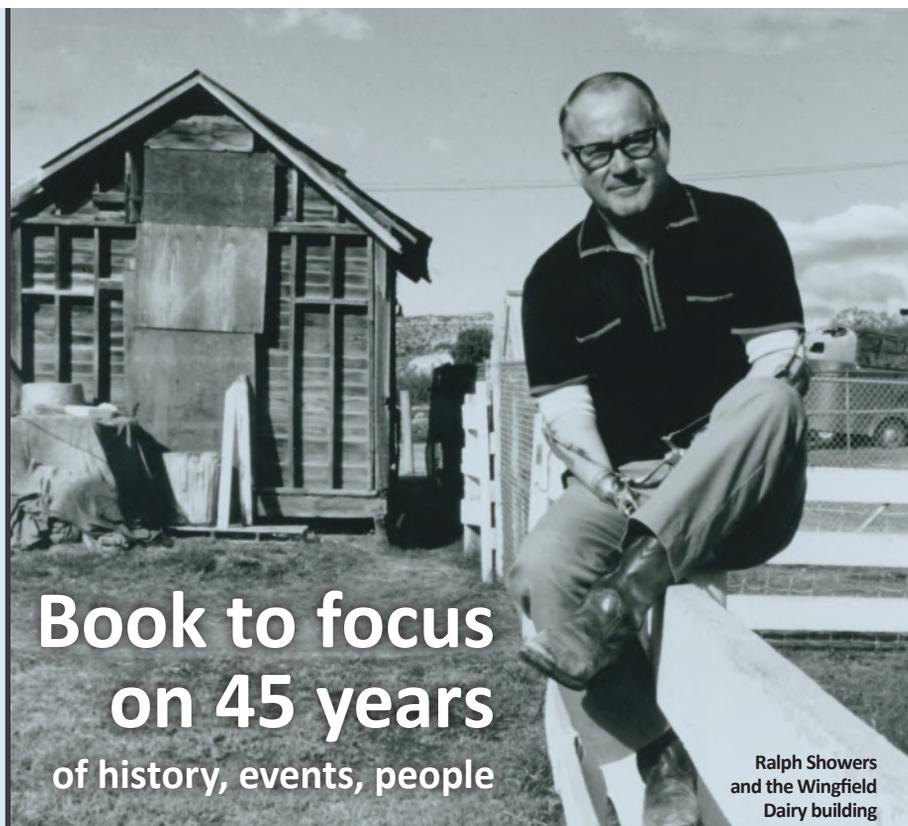
Within two years, Jeff's father passed away. The following year, his older sister died from leukemia. And within five years, his mother succumbed to cancer. Jeff's mother told his caregiver shortly before her death, "Now I know why we were led so strongly, and I am at peace knowing that Jeff is in a caring, happy home."

Today, Jeff's friendly greetings each morning make everyone smile! He shows such enthusiasm in everything he does. Jeff's part-time job is working in the kitchen, helping with putting dishes away and clean-up as needed. This enables him to contribute to his monthly expenses.

Jeff also enjoys helping with the animals in the barn, where he cleans stalls, brushes the horses, and feeds the animals. He participates in Special Olympics golf and enjoys showing off his many medals. He also sings in the traveling Rancher Choir and makes friends wherever the choir goes.

His parents created a Special Needs Trust for Jeff when he was young but over the years the assets have dwindled and his financial need has grown. Jeff has no immediate family and depends on support from the Adopt-A-Rancher Fund to help cover the gap between his resources and monthly expenses.

**If you would like to donate to Adopt-A-Rancher, the Scholarships Fund, or the Good Samaritan Fund, please visit our website ([www.rainbowacres.com](http://www.rainbowacres.com)) or call Dawn Jones, Donor Relations Manager, at (928) 567-5231.**



## Book to focus on 45 years of history, events, people

Ralph Showers  
and the Wingfield  
Dairy building

*To commemorate its 45th anniversary, Rainbow Acres has been working with a distinguished Baptist historian and author who is writing a new book titled “For the Ranchers: A History of Rainbow Acres.” The book has been in development for several years and will present the first comprehensive history of Rainbow Acres.*

*The book’s author is William H. Brackney, the Millard R. Cherry Distinguished Professor of Christian Thought and Ethics, Emeritus, at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada. The author of over 50 books in Post-Reformation thought, Baptist Studies, and human rights, he is also an American Baptist ordained minister and formerly Executive Director of the American Baptist Historical Society and Vice President and Dean of the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pa.*

*To be published this fall, the new book will highlight the history of Rainbow Acres as well as the people – Ranchers, staff members, families, donors and volunteers – who were formative in the development of this unique community. Here’s a compressed book excerpt, related to the founding of Rainbow Acres in 1974.*

**T**he Baptist spiritual destiny of Verde Valley was to blossom in unusual ways through a special couple. Ralph and Marilyn Showers are remarkable people. Their lives are so intertwined with the early development of Rainbow Acres that the narratives are practically one and the same.

Ralph’s first pastoral ministry was short-lived at First Baptist Church in Santa Clara, California, where he was director of Christian Education. Frustrated after a year, he moved his young family to Arizona and landed a staff position at Valley Christian Center in Phoenix. Ralph was hired as a

*Continued >*

*Book, continued*

worker in the bleak inner-city setting with men and boys, essentially as Ralph put it “to play ping pong and pool.”



**Larry Goehner and Ralph Showers**

In 1968, the Showers moved to Ewa Beach, Hawaii on the island of Oahu at the southwest corner of Pearl Harbor. Their work prospered at Ewa Beach and before long the church was in search of a youth minister. A prospect turned up at California Baptist Seminary and Ralph flew to interview Larry Goehner, a young man who would turn out to be a close confidante in Ralph’s dreams. During the ministry in Hawaii, Larry became quite taken with Ralph’s idea of a ranch ministry.

The Showers took a brief vacation to look at the prospects of land in the Wickenburg, Arizona area where Ralph’s family owned property. They journeyed up Oak Creek Canyon, north of Sedona, where the family also owned a cabin.

On their return, they stopped in to see old family friends in Camp Verde, Shirley and Charlotte Brown. The Browns were well known to Marilyn’s family, having been members of her father’s church in Scottsdale. Shirley Brown was a pioneer in his own right, having opened the first pharmacy in the valley in the post-war period in the heart of the village of Camp

Verde. When Ralph and Marilyn shared their dream and the initial turndown from the local bank, the Browns indicated they owned some property in the area and encouraged them to consider developing the ranch in Camp Verde.

Thus, connected to an original purchase of 10 acres from the Browns, three additional parcels of land came together to form the acreage that would soon become Rainbow Acres. Ralph and Marilyn Showers, along with Larry and Joy Goehner, had the assurance of God’s favor when Ralph was offered an interim pastorate at Merryvale Baptist Church in Phoenix, while Larry was offered work at the Camp Verde Indian Mission of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. By coincidence, the 10 acres they had purchased for \$20,000 from the Brown family was located across the road from the Indian Mission Church.

The name “Rainbow Acres” came from recalling the numerous rainbows they had seen forming over the proposed ranch. They both recalled the inspiration of the rainbow in Genesis 9:12-17, a sign of hope, as well as the words of Jesus, “Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto me.” (Matthew 25:40).

Ralph’s dream of a ranch for adults with developmental disabilities would have been difficult enough to realize without the tragedy that occurred on Tuesday, October 23, 1973. That afternoon, Ralph, with C. A. McDonald and a third worker from a nearby dairy farm, moved a ramshackle wooden building from the former Wingfield Dairy to the site of the new ranch. Ralph had purchased the awkward-looking building for \$40 and would use it as the first structure on the site. With young Michael Showers along for the ride, the men rigged the building onto a lowboy trailer for the four-mile move. The building rode high on the trailer and posed an



Rainbow Acres, circa 1975

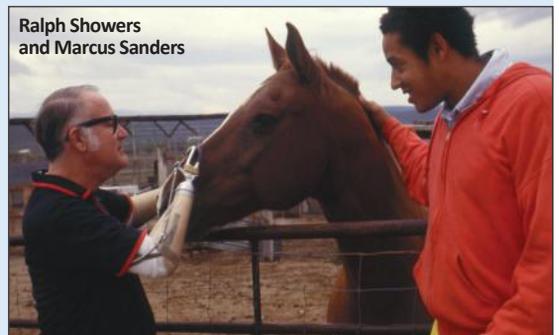
obvious problem for low-suspended utility wires. McDonald made a crude poker stick for Ralph to hold up and fork the wires as they passed along. The assumption they made was nearly fatal: that all the wires were telephone connections and posed no risk of electrocution.

Turning onto Pecan Road that led through the river bottom, the strange load bumped along, with Ralph holding up the telephone lines from place to place and cautiously eyeing the power lines. Just across the Verde River, the nail in the poker stick bent and, as Ralph leaned to keep the wires from touching the tin roof of the building, his back touched the sagging electric power line. Seventy-two hundred volts of electricity shot up his hands and arms and exploded in his head. The pain undulated with excruciating intensity throughout his body and he smelled his own flesh burning. At 37 years old, his life was perilously close to an end. A local businessman named Billy Port Parker, who was close by, pulled him from the connection with the power line.

In God's providence, Ralph and Marilyn's dream continued. As Ralph sustained painful surgeries to amputate his hands and arms to his elbows, and therapy to deal with the burn wounds on his back, friends across America began to pray for his recovery and the continuation of his dream. Ralph was hospitalized for two months. His rehabilitation involved not only his physical recovery but learning how to use prosthetic hooks in place of his hands. Ralph always prided himself on

overcoming obstacles and quickly learned how to use the hooks to operate the telephone, drive vehicles, and take on tasks in ways that enabled him to move forward with his vision for Rainbow Acres. Years later, when asked by a reporter about the accident that would totally alter his life, Ralph replied, "I needed to know what it felt like to be handicapped, and I think God knew that."

The experience of being handicapped directly affected the way Ralph viewed Rainbow Acres and its operating model, veering more toward self-sufficiency. "Larry Goehner and I dreamed of building residential communities for people to live in," Showers wrote in his book "Pickin' Rainbows" in 1991. "We wanted to house them, feed them, insure them. These things cost millions and millions of dollars. Yet when we pulled all the nickels and dimes from our pockets, we had between us a whopping \$145. We turned to God. He guided us to people who could give us or lend us some money to use in a true spirit of stewardship."



Ralph Showers and Marcus Sanders



## Help our Ranchers through **Legacy/Planned Giving**

Imagine you're the parent of an adult child with developmental disabilities. You have spent most of your adult life as a caregiver for your child, but who will care for them after you're gone?

**F**or 45 years, Rainbow Acres has answered this need, with support from donors, volunteers and families. However, adults with disabilities are living longer than ever before, extending their needs and causing them to outlive their families and resources. With donor support, Rainbow Acres can continue to provide a home and purpose for the Ranchers and peace of mind for their families.

Through Legacy Giving, friends of Rainbow Acres can have a long-term impact. Legacy Giving (also known as Planned Giving/Estate Planning) is when an individual chooses to share a portion of their assets or resources.

Your estate is composed of anything you own of monetary value (real estate, stocks, bonds, life insurance, etc.). With a Legacy Gift, you can make a larger donation than you thought possible; take care of your financial needs; and reduce your overall tax burden.

Through a Legacy Gift, your resources can continue to work for you during your lifetime and support a mission that's important to you. There are many ways in which you can make a gift through estate planning, including a bequest in your will, charitable annuities/gifts, life insurance, real estate and more.



## Bequest

A bequest is a gift made through a person's will, which is often the easiest way to make a planned gift. In your will, you may designate Rainbow Acres as a beneficiary for all or a percentage of your estate. Common bequests include cash, appreciated assets (stock, real estate, etc.); a percentage of an estate after final expenses; and residuary bequests (the estate after other beneficiaries have been paid).

## Charitable Remainder Trust

This is an arrangement in which cash or property is donated, but the donor continues to use the property or receive income while they are still living. After the donor's passing, the charity receives the residual amount. With this approach, the donor avoids capital gains taxes on the donated assets. In addition, the assets are removed from the estate, thereby reducing subsequent estate taxes.

## Charitable Gift Annuity

Here, an individual transfers cash or property to Rainbow Acres in exchange for a partial tax deduction and the organization's promise to make fixed annual payments to the donor for the rest of their life. Annuity payments can begin immediately or can be deferred to a future date. When the donor passes, Rainbow Acres keeps the remaining value of the original transfer.

## Charitable IRA Gifts

A Charitable IRA allows individuals age 70½ and older to make charitable gifts from individual retirement accounts (IRAs) directly to Rainbow Acres in any amount up to \$100,000 per year tax free. When donated directly, CIRA gifts can count toward minimum required distributions for your IRA, thereby eliminating taxes on those funds.

## Appreciated Securities

Donors who give gifts of appreciated securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) can save up to 15% on all contributions made. Donors who transfer ownership of appreciated securities are able to claim a charitable income tax deduction for its full market value, but avoid incurring capital gains taxes owed from selling the stock.

## Life Insurance

You can name Rainbow Acres as a beneficiary of all or part of the value of your policy, even while maintaining ownership and access to the value.

## Real Estate

In addition to donating appreciated real estate, there are ways to donate your property, receive a deduction, and retain lifetime rights to its use.



There are many ways to support Rainbow Acres with a Legacy/Planned Gift. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Susan Hall, Director of Legacy Giving, at (602) 321-4346 or [susan@rainbowacres.com](mailto:susan@rainbowacres.com).



## Ranchers to show lambs for first time at Verde Valley Fair

This winter, three Ranchers – Kelly O’Neill, Daniel Cameron and Molly Rodgers – joined the Show Team in Animal Science to raise lambs they plan to show at this year’s Verde Valley Fair. Since all three Ranchers grew up in the suburbs, this was their first experience with raising livestock for the county fair.

In early December, team members drew ear tags out of a hat and met their new lambs for the first time. Each Rancher was responsible for the care and training of their lamb. In January, they took their lambs to livestock fair practice hosted by Camp Verde FFA/PALS. This was the first time our Ranchers (and their lambs) had an official practice. They had a blast! It was challenging and pointed out the work that remained to be done to prepare.

In February and March, the Show Team exercised their lambs by taking them on regular walks, weighing them weekly to figure out their rate of daily gain to make sure they are on target for the fair. They have also practiced their showmanship skills and studied their lamb-related questions to prepare for the show. To keep up with how our Show Team does in the Verde Valley Fair in May, follow us on Facebook. And keep up the great work, Ranchers!



## ‘Employee of Year’ serves Ranchers’ health needs

At the Board of Trustees’ annual dinner in January, Lori Evarrt, LPN, with the Health & Wellness Program, was named the 2018 Employee of the Year at Rainbow Acres. Lori addresses a wide range of the Ranchers’ health needs and was selected by her co-workers for her outstanding dedication and willingness to serve the Ranchers. Presenting the award is Kathy Houser, Board Chair (center) and Gary Wagner, President and CEO.



Evarrt came to the Verde Valley from Oklahoma so she and her husband could be close to his elderly parents. Prior to that, she had lived most of her life in San Diego. She has worked as a nurse in different types of settings, but enjoys her job most when she’s directly involved with her patients. That’s why she loves Rainbow Acres so much. She really enjoys doing the rounds and making house calls – and is quick to volunteer to treat Ranchers when they visit. “Lori is a great communicator as well as a listener,” Christine Walker, Director of Health and Wellness, said. “She has great interpersonal skills and a true heart for what she does.”

## Rainbow receives ‘Golden Plate Award’ for excellence

For the fourth year in a row, Rainbow Acres has received the “Golden Plate Award” from Yavapai County for an exceptionally strong commitment to food safety. In 2018, award recipients operated without a critical food handling violation and have followed a stringent food safety plan under the guidance of a safety-certified manager.



The award was established in 2004 as a joint effort of Yavapai County Community Health Services, the Yavapai County Food Safety Industry Council, and the University of Arizona’s Cooperative Extension Office.

Pictured here following the March 20 ceremony at the Yavapai County offices are Ranchers Darren Alper, David Walker and Marcus Sanders (all members of the kitchen crew) along with Chef April Palmer. Congratulations to all involved. We appreciate your dedication to ensuring high quality food service at the Palmer Community Center!

*Family & Friends Weekend*  
Fri., Oct. 25  
& Sat., Oct. 26, 2019  
Rainbow Acres in Camp Verde

*Save  
the  
Dates!*

*Gala Tribute*  
honoring George and Claudia Ault  
Thurs., Feb. 13, 2020  
Enchantment Resort in Sedona



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