



# Rainbow Acres

A Residential Christian Community  
Serving Adults with  
Developmental Disabilities

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- Friends & Families/  
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The Promise Fall/Winter 2019





## Letter from the President

# First Ranchers are living legacy of 'Keeping the Promise'

When Rainbow Acres was created in 1974, founder Ralph Showers focused on creating a community for male adults with developmental disabilities, largely because the first potential residents all happened to be men who came from families that approached him and expressed interest.



Jeff, Phil and Mike

The first four Ranchers were David Butler, Jeff Pitts, Phillip Crowley and Mike Mattingly. While David passed away in 2018, Jeff, Phillip and Mike this year are celebrating 45 years of living with dignity, respect and purpose at Rainbow Acres. During Family & Friends Weekend this year, we honored this amazing milestone!

Jeff Pitts, Phillip Crowley and Mike Mattingly each have a special story.

When Jeff's peers at Sunday School entered college, he was left behind, lost and alone. His Sunday School teacher, Lory Olson, encouraged his parents, Bill and Barbara, to enroll him at Rainbow

Acres when Jeff was only 18. They weren't sure why they felt compelled to make this life-changing decision, since they were still relatively young. It just seemed the right thing to do for Jeff. The following year, Jeff's sister died from leukemia. Three years later, both of Jeff's parents passed away. Before succumbing to cancer, Jeff's mother told his caregiver at Rainbow Acres, "Now I know why we were led so strongly, and I am at peace knowing that Jeff is in a caring, happy home."

Phillip grew up on a farm in Colorado as part of a large family. While he could do farm work alongside his brothers, his parents, Marjorie and J.W., wanted Phillip to discover his own identity and pursue his personal interests. Soon, they found Rainbow Acres and were excited about the possibilities. Here, Phillip accepted every task assigned to him and mastered many skills. With a keen sense of curiosity about the world around him, travel became one of his greatest sources of joy. He often visits the Learning Center, where he keeps his mental capacity sharp. Phillip gets along very well with the other Ranchers and still likes to take walks around the campus using his walker.

At the time Mike completed his education in Phoenix, there were few opportunities for young adults with Special Needs. His widowed mother,

Margaret, hoped for so much more for her son! Then she discovered Rainbow Acres. As the years passed, Margaret made many sacrifices for Mike to live in the safety and security of the ranch! Mike has seen many things change at Rainbow Acres through the years, but the most exciting development was when he and the other Ranchers (in the early 2000s) moved out of the mobile homes and into houses where they each had a room of their own! When he moved, Mike saved enough money to purchase his own recliner, of which he is very proud.

Arriving 45 years ago as young men, now joining the ranks of senior citizens, these three Ranchers find comfort in knowing that Rainbow Acres is their "forever home"! They never have to worry about what tomorrow holds for them, because Rainbow Acres is "Keeping the Promise" of providing homes with heart and the greatest gift of all: unconditional love.

To everyone who has prayed for the Ranchers, sent gifts of love and support, and volunteered to help the ranch grow, thank you! You're central to our 45th anniversary! We could not have done it without you!

For the Ranchers,

Gary W. Wagner, President & CEO



### The Promise Fall/Winter 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

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Additional photography by Tony Zodrow

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# ‘For the Ranchers’ details Rainbow Acres’ complete history

In conjunction with its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, Rainbow Acres has published a new, large-format book that presents the first comprehensive history of this Christian community for adults with developmental disabilities, from its founding in 1974 by Ralph Showers and its formative years, through the arrival of Gary Wagner in 1996 and its continued growth and expansion.

Unveiled at the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration during Family & Friends Weekend, *For the Ranchers: A History of Rainbow Acres* is now available, with all proceeds benefitting Rainbow Acres in its service to the Ranchers. This limited-edition book is obtainable in two formats: a hard cover edition for \$40 or a soft cover edition for \$30, and can be ordered by mail (with the form included herein) or by calling Rainbow Acres at (928) 567-5231. The book is being made available in time for supporters to purchase as a Christmas gift for friends and relatives.

In addition to the chronological events of the Rainbow Acres story, the new book explores vital aspects of the community’s culture and many

individuals who were instrumental to its development. Drawing on internal documents, interviews and scrapbooks, and enhanced by never-before-published photographs, *For the Ranchers: A History of Rainbow Acres* is an in-depth look at an inspired – and inspiring – way to empower adults with special needs to live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose.

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.

The book features a Foreword by Tony Campolo, an American sociologist, pastor, author and public speaker. Campolo is known as one of the most influential leaders in the evangelical

left and has been a major proponent of progressive thought and reform within the evangelical community. Campolo also has become a leader of the Red-Letter Christian movement, which emphasizes the teachings of Jesus, and has been a popular television commentator on religious, political and social issues for over two decades.

Both Brackney and Campolo have visited Rainbow Acres and write from a personal perspective of appreciation for Rainbow Acres as a unique ministry serving the needs of adults with developmental disabilities. Brackney attended the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at Rainbow Acres in 2014; Campolo visited the ranch in 2007.

The book was compiled and edited by Tony Zodrow, a consultant to Rainbow Acres with over 30 years of experience in non-profit communications and marketing. Zodrow spent many hours combing through boxes of photos at Rainbow Acres and curating the photo selection process. The book was designed by Carol Shanahan, an accomplished graphic designer, whose incredible skills were instrumental to the book’s rich look and feel.

In his acknowledgments, Wagner wrote, “Rainbow Acres founder Ralph Showers and I first met in 1976 – and our paths crossed many times between then

and 1996, when I assumed the role of President. I was humbled to build upon his vision and privileged to call him my friend. However, age-old wisdom holds true, “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” The Rainbow Acres of today was created through the efforts of many individuals who provided unconditional love and support for the Ranchers.”

This book pays tribute to those who influenced and contributed to the development of Rainbow Acres over the years, and is intended to serve as a legacy to the Ranchers, parents/guardians, church groups, board members, volunteers, donors, employees and countless friends and supporters who assisted in creating the Rainbow Acres we know and love today.

- 1 Early staff meeting with (front, from left) Susan Barnett, Ralph Showers and Ellie Nakano; (back, from left) Larry Goehner, Pat Needham, Roberta Patrick, Glen Young and Rose Young (1974)
- 2 Early entryway to Rainbow Acres, circa 1978
- 3 Riding horses, like Rancher Mike Mattingly here, was a frequent pastime (1974)
- 4 Gary Wagner, Ralph Weinland, Ginny Palmer and Rev. Duane Gibson at the Palmer Community Center groundbreaking ceremony (2008)
- 5 Glory Hill, completed by groups from five churches, offers a tranquil place for prayer and reflection

*Continued >*

# FOR THE RANCHERS

A HISTORY OF RAINBOW ACRES

## ORDER FORM



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Book Description</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hard-Cover Edition	_____	@ \$40.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Soft-Cover Edition	_____	@ \$30.00	\$ _____
		SUB-TOTAL	\$ _____
		S&H (\$5/book)	\$ _____
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Please add \$5.00 per book for shipping/handling and allow 10-14 days for delivery.  
Make checks payable to Rainbow Acres. Book purchases are not tax deductible.

Please charge my:  VISA  MC  AMEX Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ CCV# \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(REQUIRED)

Enabling a new Rancher to become

# HER "OWN PERSON"

by Rancher Carol Curtis

*(Editor's note: Carol moved to Rainbow Acres in January 2019 and immediately began to acclimate to life on the ranch. She delivered this testimonial at the Legacy Luncheon during Family & Friends Weekend to summarize her experiences, including her participation in the Tonto Rim Christian Retreat, and did such a beautiful job that we wanted to share her comments with our readers.)*

It means the world to me to be living at Rainbow Acres. I thank God every single day for blessing me with such a wonderful place to live. My life has been impacted with an abundance of joy, love, and happiness here at Rainbow Acres. Living away from home without my parents was very scary at first but I'm finding that I'm growing and becoming my own person now.

Two very special experiences I've had here at Rainbow Acres were going to Tonto Rim Christian Camp in Payson, Arizona, where I got to go kayaking for the very first time, and attending Pauline Guthrie's Birthday Party Dinner at Dakin House.

I love all of my housemates in Nash House very much. I'm an only child, so now it is like having nine Rainbow sisters! One friend I made here at Rainbow Acres was very special to me, however. His name is Robert Muller. He has a great personality, a wonderful sense of humor, and was fun to talk to.

He reminded me of my Grandfather and has since moved away. I will never forget him.

I have learned so many great things here. My favorite thing to do is weaving. Right now, I'm making a rug in weaving. I also do stepping stones which is making colorful designs onto ceramic plates. I take an equine class, self-esteem class, computer publishing class, etc. I have learned how to use the cash register in the Gift Shop too. I've learned how to make jewelry as well. There are so many learning opportunities available here at Rainbow Acres.

I'm so thankful and blessed to be living here at Rainbow Acres. My Dad wanted me to be here. We visited Rainbow Acres multiple times while he was alive, and I know now that he and my Mom are both smiling down and watching me from

Heaven above because I'm their legacy. Thank you all for being here to share my legacy with me.  
God Bless you all!

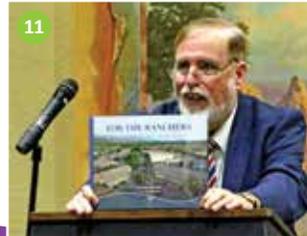




Rainbow Acres  
45<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
Keeping the Promise!

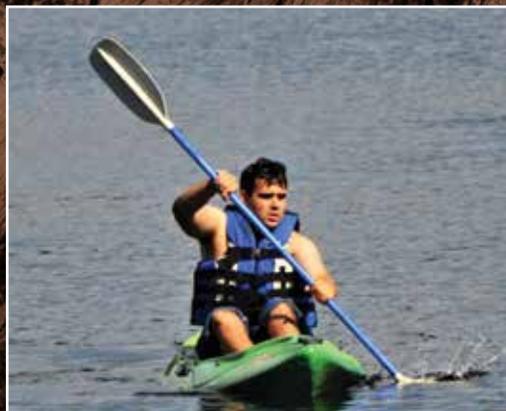
# FAMILY & FRIENDS CELEBRATE

Rainbow Acres hosted Family & Friends Weekend in late October, which doubled as our 45th Anniversary celebration! Activities included a Talent Show Thursday evening, the unveiling of the new Rainbow Acres book Friday night, and an Open House on Saturday for family, friends and the public. Visitors toured Rancher homes, the barn and newly-restored greenhouses, the Worden Taber Center and the Daehler Building. Guests attended an incredible concert with the Rancher Choir Friday evening following the unveiling of the new coffee-table book on the history of Rainbow Acres. On Saturday, Ranchers provided demonstrations in the Barn area and the Palmer Community Center, which was followed by the BBQ picnic on the grounds. A big THANK YOU to the volunteers from Hillside Community Church for their support. What a great way to celebrate 45 years of serving adults with Special Needs at Rainbow Acres!



1. Group performance at Thursday night's "Rainbow's Got Talent" Show
2. Talent Show co-host Kelly O'Neill introduced the various acts
3. Talent Show co-host Greg Alper shared the introductions
4. The Schock twins perform for the Ranchers, families and guests
5. Joseph Lindsey sings and dances (with back-up support)
6. Daniel Cameron performs jokes and puns with his Dad
7. Austin Harris completes his sing-along to an Alan Jackson tune
8. CEO Gary Wagner displays the first donation check Rainbow Acres ever received
9. Wagner with those donors: Phillip and Bonny Harvey of Camp Verde, who gave \$50 in 1973
10. The Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer, General Secretary of American Baptist Churches of the USA (ABCUSA), serving as keynote speaker at the Legacy Luncheon
11. Author Dr. William Brackney displays the new coffee-table book *For the Ranchers: A History of Rainbow Acres* issued in celebration of the 45th anniversary
12. The Rainbow Acres Choir enthusiastically performs songs from *The Sound of Music* and *Mary Poppins* following the book unveiling
13. Book sales were brisk during Saturday morning's Open House activities
14. Everyone gathers for the Saturday barbecue on the Daehler Building lawn
15. Volunteers from Hillside Community Church of Alta Loma, CA prepare the food
16. Kelly O'Neill delivers a Rancher Presentation on the digestive system of the horse
17. Chipeta Difani speaks about miniature donkeys like the one that lives at Rainbow Acres
18. Rob Mills talks about the water cycle and its importance to farming in Arizona
19. The recently-renovated Worden Taber Center, including the Computer Lab, hosted visitors
20. The Gift Shop saw lots of traffic (and sales) throughout the three-day weekend

# New camp provides spiritual renewal, inspiration for all



In September, over 70 Ranchers and staff members attended a new Rainbow Acres event: "Inspirational Camp" at Tonto Rim Christian Camp located on the Mogollon Rim near Payson, AZ. This event was underwritten by the Worden Endowment, which was funded by long-time Rainbow Acres donors and volunteers Phyllis and Winston Worden.

The three-day camp included activities such as playing outdoor games, hiking along a creek and into the opening of a cave, and swimming and kayaking at nearby Willow Springs Lake. At the end of the day, the Ranchers sang campfire songs and made S'mores around the fire.

Worship and inspirational teaching were provided by special guests Pastor Shaker Samuel, his wife Nicolette, and their daughter Hannah of First Baptist Church, Murphysboro, IL. Nicolette and Hannah led the group in song, teaching new hymns and setting a worshipful atmosphere. Life lessons from God's Word were provided by Pastor Shaker. He challenged everyone to look inward and contemplate their relationship with God and each other.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for our Ranchers and staff to enjoy the beautiful

outdoors, experience fellowship with one another, and renew their relationship with their Creator," Rainbow Acres Chaplain Mitch Koonce said. "The camp experience clearly exceeded everyone's expectations."

The mornings were filled with outdoor activities suited to the Ranchers' individual tastes: soccer, bocce, cornhole, basketball, and horseshoes while others enjoyed doing crafts and relaxing indoors. And, as with all gatherings, there was plenty of good food. Even the staff got involved with their own "talent show" after dinner one evening.

One of the most exciting activities for the Ranchers was kayaking in the lake. Several Ranchers had their first experience trying to navigate a kayak and were ably assisted by staff members Rodolfo Martinez and Leonard Filner as they were cheered on by other Ranchers.

With the camp experience proving to be so popular, dates and plans already have been set for next year, as this looks to become a new annual event!



# Donate Today in Memory or Tribute of a Loved One

**Y**ou can pay tribute to a loved one with a gift to Rainbow Acres in their honor or memory!

Over the years, friends of Rainbow Acres have honored parents, siblings and other loved ones, as well as long-time friends and acquaintances, some of whom have had a pre-existing relationship with Rainbow Acres and its mission. Through a memorial or tribute gift, you can have a long-term impact on Rainbow Acres and leave a lasting legacy to those who mean the most to you.

You can make a memory or tribute gift in a number of ways: by donating cash, appreciated securities, real estate, or other tangible personal property.

**Cash** is one of the most common types of memorial or tribute gifts, and can be

made by check, credit card or money order. Cash can also be provided through a payment on death (POD) account or certificate of deposit that names Rainbow Acres as the beneficiary. You can provide a cash donation through your will or living trust or through a charitable gift annuity. With your gift, you can establish a donor-advised fund or endowment that underwrites a specific need.

**Securities and mutual funds** that have been held for more than one year are also one of the most popular assets to use when making a memorial or tribute gift to Rainbow Acres. When you donate appreciated securities or mutual funds, you can reduce or even eliminate federal capital gains taxes on the transfer. You may also be entitled to a federal income

tax charitable deduction based on the fair market value of the securities at the time of the transfer.

If you'd like to provide a large gift that doesn't impact your cash on-hand, you can provide a gift of **real estate** now or through your will. When the property has been held longer than one year, you can qualify for a federal income tax charitable deduction. This eliminates capital gains tax. And you no longer have to deal with that property's maintenance costs, property taxes or insurance. An additional benefit is not having to hassle with selling the real estate.

**Other tangible property** (such as antiques, works of art, cars, boats or other personal property) can make suitable gifts. The financial benefits rely on when Rainbow Acres can liquidate

or utilize the property. Related-use property (for example, appliances that can be used in Rancher homes) is deductible at the fair-market value. Items that are unrelated to our use may qualify for a deduction that is limited to the lesser of fair market value or your tax basis in the property.

A gift in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone's achievements is one of the most personal ways of supporting Rainbow Acres. It is a wonderful approach to show how much you care about someone. Your donation helps Rainbow Acres serve the Ranchers while you honor someone you love and appreciate.



There are many ways to support Rainbow Acres with a Memorial or Tribute Gift. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Dawn Jones, Donor Relations Manager, at (928) 567-5231 or email her at [dawn@rainbowacres.com](mailto:dawn@rainbowacres.com). You can also visit the Rainbow Acres website for more information.

## SHADE-HOUSE/ GREENHOUSE: Together offer advantages

Following the destruction of two conventional Greenhouses by high winds during a severe storm in August 2018, two new crop-growing structures have been redesigned and rebuilt to withstand 90-mile per hour winds – and to provide a system for producing year-round vegetables.

The Shade-house (shown on the left) provides a cooler environment for warm-season crops during the summer, including tomatoes, peppers, corn and carrots, which will be planted in the late spring and harvested in July before the onset of monsoon season. The Shade-house will be used during the early Fall to germinate seeds of winter crops including lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, spinach, kale, collard greens, beets, radishes and turnips.

Seedlings are then transplanted to the Greenhouse (shown on the right) before the onset of winter temperatures. This novel structure was built using “plastiglas” to allow maximum light and better resistance to strong winds. Winter crops grown in the Greenhouse will be harvested during the winter and early spring seasons. The Greenhouse will also be used to germinate seeds of warm-season crops during the late spring, which reduces risk from late freezing events.

These seedlings are then transplanted to either the Shade-house or the outdoor garden at the onset of warm temperatures. Warm-season crops that require larger space to grow (such as squash, zucchini, cucumber, watermelon and cantaloupe) are ideal for the outdoor garden.



## NEW H&W CENTER: Moving into 21<sup>ST</sup> Century of Care

For over 15 years, the Health & Wellness Center has been located in an outdated double-wide trailer but recently relocated to Baldwin House, which offered a beautiful, spacious location to provide on-site medical care for the Ranchers.

The key characteristics are a main lobby and waiting room that has a calming effect on the Ranchers with soothing colors, modern artwork, and an inviting reception desk; an alcove designed just for “weigh day” (one of the most popular H&W activities); treatment rooms that provide privacy and can be used by our nurses as well as our visiting primary care physician and for mobile lab and x-ray services; and private offices that allow Ranchers and their families to share their concerns without being heard in other areas of the building. Plans also included a new storage room, an educational room, and a dedicated room for storing medical records.

Thank you to the Rainbow Acres donors who made this possible as well as the Buildings and Grounds crew and Paul Higgins (VP of Finance who also served as IT expert for the project). H&W now has room for its copiers, fax machines and office equipment plus Wi-Fi access as well. The staff feels like they’ve never been so blessed in providing their services to the Ranchers!





# Rainbow Acres

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2120 W. Reservation Loop Road  
Camp Verde, Arizona 86322

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