

THE RAINBOW PROMISE

Because every heart & soul holds a rainbow.

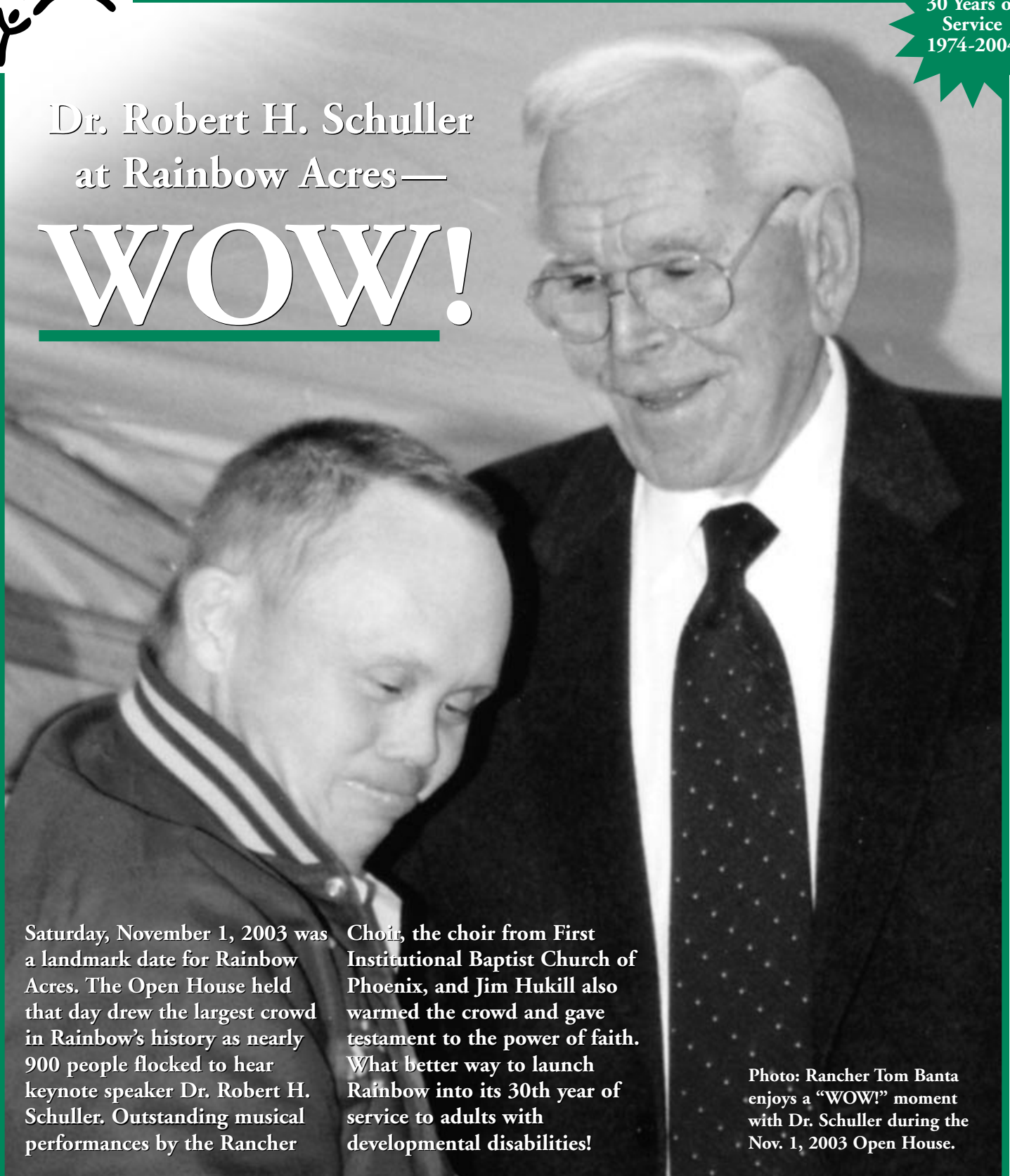
Volume 19, Number 1 • Founded in 1974 by Ralph and Marilyn Showers



30 Years of
Service
1974-2004

Dr. Robert H. Schuller
at Rainbow Acres—

WOW!



Saturday, November 1, 2003 was a landmark date for Rainbow Acres. The Open House held that day drew the largest crowd in Rainbow's history as nearly 900 people flocked to hear keynote speaker Dr. Robert H. Schuller. Outstanding musical performances by the Rancher

Choir, the choir from First Institutional Baptist Church of Phoenix, and Jim Hukill also warmed the crowd and gave testament to the power of faith. What better way to launch Rainbow into its 30th year of service to adults with developmental disabilities!

Photo: Rancher Tom Banta enjoys a "WOW!" moment with Dr. Schuller during the Nov. 1, 2003 Open House.



President's Message:

Growing Rainbow, Growing Ranchers!

It is a fact of life that a muscle that is not used or exercised will atrophy and wither away. Every muscle in the human body is needed to sustain life and growth. When the smallest muscle is neglected, the whole body begins to experience decline, one muscle after another. When too many muscles are damaged or waste away, the whole body just withers away.

The same can be said of the heart, mind, and spirit. The heart was meant to receive love and to share love! Receiving love without the opportunity to share it, the heart begins to wither away.

Sometime ago, a public awareness campaign stated that "a mind is a terrible thing to waste." It did not specify a brilliant mind, or even an average mind; it simply said "a mind." Minds must grow, or they go to waste.

The human spirit was meant to soar, ever winding and ascending to new heights, ultimately uniting with the Spirit of God. No matter the nature of the shell in which the spirit lives, the spirit was meant to soar! But if the spirit cannot grow, it cannot soar, and it will wither away.

In January, I encouraged the Rainbow Acres Board to adopt a bold plan with a new theme for the next four years: "Growing Rainbow Acres that the Ranchers may Grow!" In short, "Growing Rainbow,

Growing Ranchers!" We'll continue to grow the facilities we need, but while we are building structures, we will be making programs and services for the Ranchers an equal priority. Exciting days are ahead for the Ranchers as we develop new Rancher employment opportunities, animal therapy programs, social events, recreational activities, vocational-educational programs, and spiritual growth experiences. We never want a muscle, heart, mind, or spirit to atrophy and wither away.

Please join us in "Growing Rainbow that the Ranchers may Grow!"

For the Ranchers,

Gary W. Wagner
President and CEO



A Rancher receives a loving hug from her sister at Rainbow's recent Open House.

Photo by Stan Cedarlef

The Rainbow Promise

Published quarterly by Rainbow Acres

Dr. Ralph K. Showers

Founder

Gary W. Wagner

President and CEO

Michael L. Mayhew

Designer/Writer/Photographer

Rainbow Acres is an independent, not-for-profit Christian ministry related to the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. Founded in 1974, Rainbow Acres provides homes for developmentally disabled adults and fosters their emotional, cognitive, physical, social, spiritual, and vocational development. It is licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services, and is governed by an independent, self-perpetuating Board of Trustees from Arizona and across the nation.

This ministry is made possible through generous regional and national contributions from numerous churches of all faiths, as well as individuals, foundations, and corporations. Rainbow Acres has been designated a 501(c) (3) institution by the Internal Revenue Service. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the IRS code.

FAITH CONNECTION

By Patrick Pang, VP for Advancement & Church Relations



Photo by Stan Cedarlef

Homes & Hearts Inspired by Faith was the central theme of the November 1, 2003 Open House.

The program at Rainbow Acres enables the Ranchers to achieve spiritual growth! Rose and I worshiped with the Rancher Choir in Sedona recently. One of the songs* the Rancher Choir sang reflects a mature relationship with Jesus. They commenced:

*The greatest thing in all my life is **knowing** you,
The greatest thing in all my life is knowing you;
I want to know you more, I want to know you more;
The greatest thing in all my life is knowing you,*

*The greatest thing in all my life is **servi**ng you,
The greatest thing in all my life is serving you;
I want to serve you more, I want to serve you more;
The greatest thing in all my life is serving you,*

*The greatest thing in all my life is **lovi**ng you,
The greatest thing in all my life is loving you;
I want to love you more, I want to love you more;
The greatest thing in all my life is loving you,*

*The Greatest Thing, © Sparrow Song/Candle Co., music & words by Mark Pendergrass

In 2003, the Ranchers were able to know, to serve, and to love God more because of intercessory prayer and love provided by supporters like you! We are counting on your prayers and support in 2004, as together we strive to assist each Rancher to achieve **“spiritual growth to his or her fullest potential.”**

Jesus said, **“Truly, I say to you, as you do it to one of the least of these My brethren, you do it to Me.”** (Matthew 25:40)

“...spiritual growth to his or her fullest potential.”

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TRIBUTES

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 John Anderson Mr. & Mrs. William H. Jacob
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 MMAP Volunteers Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Bladorn
 Bob & Ruth Wheaton Wilbur & Ellen Ann Wheaton
 Scott Wissen Karen Matthews
 Bill & Hilda Young Dorothy Ashley

“I’ll tell you who I’m going to I’m going to

*Dr. Robert H. Schuller
wife prior to visit*

Saturday, November 1, 2003 Open House and New Home Dedication

With almost 900 people in attendance, the Rainbow grounds were nearly overflowing with Ranchers, friends, family, and special guests. The crowd was treated to a special occasion of fellowship and inspiring messages. Four new homes in Rainbow’s **Building Homes with Heart Capital Campaign** were dedicated: Hoover House, Evergreen House, Agape House, and Koinonia House.

If you missed this special event, but would like a copy of the program, please call Rainbow at 928-567-5231.



Rancher Bill Downs greets Dr. Schuller.



Dr. Schuller tours the Rainbow grounds.



Hillside Community Church lunches that drew rave reviews.

Rancher Gordon Stewart, Gary Wagner,

QUOTES FROM THE DAY

“We have but one vision — to build hearts and homes inspired by faith.”

*Gary W. Wagner, President/CEO,
Rainbow Acres*

“...Governor Janet Napolitano...proclaims November 1, 2003 as Rainbow Acres Day.”

*Virginia Turner, N. AZ Representative from
AZ Governor’s office*

“...when I tell a story of people...I talk about

Tom O’Halleran, AZ Senator

g to see (at Rainbow Acres), o see God!”

er, in talking with his
ing Rainbow Acres



and Dr. Schuller share a few moments.



Photo by Stan Cedarleaf

prepared 800 boxed
s from all who partook.



The Rancher Choir performed for a very enthusiastic crowd.



The crowd was literally lifted from their seats by the joyous energy of the First Institutional Baptist of Phoenix choir (above), and by the power of Jim Hukill’s magnificent singing voice (left).



Rancher Tom Banta suddenly recognized the person speaking as the wonderful man he faithfully tunes into every Sunday morning, and rushed to the stage to embrace Dr. Schuller.

about the generosity
ut Rainbow Acres...”

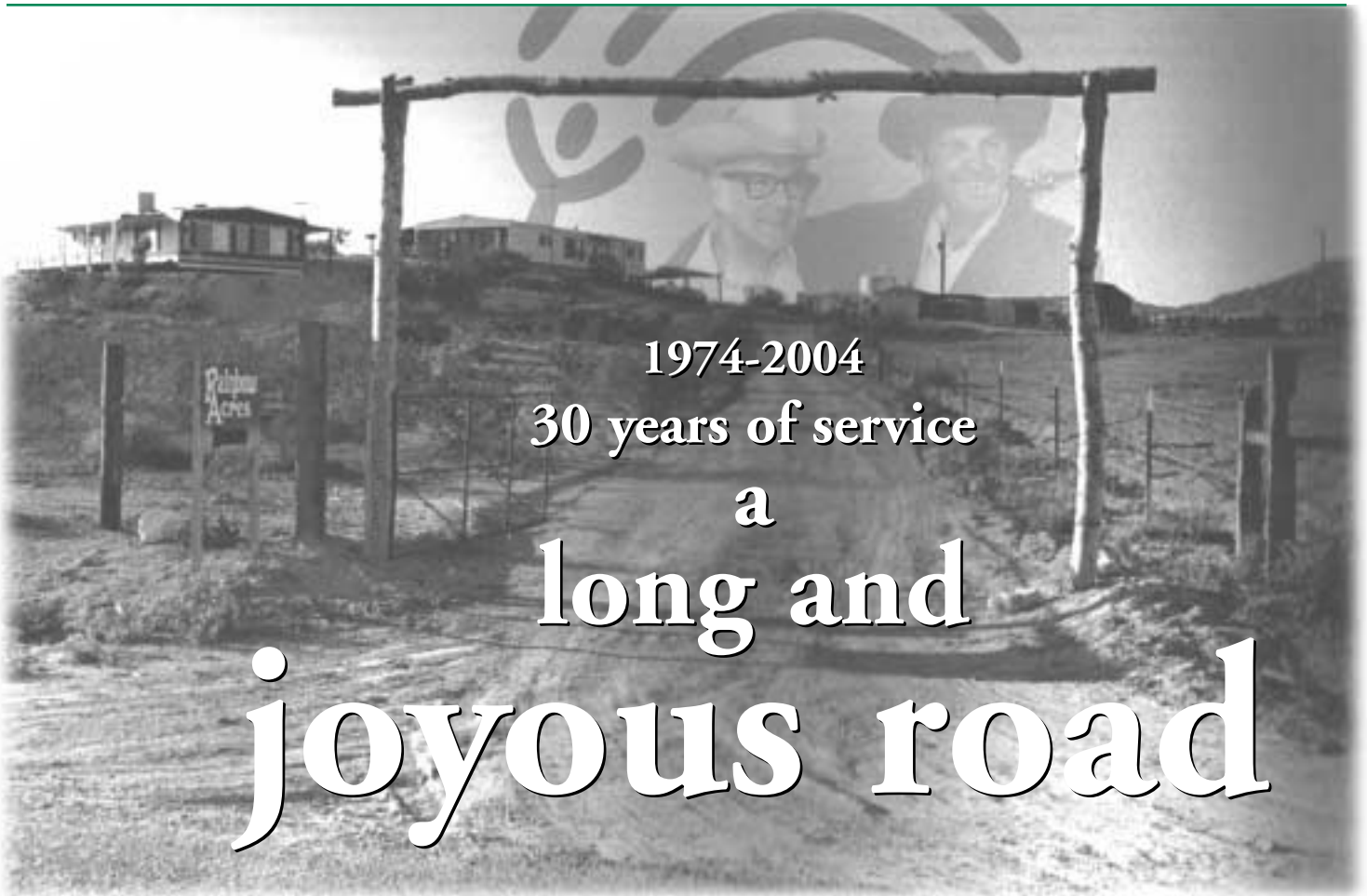
State Legislator

“The fellowship and friendship that has bloomed here today is what Rainbow Acres is all about.”

Dr. Pearl Lansing, Secretary/Treasurer,
Rainbow Acres Board of Trustees

“And all of God’s people said WOW!”

Everyone



1974-2004
30 years of service
a
long and
joyous road

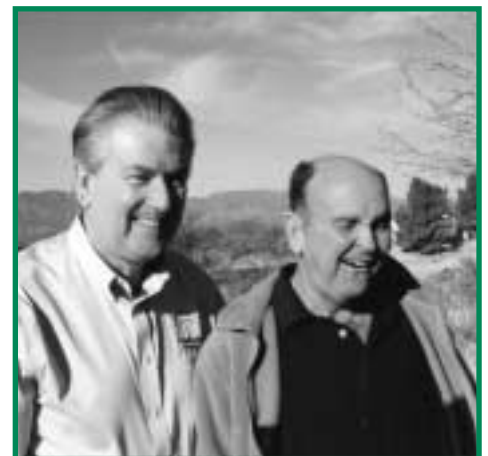
June 1, 2004 will begin Rainbow Acres 30th year of service to adults with developmental disabilities. It has been thirty years filled with many accomplishments, but most notably it has been thirty years of Ranchers striving for a better life. Of caring and loving staff acting as pathfinders for Ranchers as they improve themselves, expand their abilities, and deepen their spiritual understanding. The journey has not always been easy. The road has been marked with tears and frustration, but it has also been illuminated by joy. It would be tempting on such a 30th anniversary to pontificate upon organizational goals met and to unfurl scrolls of statistical data validating program performance.

But self-congratulatory praise is not what we strive to teach the Ranchers, and is not a model we wish to set for our own look backward.

Better than that, is a heart-felt thank you to all who have made these first thirty years possible. First and foremost, thank you to a loving God who has blessed us. Thank you to Dr. Ralph Showers for his courage and tenacity in founding Rainbow. Thank you to the parents and guardians who entrusted the care of their loved ones to us. Thank you to the caring and loving staff whose personal sacrifices are too numerous to detail. Thank you to the Ranchers for all that they teach us. And thank you to supporters and volunteers who helped make Rainbow's mission come to life.

For you see, when all is said and done, Rainbow Acres is not about organizational milestones. Rainbow Acres is about an idea that will never die. The idea that God's love can work miracles.

Please join us in putting that powerful idea to work for another 30 years.



Above photo: A recent photo of Rainbow President Gary Wagner and Rancher David Butler.

Headline image: The Rainbow Acres entrance circa 1974 (by James Hammer).

Horizon photo: Dr. Showers and Rancher David Butler from the early years (by Dr. Ronald Wright).

Ranchers Serving Their Community

Ranchers want to be integral parts of the communities in which they live and work. This includes communities outside the borders of Rainbow Acres.

Several Ranchers are active participants in the Camp Verde Kiwanis club. Their membership provides an opportunity to be involved in community activities

and to give of themselves. Such commitment is a tangible expression of Rainbow's mission — helping Ranchers achieve their full potential.

“I really want to help people,” said Rancher Greg Dawson after his recent Kiwanis induction ceremony. “This is a chance to help people as I grow as a person.”



Rancher Greg Dawson after his induction ceremony. Rancher Mark Buehring is also active in Kiwanis.

A Trip to be Remembered

By Rancher Mark Buehring

On Friday the 24th of October, the State Fair group embarked on a trip of memorable proportions. Upon reaching our destination, finding designated parking was a bit tricky. Approaching the fairgrounds, we encountered

some gut-wrenching rides, of which Sandy Koonce and Mark Tutterow thrived on. The food vendors were numerous enough to satisfy any hearty appetite. Overall, the temperature was steamy, but didn't wilt the spirits of the Rancher fair goers.

Foreground, left to right: Mark Tutterow, David Butler, Marcus Sanders.

Background, left to right: Howard Macklem, Rory Faker, Rick Bruner, Mark Buehring.



Photo by Martha Kowalski

Caregiving
*Angels
wanted*

Does your life lack a sense of mission?
Do you long to put your faith into
action? Rainbow Acres needs loving,
mature, responsible individuals to
serve as caregivers. We also need
long-term volunteers. Please call us
to find out how you can become a
“caregiving angel.”

Put your faith to work!

928-554-8410

Ask for Donnie

The **EAGLE** has landed!

Rainbow Acres recently received its EAGLE Program accreditation. EAGLE stands for “Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence,” and is an accreditation program of the United Methodist Assn. Of Health and Welfare Ministries.

“The accreditation process was exhaustive and looked at virtually every facet of how we do things,”

reports Rainbow President and CEO Gary Wagner. “We have achieved this important milestone years ahead of our stated schedule. This third party endorsement of how we do business provides a validation that will be important in seeking large grants.”

Out of a maximum of 100 points, Rainbow scored an impressive 91 points in its accreditation review.



Left to right: Rancher Steve Brehm, Rainbow President Gary Wagner, and the EAGLE peer review team.



An accreditation program of the United Methodist Association Of Health and Welfare Ministries.



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