



Rainbow Acres

...THE

Promise

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RENEWAL

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MISSION

Rainbow Acres is a Christian Community with heart that empowers persons with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose.

RAINBOW ACRES

Founded in 1974, Rainbow Acres is an independent, not-for-profit Christian ministry associated with the American Baptist Churches USA. 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 is a 501(c) (3) organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service, and all contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the IRS code.

Rainbow Acres is an Eagle Accredited Organization as established by the Accreditation Commission of the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries.



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COVER PHOTO: Nancy McGraw working in the greenhouse.

Printed in the USA.

Springtime:



Gary W. Wagner
President & CEO

REBIRTH. RENEWAL.

It's springtime in Arizona! The tree buds are casting a pale green tint across the Verde Valley. The cactus of every shape and kind are pushing up buds preparing for the beautiful blossom to come! Springtime is a time of rebirth and renewal!

The Ranchers see it coming! Some feel it coming in allergy season! Most witness the arrival of spring just as you and I witness it, coming on warm gentle breezes. Evenings are filled with Ranchers walking Hoover Circle with friends, oft time joined by employees living on the Ranch, and volunteers who are thrilled with the Ranchers' conversations.

"In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." These words are from the poem, "Locksley Hall," by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Spring is the season for love. That is true at Rainbow Acres, too. Ranchers have often shared with me how much they wish they could experience not only romantic love, but the commitment of love and marriage. Imagine the heartfelt disappointment that they may never experience that kind of love.

Nevertheless, the Ranchers do experience that love known as "agape" or unconditional love. And that is renewing and giving birth to many dimensions of personal growth. The rebirth and renewal of spring takes place in so many ways. Just as it takes time for the trees, cactus and shrubs to grow strong enough to present their beautiful blossoms, it takes each Rancher time to blossom and bloom!

When a Rancher's formal education ends at 21 or 22, it is at a time when they are just beginning to grow in so many ways. They are growing in relationships, cognitive ability, independence, and ability to accept responsibilities. For a Rancher, every season is Spring, the season for love, new personal growth, rebirth and renewal. Even when aging takes its toll, a Rancher can be reborn and renewed spiritually. They and we can continue growing spiritually until our last fleeting breath and it is spring, again!

To everyone who has shared in the ministry of Rainbow Acres in every season of life, Thank You!!! It takes a lot of prayer, commitment and sharing of gifts to transform a life for a season of rebirth and renewal. It empowers each Rancher to become all that God calls them to be. Thank you for sharing in the lives of Ranchers!

For the Ranchers!



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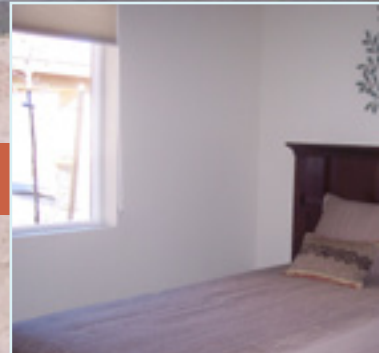
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An Added Dimension

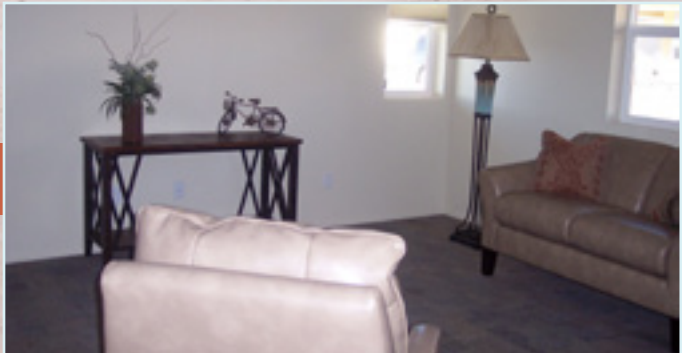
RAINBOW ACRES APARTMENTS



Two four-unit apartment buildings are now complete on the Rainbow Acres campus, and a Certificate of Occupancy has been issued by the Town of Camp Verde. State Housing Funds assisted with making this dream a reality, creating an Equal Housing Opportunity for low-income individuals who also meet Rainbow's eligibility standards.

One of the eight apartments provides a home for the manager of the complex, Flora Li, who will see that rules are followed and check on the health and safety of residents. The Ranchers who are chosen to live in the apartments must show an ability to budget, buy groceries and prepare meals, do their own laundry and housecleaning chores, and administer their own medications.

It's just one more facet of how Rainbow Acres continues to find ways to support the whole person and allow individuals with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential.





Servants on Wheels

VOLUNTEER AT RAINBOW ACRES' BARN, WEAVING STUDIO

Improving drainage at the stable, readying a location for hay storage, and assisting Ranchers with weaving projects are some of the recent contributions to Rainbow Acres made by volunteers with Servants On Wheels Ever Ready (SOWERS).

Through SOWERS, more than 550 retired couples travel in their recreational vehicles, to nonprofits around the country. The volunteers offer their time, energy and free labor.

SOWERS, a nonprofit based in rural eastern

Texas, connects Christian couples with Christian-focused U.S. organizations that need assistance with remodeling, painting, kitchen work and other projects. The volunteers must go through an interview process and pass strenuous background checks.

Rainbow Acres provides SOWERS with recreational vehicle hookups and tools and oversight for the work at hand.

Gary and Laura Fay from Washington State have been part of the

SOWERS ministry since 1995, and Meredith and Carol Nering of Oregon are in their fourth year of participation. These four special people recently spent several weeks of service at Rainbow Acres. In addition to their work at the barn and weaving studio, the volunteers helped with preparing a large mailing.

The next group of SOWERS will arrive at Rainbow Acres in October.

In total, more than 300 people volunteer their time at Rainbow

TOP PHOTO: SOWER volunteers Meredith and Carol Nering and Laura and Gary Fay outside their RV's after a day of helping at Rainbow.

Acres each year. Volunteers provide a valuable service by helping stretch precious resources and critical contributions.

We need a variety of service work from our volunteers that ranges from driving Ranchers to doctor appointments to helping us maintain our property. These capable volunteers have done it all, from installing fencing and replacing signs to spending time learning from and supporting our Ranchers.

Our “wish list” to be completed through future volunteer work includes:

- *Finishing the Memory Walk*
- *Building a patio for the Learning Center*
- *Renovating the Abrendt House roof*
- *Replacing doors on various older buildings*

To learn more about volunteering opportunities, email info@rainbowacres.com or call 928.567.5231.



Laura Fay puts finishing touches on placemats in the weaving studio.



(From left) John Plvac, local volunteer and son of a Rainbow staff member, helps SOWER volunteers Meredith Nering and Gary Fay place poles for a round pen near the T.E.t.R.A. barn.

RIDE
for a
RAINBOW
RANCHER
Update...

Have you ever wanted to bike and hike in an absolutely beautiful place and while doing so, make a difference in the life of a Rainbow Acres Rancher? A wonderful trip is planned for you from September 30 to October 5. Two days of riding on excellent, high tech mountain bikes are planned, as well as one day of hiking in the stunning Red Rocks of Sedona. You'll visit an ancient Indian site. Best of all, you will have opportunities to learn and grow from some of the greatest people on Earth, the Rainbow Acres Ranchers!

If you have questions, you may reach event planner and bike/hike leader Pastor Gregg A. Sneller at gpc1926@gmail.com or 971-207-9263. The cost for each participant is \$500, which includes a contribution to Rainbow. To register, please contact Margie Beach at margie@rainbowacres.com or 928-567-5231.



A Lot in Common...

Do you like to keep your home neat and picked up? Do you like to hum or sing along when you hear old favorite songs? Do you enjoy hugs, good food and funny stories?

Rancher
Debbie Pettit



If you like all these things, you have a lot in common with Debbie Pettit.

Debbie came to Rainbow Acres in 1985, when she was thirty-four years old. Her mother had passed away and her father was happy to find a place where Debbie could have a productive life in a safe environment. Her physical health is good but cognitive difficulties make it impossible for her to live successfully on her own. Debbie's father and brother are gone now, too, leaving her with no immediate family to help or advocate for her. Imagine what her life might be like if she didn't have a home at Rainbow!

After an early childhood in Lincoln, Nebraska and graduating from Scottsdale High School in Arizona, Debbie was a member at Valley Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale before moving to Sunburst Farm, one of the early properties of Rainbow, where she shared many chores in that small agricultural setting.

Now Debbie likes to go to classes at the Worden Lifelong Learning Center each weekday morning. In her home at Koinania House she enjoys helping with housekeeping chores like sweeping and dusting, and she keeps her own space in her bedroom organized and neat. According to Caregiver Marie, Debbie plays with oversize playing cards and colored beads and listens to music in her spare time, often singing or humming along.

Donations to Adopt A Rancher help Debbie Pettit and others live a full life in a safe community.



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As an Arizona taxpayer, you can make a profound difference in the lives of adults with developmental disabilities. By giving a donation through the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit, you can support Rainbow Acres Ranchers who are struggling to keep up with care costs in this tough economy.