



# Awards and Honors

## News and Notes:

To reach our younger generations, Rainbow Acres is exploring the possibility of new branding materials, including a new logo and color palette.

Watch for this to be released first on our website, which will also have a new look and feel and be more user-friendly, some time this summer.

For the latest news, blog posts and event dates, visit us at [www.rainbowacres.com](http://www.rainbowacres.com)

## EAGLE Accreditation Earned

Our Rainbow Acres community received recognition at this year's 75th Annual Conference of The United Methodist Association.

UMA's Celebration of Excellence named the seven organizations in the US that have demonstrated commitment to rigorous standards of excellence and been accredited by the EAGLE Commission in 2015.

This makes the third time that Rainbow has earned this five-year accreditation.

The EAGLE accreditation was given to Rainbow Acres by the EAGLE Commission Chairperson

Debbie Reed in St. Petersburg, Florida, on March 11.

The EAGLE Commission sends peer reviewers to organizations which provide services to families with a Christian component, at their request. The reviewers read a comprehensive report from each location, then follow up with a visit where they delve into all aspects of services and financial stability.

Every applicant does not earn the award and everyone at Rainbow Acres is proud and pleased to have succeeded in this rigorous procedure and passed with flying colors!



Chris Roush and Gary Wagner with the EAGLE plaque



## President's Message

**Excellence** is a commitment, not just lip service or a slick advertising campaign!

Our Staff Team chose to emphasize "Excellence" as the theme for 2014, to further our long time commitment to excellence. Hallmarks for achieving excellence include internally attaining Best Practice goals and being recognized by third party surveyors and professional organizations.

Our 2014 achievements based on Excellence are outlined in this newsletter: Accreditation by the EAGLE Commission of the United Methodist Association of Health and Social Welfare, based on rigorous new standards adopted in 2009 as well as EAGLE's Best Practice Award for the Fine Arts Painting program.

Add three years in a row of Shining Star Awards in different categories from Arizona ALFA, and you can see that Excellence is a true commitment to the manner in which we serve the Ranchers at Rainbow Acres.

Excellence *is* a commitment. It is also a way of life at Rainbow Acres.

*For the Ranchers! Gary W. Wagner*



Gary W. Wagner  
President & CEO

## Did You Know . . .

- You can LIKE us on Facebook
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- WATCH us on YouTube



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# Oikos!



Sponsored by the congregations of the American Baptist Churches of LA, Southwest and Hawaii, Oikos House is our 12th Rancher home. We are excitedly watching its progress as construction continues through most of 2015!

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

## *EAGLE Best Practice Award for Fine Arts Painting*

Another prestigious award given at the United Methodist Association Annual Conference was the EAGLE Best Practice Award for the Rainbow Acres Fine Arts Painting program. Sedona artists Michael Redhawk and Marlys Mallet are a married couple who work together and separately on their pieces. Five years ago they were commissioned by a generous donor to create a mural for the Palmer Community Center at Rainbow Acres. While installing the mural, they met and “fell in love” with the Ranchers - and saw an opportunity.

Michael and Marlys are now on their fourth year of volunteering two days a week through most of the year, teaching fine arts painting techniques to four Rancher students at a time in a small studio in the Worden Lifelong Learning Center at Rainbow Acres.

The incredible self-esteem gained by creating beautiful canvases is increased as the paintings are purchased by visitors enthralled with the talent displayed.



Artists Michael Redhawk and Marlys Mallet with the EAGLE Best Practice Award



L-R: Betsy Perkins, Chris Walker, Mike Kowalski, Sandy Koonce, Gary Wagner and David Perkins at AZ ALFA Conference

At the 2015 Conference of the AZ Chapter of Assisted Living Federation of America

(ALFA), Rainbow Acres got another recognition of our commitment to Excellence.

## **Arizona ALFA Shining Star Awards - Three Years Running!**

Sandy Koonce received the Shining Star Award as the Caregiver of the Year!

Sandy has lived and worked at Rainbow Acres nearly 22 years, taking care of “her” Ranchers with love, patience and lots of energy. Sandy is the Special Olympics coach and coordinator in all our competitions and always helps for special events.

Last year Christine Walker, RN and Director of the Health and Wellness Center at Rainbow, was honored

with the Shining Star Award as Nurse of the Year, for her dedication to the holistic health practices that keep Ranchers and staff alike more aware of fitness and nutrition needs for a healthy lifestyle.

In 2013, Rainbow Acres earned the Arizona ALFA Shining Star Award for our innovative use of Clavinova Connection as a therapeutic music program. This had been used for PTSD and other trauma patients, but not for adults with developmental disabilities before Rainbow.