



# Rainbow Acres

A Residential Christian Community  
Serving Adults with Developmental Disabilities

## Rainbow Acres Report to The Board of General Ministries of ABC USA June 22, 2017

BGM Item 4b  
(BGM FC Item 3b) Additional -  
document  
part of ABC office of the GS  
and associated ministry organizations

Rainbow Acres is a Christian Residential Community serving women and men with Developmental Disabilities, serving the whole American Baptist Churches, USA and reaching out to individuals of all faiths.

This June, four men celebrated 43 years, and one woman celebrated 41 years, as residents at Rainbow Acres. The oldest Rancher (resident) is 81 years of age and is in excellent health and living an active lifestyle. There are a number of men who are between the ages of 75-80. Such longevity can be attributed to fresh air, blue skies, good food, plenty of exercise, a purpose for life, a loving community of friends and no worries! Rainbow is designed for the individual.

Rainbow Acres is grounded in the Christian faith, believing: that everyone is created in the image of God, all are gifted for a divine purpose, and by faith each person is able to transcend his/her humanity and become all that God desires us to be.

We currently have 93 Ranchers in our community. This year, Rainbow Acres has welcomed three new Ranchers, and bid farewell to two Ranchers. We are anticipating the arrival of 4-6 new Ranchers by year end 2017. There are four prospective Ranchers visiting the Ranch this summer in hopes of becoming permanent member of the Rainbow Acres Community.

American Baptist Congregations and Campus Ministries have sent Mission Teams to Rainbow Acres to assist with a wide range of critical tasks. Those groups include: Purdue University of Campus Ministries with leadership of Shawn Zambros; First Baptist Church of Redlands, CA with leadership of Shawn Zambros; First Baptist Church of Kearney, Nebraska with leadership of Kevin Holloway; First Baptist Temple City, CA; First Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD; and First Baptist Church, San Diego.

In 2017 Rainbow Acres completed two new Greenhouses for the Horticulture Program through the generosity of American Baptist Women's Ministries of Indiana. We are deeply grateful for their support helping a Rancher's dream come true! This program is under the leadership of Rodolfo Morales, who has a PhD in Soil Science and advocates for everyone to see the potential in each Rancher! The Greenhouse crew produce beets to squash, butter lettuce, broccoli and so much more that can be used in our Ranch kitchen in the Palmer Community Center.

The Ranchers and employees, join me in expressing our heartfelt appreciation for American Baptists partnership in mission and ministry. Your faithfulness transforms the Ranchers lives!

Respectfully,

Gary W. Wagner  
President & CEO



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Rainbow Acres is a 501 (c) (3) organization

