



Rainbow Reflections

Special Land Edition

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Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of the Rockies
Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp
107 South Ninth Street, Suite B
Canon City, Colorado 81212

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Rainbow Trail is operated and maintained under authority of a USDA Forest Service Special Use Permit. Rainbow Trail is located in the San Isabel National Forest, USDA.

Address Service Requested

Home At Last

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp has a rich history that includes over 55 years of ministry. There have been peaks and valleys, fires and windstorms. Yet, through it all, this ministry has not only survived, but it has flourished.

The ministries of Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp started in 1957 serving the youth of the Rocky Mountain Synod on this special site. Today Rainbow Trail's ministry has expanded to serve not only ten weeks of resident style camp in the summer but also 35 day camps, hundreds of campers through our Compass

Points high adventure program and Bridging Borders service programs, and a full gamut of retreat ministries throughout the rest of the year. The future holds great possibilities for this ministry with expansion of on-site ministries as well as new and innovative programs. Literally thousands of people have come to this special place to be renewed in their faith while basking in the sanctuary of God's creation.

The Need To Own Our Site

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp is a holy place for so many people and has become a precious gift of the Church. Yet the land on which Rainbow Trail is located is not owned by the Church, but by the federal government as part of the San Isabel National Forest. Since its inception Rainbow Trail has leased land from the Forest Service. This arrangement is concerning for several reasons, including:

1. The possibility our lease would not be renewed or even terminated if the Forest Service perceives a better use for the property;
2. Some day the existence of a religious organization located on public lands may become controversial, thereby threatening the security of Rainbow Trail's lease.
3. Because we are on public lands, we cannot limit stranger

access to our site. This could become a safety issue.

4. Operating the camp can be difficult with the federal government as landlord. For example, it is anywhere from a six month to two year process to make any significant change to our buildings on the site.

5. Ownership of the property would protect the camp's investment of \$3-4 million in buildings to date. By owning our site, we will guarantee that Rainbow Trail will be available for generations to come.

How to Acquire the Site from the U.S. Forest Service

The Forest Service does not have the authority to conduct an outright sale of National Forest lands. A land exchange is the only method for acquiring federal lands such as the site on which Rainbow Trail currently resides.

To complete an exchange, Rainbow Trail needs to secure private lands on the San Isabel National Forest with high public values that the Forest Service is interested in acquiring. Once private lands more or less equal in value to the federal lands at the Rainbow Trail site are found, a formal exchange proposal will be submitted to the Forest Service, beginning the 64 step land exchange process. The process culminates in the Forest Service issuing a patent to Rainbow Trail

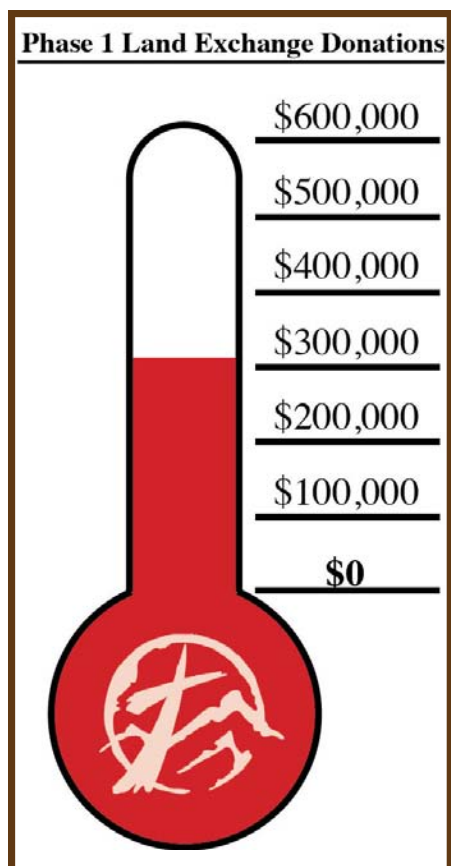
and Rainbow Trail deeding the private lands it secured to the federal government.

The Forest Service has indicated that it would be interested in conveying 80 acres to Rainbow Trail in order to create a logical management boundary. The 80 acres includes Rainbow Trail's existing 19-acre site and extends north of the ballfield to the Forest boundary and east to the Lake Creek Campground.

The Availability Of This Land

There have been many years of starts and stops looking at the possibility of acquiring our site through a land exchange. Finding willing sellers for the lands the Forest Service is most interested in acquiring – and thus motivating the Forest Service to agree to pursue an exchange involving the Rainbow Trail site – has been very difficult.

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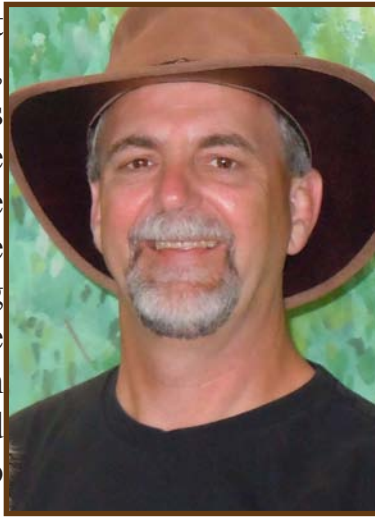
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Trail Boss

By Dave Jarvis - Executive Director

I think God is amazing! About the time that I think I'm in control, God smiles and laughs, and says "guess what surprises I have in store for you now?" If you had told me six months ago that we would be pressing forward toward purchasing land for a land exchange and that we would have raised over \$300,000 in the last two and half months, I would have laughed at you. There were no possibilities for land on the horizon,



we had exhausted all of our leads, and we were really ready for just a normal summer without fire or wind or anything unusual. Well, all of that changed in May. With the vote of our board, we began a process that could literally change the history of this ministry. Since that board meeting, it has been a bull rush of activity including appraisal visits to both sites, donor visits, preparing materials for the campaign, and designing events that will make this a fun and unique campaign.

I have been surprised, overwhelmed, and even amazed by the generosity of those that have already given to this land purchase appeal. Through this process, I have grown to truly understand the difference between a major gift and a significant gift. We have received gifts of all sizes and amounts, some of those being very major gifts. But all of the gifts we have received have been significant. Together, they are all going to help us own our site. When one of the campers this summer brought his remaining \$8 of popshop money up to me after worship on Saturday morning and said, "I want this to go to the land exchange," well, that is significant in my book. It is going to be all of us doing what we can to reach this goal.

We are going to own this site. It is not a question of if, but rather when. We will be persistent and we will be faithful. For the sake of your children and your children's children, we need to make this happen. Rainbow Trail has become such holy ground for so many people and so many families. This is the place that many say is their second home. It is a place where people can be their authentic selves and be exactly who God created them to be. It is a place that is helping equip people to serve the church as youth directors, as Pastors, and as young adults in global missions in Africa, Argentina, London, Madagascar, and elsewhere.

If you have not given to the "Home at Last" campaign, I ask you to prayerfully consider making an over and above gift to this campaign. That is, we still need your regular support for our daily operations. But if you have something additional that you can give, you will be touching the lives of generations to come. And you will be part of history.

We still have a long way to go. The land itself could cost close to \$400,000 and the 64 step land exchange process will cost at \$200,000- 250,000. We are barely halfway to our minimum goal. As part of the initial funds raised, several donors will match the first \$170,000 that we raise after the time of their gift. That means we still have \$65,000 that can be matched by these initial gifts.

Thank you for the blessing you have been in the life of this ministry. And I can't wait to celebrate with you at the party when we can all call Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp our HOME AT LAST!

Until next time...

Dave

Home At Last

Continued from Page 1

In early May of this year, our land exchange consultant was contacted by a realtor representing the owner of 30 acres of land within the San Isabel National Forest immediately north of Blanca Peak at the south end of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. The realtor inquired about the market value of the land for a potential conveyance to the Forest Service. Through the conversation, we learned that the owner is open to potentially selling the land to Rainbow Trail, especially if the intention is to convey it to the Forest Service in a land exchange.

This 30-acre inholding property, which consists of four separate parcels, is extremely attractive to the Forest Service as it is the last piece needed to preserve the upper Huerfano River Valley.



The Opportunity Before Us

After careful deliberation, the Rainbow Trail Board unanimously voted to enter into a purchase contract for the land late last May. The contract gave Rainbow Trail until August 31 to assess the property and its viability for inclusion in a land exchange. That deadline has been extended due to delays in receiving the appraisal. If all looks good, Rainbow Trail will be required to pay a non-refundable \$30,000 earnest money deposit to the seller by the end of September, with closing occurring no later than December 7, 2012.

Since signing the contract, we have met with Forest Service officials to confirm their interest in acquiring the land via a land exchange involving the Rainbow Trail site. Appraisals for both the non-federal and the federal parcels (RTLC being the federal parcel) have been completed and a review of the appraisal reports is in process. Once the appraisal is complete, we will know exactly how much we need to raise to purchase the property. With the preliminary appraisal numbers, it looks like we will need to pursue at least one more parcel of non-federal land. Currently we anticipate that we will need to raise a minimum of \$600,000 to purchase the land, cover the cost of consultant fees and processing the exchange through the Forest Service's 64 step process, and possibly the purchase of additional non-federal lands in order to create a portfolio of private land equal in value to the 80 acres of National Forest land that Rainbow Trail would receive. We need to raise the total cost of the non-federal property by the end of 2012. Any funds received over the cost of the land purchase and the exchange process will be used for our new ropes course, and other major building projects in our site master plan.

The purchase of this property is only the first step, but a critical one to realize the goal of Rainbow Trail owning its site and having control of its future. This kind of opportunity may never occur again. The timeline is short but the possibilities have never been greater.

How Can You Help?

We need your prayers and we need your financial support. For us to achieve the goal of purchasing this land by December 7, 2012, we need people to immediately step forward that believe in the value of this ministry in the lives of youth. There is no time for pledges in this first phase. We are open to matching fund opportunities if you would like to use your gift to help encourage others to give as well. We hope that you will give and give generously for the sake of future generations. I would love to have a more in-depth conversation with you and explain more about this once in a lifetime opportunity. You can reach me by email at dave@rainbowtrail.org or by phone at 719-429-1377.

Calling All Golfers to Make a Difference

RTLCL Eagle Peak Classic at the Air Force Academy



Attention all Golfers: Come join Rainbow Trail for a great day of golf at the exclusive Air Force Academy Golf Course and support RTLCL's effort to buy land for the land exchange. The RTLCL Eagle Peak Classic will be held on Friday, September 28, 2012 starting at 8 am. It will be scramble format. It will be a great day of fun and making a difference for this ministry. You can register as an individual golfer or as a foursome. To register, go to Rainbow Trail's website and click on the golf tournament quick link. If you, your company, or your church would like to be a sponsor for this tournament, click on the sponsor's page link location on the tournament information page of RTLCL's website. Only 120 spots are available! Register your foursome today!

The Art of Giving

Online Auction to support Land Purchase



Rainbow Trail wanted to find a unique and different way for people to support the land purchase and we think we found just the ticket. RTLCL will be hosting an online art auction that will benefit the "Home at Last" capital campaign land exchange. The auction will feature paintings, carvings, bronze sculptures, musical instruments and other works of art that are handcrafted by supporters as well as current staff and staff alumni. Some of the featured artists will be Jesse Crock, Paul Oman, Meg Erke, Greg Smith, Ede Ericson Cardell, the late Wayne Jarvis, Jim Mulvany, Gene Youngmann, and Nick Ehrhardt. Many more artists will be added. The online art auction will run from November 10-26, 2012. The online auction will be on the Bidding for Good Website. There will be a link off of the main page of the Rainbow Trail website as well as off of the land exchange page of our site. Watch for more details and auction

The Grace Race 2012

A Chance for Us to Make a Difference

So many people support Rainbow Trail in so many ways. It is out of our gratitude for this kind of support that we have continued to host the RTLCL Grace Race for World Hunger since its inception during our 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2007. The 6th Annual RTLCL Grace Race 5K for World Hunger will take place on Sunday, October 7th with registration beginning at 2:30pm and the race starting at 4 pm at Sloan's Lake in Denver. There will be burgers in the park at the conclusion of the race. You can run, walk, push a stroller, or kids



can even ride a scooter. All are appropriate for this race. We are aiming for 300 participants for this year's race. We have a donor that has committed to match up to \$5,000 of the funds we raise for this race. This can be the year we top \$10,000 for the check that we send to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. ALL proceeds from the Grace Race 5K go to ELCA World Hunger.

Come be part of the day and make a difference in the lives of many. After the race, there will be food and fellowship with friends, other campers and their families, and staff from across the years.

To register, go to the Rainbow Trail's website and click on the Grace Race quick link. If you register before the online deadline, you will receive a cool Grace Race long sleeve T-shirt. You can also register the day of the race at Sloan's Lake, but we cannot guarantee that you will get one of the Grace Race T-shirts. Come enjoy the day and make a difference!



items at biddingforgood.com. The RTLCL on-line auction web page will be up and running by the end of September. Let's support our local artists, and support the land exchange at the same time! This will be a great time to shop for wonderful and unique Christmas gifts! Bid often and bid High!

ANN (JARVIS) SMITH MEMORIAL LAND EXCHANGE FUND

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|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Anonymous | Matt & Tasha Friedell | Donna Nemanic |
| Anonymous | James & Mary Garrelts | Chuck & Gayle Newell |
| Anonymous | Denisse Gergen | Mo & Marcia Oppermann |
| Anonymous | Diane & Peter Gorder | Kevin & Deney Perkins |
| Bill Allison | Beth Graham | Cynthia Piirto & Carl Gervais |
| Dave & Linda Asselin - In memory of Stuart & Val Asselin, and in honor of Roger and Alice Aden | Tom & Marianne Guinn | Charlie & Claire Pineda |
| Roger & Jane Barrack | Paul Hadland | Rick & Jill Reed |
| Barbara Barrett | John & Jill Harrison | Mark & Michele Robinson |
| Rosetta Bidne | Karen & Gregg Hartmann | Rick & Becky Romano |
| Howard & Missie Bonser | Caroline & David Hoffman | Adrienne Ross |
| Matthew Brady | Richard & Beth Howard | Wayne & Nancy Sather |
| Jerry & Joan Brown | Ann Hultquist & Roger Loots | David Sather |
| Miles & Kim Brown | Ben Jarvis | Randy & Lisa Schrader |
| Mike & Connie Burriss | Dave & Nellie Jarvis | Patricia & Tom Silva |
| Scot Costar | Jim & Carol Kaliamos | Jason & Joann Smith |
| Virginia & Tom Crow | Charles & Barbara Kindsvatter | Marcia & Bill Smith - In memory of Thomas & Mary Beth Stjernholm |
| Arlene Devore | King of Glory Lutheran Church | Svea Smith |
| Bob & Margie Dugan | Christ Care Small Group, Arvada | St. Bede's Episcopal Church,
Santa Fe, NM |
| Susan & Bill Duven | David & Rebecca Kleen | Corey & Jeanette Stull |
| Fred & Janice Ehlers | Ben Larson | Robert & Michelle Thomsen |
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| Dave & Ruth Ericson | Chris & Vicki Lieber | Leonard & Judy Walgren |
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| Evergreen Lutheran Church,
Evergreen | Janet & Troy Meissner | Terry & Holly Wubbena |
| Vince & Leigh Felletter | Matt & Trish Miller | Marsha Yosten |
| | Jill & Douglas Monsen | Jana Zimmerman & Pete Behrens |
| | Kristina & Robert Mysliwicz | |
| | Kirsten & Eric Nelson | |

Upper Midwest Fundraising Event

For those of you living in the Midwest and are interested in supporting the land purchase there will be an event near by! Join us Saturday, November 10 at 5:30 at the Hopkins Fine Arts Center. Come enjoy an evening of food, drink, music and a presentation by Dave Jarvis on this once in a lifetime land exchange opportunity! For more information about this event please contact Dave at dave@rainbowtrail.org.



Land Fund Raising Event Calendar

- Eagle Peak Classic.....September 28
- RTLCL On-Line Auction Page.....End of September
- RTLCL Art Autcion.....November 10-26

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Office Hours: 9 am - 5 pm



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Fax: 719-942-4000

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- Sara Cumbie, Executive Secretary.....info@rainbowtrail.org
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- Ben Larson, Dir of Compass Points & Day Camp.....ben@rainbowtrail.org
- Ash McConnell, Dir of Onsite & Bridging Borders.....ash@rainbowtrail.org
- Nick Ehrhardt, Dir of Site & Facilities.....nick@rainbowtrail.org
- Chris Seaman, Food Service Manager.....chris@rainbowtrail.org

Board of Directors

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-Josh Nelson, Holy Trinity, Littleton, CO

www.rainbowtrail.org