



Rainbow Reflections

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

Volume 36, Number 1 Winter 2024

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.

TAKE US HOME!

RTLCL moves into the final stages of the land exchange

In 1998, the Rainbow Trail Board of Directors first approached the U.S. Forest Service about doing a land exchange to own our site. At that time, the Forest Service was not even interested in exploring the exchange. Roll forward twenty-five years, and we are now on the verge of completing this exchange and owning our site becoming a reality!

It has been an amazing journey to bring us to this point: from cottage meetings in the backyards of our supporters sharing the “why’s” of the land exchange, to raising over \$600,000 in 2012 that would allow us to pay cash, in 2014, for the land we will use in the land exchange, to submitting our official land exchange proposal to the Forest Service in



2018, to where we sit today. We are deep in the land exchange process now. The conservation easement is now in legal review with Colorado Open Lands. The required environmental and cultural resources field studies are all happening as we speak. The US Forest Service is beginning to

review the draft field reports from ERO Resources Corporation and Rare Earth Sciences, and we are starting to see the end in sight. The reality is that this has been a very long process and it was inevitable that the cost of completing the exchange would increase. However, we were very surprised

that the costs of the process that we based all of our fundraising estimates on in May of 2022 has increased by almost \$100,000 by November of 2023. Those increases include a new rare species study that is now required and will cost \$45,000, and can only take place in the months of May and June in 2024. This has pushed our closing date into late spring 2025.

So we need your help to TAKE US HOME! We have worked together for so many years to get us to this point. Let’s finish this process! We need to raise the remaining \$93,100 to cover the new studies and cost increases from the sheer number of years we’ve been in this process. We continue to ask for your prayers and your financial support for this **CONT. PAGE 2**

ReTREAT Yourself!

Jesus knew the importance of going up the mountain to pray! We see in the Gospel that He set time apart to retreat from the world, spending intentional time away with God. It’s no different for us. It’s important to take time “away” to listen to God’s voice in our lives, to reconnect with family, friends, and creation, and to challenge ourselves to come off the mountain with a new sense of call. Rainbow Trail offers a variety of programmed and hosted retreats for individuals, families, congregations, schools, and other organizations from September through May.

Our skilled and experienced staff is here to help make your retreat exactly what you need it to be. Our programs and facilities can meet the needs of any size group from one person to 100 people. We provide radical hospitality and Chris’s famous food in a comfortable mountain setting, creating the perfect backdrop for relaxation, learning, and fun.

School groups will enjoy a

variety of outdoor education and recreation activities, including archery, high ropes, guided hikes, outdoor cooking, woodcarving, crafts, and volleyball, just to name a few. In addition, our beautiful meeting spaces--both indoors and outdoors--will add to the impact of your retreat.

Congregational retreats are important events for the life of any congregation. They offer new ways for a community to worship, engage, and get to know one another outside the church building. The communal experiences and relational growth that happens during a retreat is then taken down the mountain



and brought directly back to the congregational community, which can’t help but enrich the relationships that already existed, as well as bless members with new friendships. In our post pandemic world, it is essential that we gather face to face, in holy space. Rainbow Trail offers just that.

Let’s not forget about youth groups, ski groups, marriage enrichment weekends, crafters, men’s groups, women’s groups, family groups, and any other groups you can think of... Rainbow Trail retreating is here for you. To serve you. So that YOU can be better servants in the world.

Let us work with you to create a custom retreat that will send you back down the mountain rejuvenated, refreshed, and ready to engage in the world! Contact Delta Wise at delta@rainbowtrail.org for more details or to reserve a date!

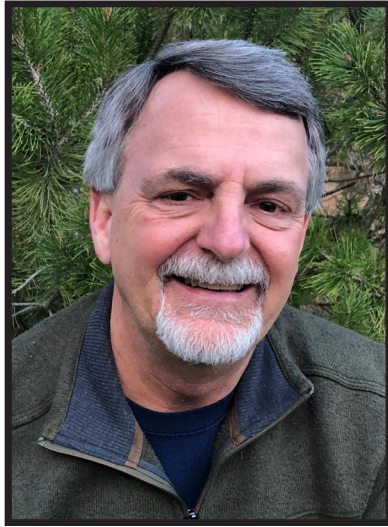
Rainbow Trail Mission Statement

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp creates holy spaces that embody God’s radical grace to affirm, empower, and transform all people to be Christ’s light in the world

Trail Boss

By Dave Jarvis - Executive Director

2024 is off and running at a blazing pace. By the time you are reading this, we are already out on the recruiting trail, looking for our 2024 summer ministry team. Between a Board meeting, the Bible Study Writers' retreat, Colorado recruiting, the winter newsletter, and sneaking in four promotion Sundays at several churches before we leave for the mid-west, we have been going fast. I love the beginning of a new year. We are fresh back from a break, the air is full of optimism, and we are so ready to get things going!!



We have had incredible registrations for our summer on-site programs. Five weeks are already full with three more getting close to full. We have over 980 campers already registered for this summer and it is still early. Don't wait to register! Take a look at which week will work for your child and register now. It will be a life-changing week for your kids! We also have 29 day camps scheduled that will be happening out in the congregations. There is still room for your senior high youth to go on a Compass Points backpacking trip or Bridging Borders service trip this summer. Contact Will Johnson or Cam Regennitter respectively for more information on these programs.

Many people think that church camp is a nice "add-on" in their child's summer. But a week at camp can be both life-changing and faith transforming. I hear from campers over and over again about how camp has solidified their faith and really equipped them to be Christ's light in the world. Camp changes people in some amazing ways. I want every child to experience this wonderfully loving and grace-filled community. Money should never be the reason any child doesn't come to RTLc. So, don't let that be a barrier. The first question to ask is "Do you want your child to go to camp?" That is a yes/no question. If your answer is yes, then, together, let's figure out a way to get them there. If you are in a position where finances will prevent you from sending your child to camp, please contact me—we'll find a way to get your child to camp! We have very generous donors that have given specifically to provide camperships for this exact reason. Do this for your child. We'd love to see you on the mountain!

The field work for the land exchange is in full swing with much of the final key work happening this coming summer and early fall. This includes rare species studies as well as appraisals of both properties. As the lead article says, the extended time line as well as a new and additional rare species study costing \$45,000 has put us in a position to need to raise some final funds to complete this project. Please continue to keep this Land Exchange in your prayers. Help Take Us Home!

I am humbled by the support that this community has shown this ministry. 2023 was another phenomenal year of ministry, and the financial gifts that we received from all you have set us up for a quick start in 2024. Colorado Gives Day was beyond anything we could have imagined. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I will say there is no greater return on your investment than a gift to this ministry that is used to shape the faith life of a child. Kids are experiencing God's love in a huge and tremendous way. I truly do believe these experiences are life-changing. Campers leave camp changed to live God's love and grace in the world. Can you ask for more than that?

We started our recruiting for summer staff in late January. We did a small loop through the Colorado schools during the week of January 21st and then we'll head to the mid-west on February 5th. I am optimistic about this year. We already have over 55 summer staff applications either completed or in process. Recruiting is back to our normal process including our west coast tour to Pacific Lutheran University in the northwest and maybe to Grand Canyon University in Phoenix.

Nell and I are loving our new home. We have settled in fairly quickly. We love being closer to our kids and all that a larger city has to offer. This spring will still include emptying lots of boxes from the garage and getting my shop set up. Anyone that knows me knows I love taking care of my yard. We have bought a real challenge in that respect. It will be fun to see how things in the yard transform as we come out of winter!

I am so excited for the coming year. Our camper numbers are better than pre-pandemic times (2019) and we have very full summer camps, the land exchange field work is in full swing and we should be close to completion by May of 2025, we have an awesome and complete full-time ministry team in place, we have a strong and visionary Board, and there is an air of optimism about the future. Please pray for this ministry and for our staff. We take great joy in serving you through RTLc. I am beginning my 36th year at Rainbow Trail. I could not have asked for a better place to serve and use all of my gifts. The RTLc community is our family. You have all become an integral part of our story. Thanks for being my partner all along the way! I am so excited for 2024!

Until next time!

CONT.TAKE US HOME. land exchange. Your contributions at this stage will help us see this process to fruition. If you haven't given to the land exchange yet, consider making a special gift for the future generations that will be a part of this ministry. This is a project that the RTLc community has rallied around. Any remaining funds after the completion of the exchange will be used for the first major project of the new master plan. Dave would love to have a more in-depth conversation with you and explain more about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. You can reach him by email at dave@rainbowtrail.org or by phone at 719-429-1377. Help us make Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp our **Home At Last!**

Colorado Gives...and Gives and Gives!!!

THANK YOU COLORADO GIVES DAY!

\$171,982

We experienced an incredibly magical day during our 2023 Colorado Gives Day. At the encouragement of several of our donors, we set our 2023 Colorado Gives Day goal at \$110,000 but also put a challenge goal out there of \$150,000. But the overwhelming generosity of the RTLc community far exceeded what we could have imagined. This year's Colorado Gives Day was off the chart! In a short 24 hours on December 5, 2023, the Rainbow Trail community responded to the challenge, blew past our base goal and our challenge goal, and gave \$171,982! An impressive 353 donors participated in giving to Rainbow Trail that day. The response to this day of giving not only shows the incredible generosity of this community, but also shows that Rainbow Trail is a place where so many people invest their hearts. For that, we are truly grateful beyond measure, and hope you all will accept our deepest thanks. Your gifts have set us up for a great start to 2024. These funds help support the day-to-day operations of camp including program equipment, summer staff salaries, our full-time staff, and site and facilities maintenance, to name a few. In all, Colorado Gives Day raised \$54.2 million for 3,682 non-profits in Colorado. We are already setting our base goal of \$120,000 for next year! Colorado Gives Day 2024 is set for December 10, 2024. Mark your calendar now! Thank you again to those who joined us in this Spirit-filled day and to those who gave gifts to help support this ministry and all those it impacts.

FAITH. GROWTH. ADVENTURE.
APPLY TO BE ON SUMMER STAFF TODAY!

RAINBOWTRAIL.ORG/SUMMERSTAFF

ALSO FOLLOW RTLc ON...



Camp Vibes

By Cam Regennitter - Director of On-Site & Bridging Borders

We are hitting the time of year when we start preparing for the summer season. As I write this article, Dave, Will, and I are heading west to Grand Junction to recruit at our final Colorado school. I enjoy these trips, about being on a mission to find the next generation of staff for this summer, meeting up with our alums, and remembering how they changed many lives during camp. You can ask me anytime, and I will always say we hire the best staff in the country. Every group brings something unique and new each summer, and by the end, there have always been life-changing experiences all around, and it starts with them and their hard work. So, with all that said, if you or someone you know would be a great addition to our summer staff, make sure they reach out to us before February 28th!



This Colorado recruiting trail was extra fun this year, having Delta along for the ride. Watching her talk and connect with future staff hopefuls was something that came so naturally to her.

We have officially crossed the double-digit mark of spending the last ten summers at RTLCL. As I have seen many things over the years, met many people, talked with many staffers, and played with many campers, I always like to remember how this place was for me as a camper! I grew up here and always felt like the people around me wanted to know who I was and make me feel God's love through the whole week—remembering how cool it felt that these college-age staff wanted to be my best friend! Not because they had to but because they wanted to. I will always promise we do our best for your campers to have the same feeling, knowing they can come here, be themselves, grow in their faith, and have fun doing it! Thanks for trusting us with your campers; they change our lives.

In our personal lives, Delta and I are continuing to prepare for our wedding in September. I am so excited to marry my best friend at the place where we met what feels so long ago. Celebrating with our closest friends and families will be a special day and something we won't forget. Wedding planning has a lot to it, but I know it will be surely worth it when the special day comes!

As we prepare for the summer season, I can't help but feel grateful for the opportunity to share God's love with our campers and staff. It's amazing to see how faith can bring people together and create lifelong friendships. At RTLCL, we strive to create an environment where everyone can feel His presence and grow in their faith journey. As we recruit new staff members, we pray that God leads us to the right people who share our mission and values. And as I prepare for my wedding, I am reminded of the love and grace that Jesus has shown us all. It's a beautiful reminder of the commitment we make to each other and to Him.

Cam

SUMMER STAFF 2024



Do you know anyone interested in working at camp this summer? Recruiting for 2024 staff has already begun! If you know someone who loves kids, is passionate about Young Adult Christian community, and would be a great fit for Rainbow Trail, encourage them to apply for a position on our summer staff! We will be interviewing for the next month and hiring in March. Send those interested to www.rainbowtrail.org/summerstaff for more information! Applications are due February 28th.



Weeks are filling up but spots are still open in the following sessions.

DON'T WAIT! Register today, or you may not have a spot!

Junior High #1 June 9-15

SH Compass Points July 14-20

Junior Camp #1 June 16-22

Senior High #2 July 21-27

Intro to Camp #2 June 19-22

JH Compass Points July 21-27

Senior High #1 July 7-13

Young Adult CP July 28 - Aug 3

Check www.rainbowtrail.org for up-to-date status of each week and register today!

Words with the Wise

By Delta Wise - Director of Retreats



Hey y'all! The fall 2023 retreat season up at camp is a wrap and WHAT A SEASON it was! Starting with Labor Day Family Camp and ending with Adventfest, we hosted a retreat every single weekend in between. There were even some hosted during the week including a huge Thanksgiving meal. If you thought camp ended in August, you've just touched the surface of what we do all year long. I knew I was excited for this job, but I didn't know just how Jesus would use me and how quickly the

Holy Spirit moves in people. So much can happen in such a short time. Over the course of a weekend, adults and kids alike find that spark that you may have seen or experienced over the summer. I'd like to share a few stories that stick out to me.

We had a group of elementary school kids come to camp for a short visit who had never been here before. Upon arrival, they immediately jumped out of the bus and sprinted all over camp. They were SO excited. As they walked into Aspen for dinner they saw the tables set for them (like we always do) and exclaimed how "fancy" and "five star" this place was. We turned on the music for kitchen cleanup (KP if you're familiar) and without hesitation or fear they started dancing. I couldn't help but laugh. That night we sang songs and cooked s'mores by the fire and they giggled until they were too tired. That was just a Wednesday night in October at RTLCL. Another time during a church's women's retreat, the PGA's and I stayed up late with the ladies signing just about every song in the song book. We learned some old songs that they sang to us, and they learned a few new ones that we sang to them. They ended the night singing Tanya Tucker's classic song "Delta Dawn" before I went to bed with a smile on my face. Lastly, at AdventFest I had the honor of dressing up as Santa Lucia and serving breakfast in bed to all of the families. As I balanced lit candles atop my head and held a plate of cinnamon rolls and orange juice in my hands, our staff knocked on bedroom doors. As each door slowly opened, out came little kids with sleepy eyes and messy hair in their Christmas pajamas. They looked up at me like I was a Disney princess with glowing hair. "Hi Lucia!" they said. I felt like Santa Claus. This experience so far feels like God calling me to "just a closer walk with thee." And how grateful I am that I can be a part of these magical moments. As we roll into 2024, we have spring retreat season upon us. Before we know it, summer will be here and all our buildings will be full of life and magic.

As for me, I am also in the thick of wedding planning as Cam and I will say our vows at camp this coming September. We start our marriage counseling with none other than Pastor Nicolé soon, and we finally asked our officiant, Dave Jarvis, if he would marry us. It's not often that your boss officiates your wedding! Funny enough, Leah Jarvis took our 'save the date' pictures up on the ropes course, and we found most of our vendors through either previous camp weddings or camp connections. RTLCL's 6 degrees of separation really helps! Cam and I really want our wedding weekend to be a true camp experience for everyone coming, especially since for most of them this might be their first (and maybe only) time here. For instance we want to do high ropes with our families. All that to say, God is good. And if you have any wedding recommendations let me know!

Delta



The Program Assistant (PGA) internship is designed to equip and nurture young adults interested in full-time Outdoor Ministry through experiential learning and professional development.

- > Retreat Hosting, Promotion, Recruiting, Administrative, Special Events
 - > Training sessions each month lead by Full Time Directors to enhance practical experience
 - > Training Topics Include: Philosophy, Budgeting, Staffing, Program Development, Marketing, and more!
 - > 9 Month (late August-early May) Commitment
 - > Lodging, Food, Monthly Stipend
- Apply for the 2024-2025 season on our website. Applications due February 28th!

Qualified Charitable Distributions and Donor Advised Funds: Great Additional Ways To Support RTL

The support from our donors is key to our ministry thriving and growing. There are a multitude of ways that you can give to this ministry. Stocks, bonds, mutual and ETF funds, checks, online, and gifts to annual support or specific projects like the land exchange or camperships are just a few. However, there are some other tools available of which you may not be aware.

If you own an IRA and are over the age 70 1/2 you may be eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (ie. a contribution to RTL) directly from your IRA and not include the amount given as subject to income tax. And such charitable gifts reduce the amount of Required Minimum Distribution you must take for yourself every year! Because of recent law changes, it is always good to consult your tax advisor, but if you are eligible for this, it is a very good deal!

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) are tax-advantaged investment accounts used for charitable giving. You can fund a DAF with cash or other assets and take a tax deduction for doing so. Usually, people opt to contribute their appreciated investments so they don't have to face the tax consequences of selling it themselves. Once inside the donor-advised fund, your contributions continue to grow tax-free until you elect to issue a grant to the IRS-approved charity of your choice.

The beauty of donor-advised funds is they're available to anyone. Donor-advised funds are "designed to be a simple, turnkey way to execute your philanthropic wishes, whether you're giving \$500 or several million." You can give as much or as little (as long as it's at least \$50) as you want to one charity or dozens whenever you choose. Many charitable gift experts call donor-advised funds "flexible philanthropy."

Take advantage of these tools to help our ministry grow. Talk with your financial advisor and/or your tax consultant for more details. Or contact Dave at dave@rainbowtrail.org and he can help you get connected to an expert.

Simonton Says

By Sands Simonton- Director of Site and Facilities

Hello again from the beautiful site of Rainbow Trail! We've had a great fall and beginning of winter up here so far and I'm excited to tell you a little about it. I hope wherever you are, you've had good luck with the weather and hopefully had a fantastic holiday season! If you know me, this time of year is my favorite simply because of the snow. I'm a winter guy what can I say. Our part of southern Colorado has seen a fair amount of snow this season which is great not only for me, but for the site as well. We've already had to plow and shovel the site numerous times which is honestly a great feeling. It makes me very excited to say that our retreat season thus far has already been one for the books. Because we were able to bring Delta Wise on as our new Director of Retreat Ministries, we had a nice and busy fall and are headed into the spring more ready than we've ever been! Delta is a longtime friend of mine from camp and I can't express how excited I am to have her as a part of the team.



Let's talk about Site and Facilities. Our site is in great shape right now. Our buildings and equipment are functioning as they should, the plows and shovels are in tip top shape, the water is running only when we tell it to, all good things (knocking on wood). A huge thanks to the two PGA's Claire Fisk and Matt Turman, who are up here helping me keep the site working properly every day. They have a combined work ethic that is honestly incredible and we're lucky to have both of them. So far this season we have been able to get just about all the work done that I've anticipated. We were successful at blowing out the sprinkler system and winterized the site before the first snow fell which is always a good feeling. Another accomplishment is that we replaced all the bedroom furniture in upstairs Columbine, which all looks really nice. I'm excited for you to see the difference. That day our plow truck managed to yank the 18 wheeler out of the ditch in order for them to deliver all the furniture. I won't lie, that was a wild but super fun day. A lot of our work on the site to come, will be mostly snow removal and site preparations for upcoming retreats. We'll be doing some wood splitting, and a few other winter maintenance projects if we get some periodic breaks in the weather. I'm very happy with how the site looks and the state that it's currently in. It's a lot of work keeping a place like this running in the winter, but I've grown to love it so much from all the challenges and learning opportunities it's given me. The winter season usually provides very good information about the physical strength of our site and where possible improvements can be made. I've already started walking around creating a rough list for Memorial Day weekend this year, and I think it's looking pretty good. With the few things I have in mind, there will be a great variety so look forward to that!

Of course there's more to share, but that's all the highlights that come to mind. As for me personally I am also doing well. My living situation at home is maybe the best it could ever be and I still love Salida. My roommate Kyle and I run a tiny woodworking business called Sangre Rustic Custom Woodworks, and it has actually been more successful than we thought. It's just been fun to work in a woodshop with him again. Bode is also fantastic as always, his Grandparents certainly like to spoil him over the holidays which I've learned to be kind of okay with. He'll be 3 in March which is crazy for me to think about. So all is well in my world! To everyone out there who's reached the end of this letter, I want to say thank you for your love and support for our ministry here at Rainbow Trail. I wish you a great rest of the winter and spring, and I hope to see you here at camp soon!

~sands



...as of February 1st.

Thank You for Being Part of the Ministry of Rainbow Trail!

Rainbow Trail is blessed to have a great cloud of witnesses that give their time and talent to the ministries that happen. The staff at Rainbow Trail work very hard to offer quality programs, food, and facilities, but it would never happen without the amazing support and dedication of all these volunteers. We've made every effort to include all those who have volunteered in 2023; if we inadvertently left you off the list, please forgive us and call the camp office at 719-276-5233 so we can make a correction. Thank you for your amazing service to Rainbow Trail!

Presenters & Writers

RTLTC is blessed to work in partnership with several of the finest pastors, youth directors, and lay leaders in the Synod. These people provide much of the spiritual guidance during the year through Bible study and large group presentations. Your efforts help open the hearts of many in this special place!

Bible Study Writers

Rev. Adam Berndt
Rev. Pam ???
Rev. Jane Jebsen
Rev. Nicole' Ferry
Rev. Brad Doty
Nellie Jarvis

Mens Fly Fishing Retreat

Rev. Dave Risendal
Rev. Roger Thompson
Stuart Andrews - Ark Anglers

Senior High Retreat Presenter

Rev. Nicole' Ferry

Confirmation Retreat

Presenters

Rev. Nate Preisinger

Retreat Hosts

Delta Wise
Cam Regennitter
Sands Simonton
Dave & Nellie Jarvis
Will Johnson
Claire Fisk
Matt Turman
Macy Kennedy
Matt Chapman
Annika Buhr
Maddie Parker
Leah Jarvis
Ken Waggoner
Ben Hizer
Hales Hayden
Anna Saathoff
Jordan Jensen

Evan Fowler
Elisa Buhr
Lisa Regennitter
Mike Regennitter
Riley Sawinski
Bryan Brown
Beccs Flerchinger
Zach Lindsey
Zach Regennitter
Lily Jenkins
Yen Hansen
Lindsay Smith
Daniel Kirschbaum
Hannah Loeffler-Kemp
Abby Blom
Talia McLaren
Sydney Mudgett

Staff Training Presenters

Rev. Adam Berndt
Rev. Pam Challis
Rev. Jane Jebsen
Rev. Nicole' Ferry
Rev. Brad Doty
Julie Miller

Raft Training

Arkansas River Tours

Camp Grandparents

Bob Witte
Joyce Witte
Pam Wagner
Rick Green
Elizabeth Hargreaves
Janet Weisheit
Nancy Saunders
Al Saunders
Bill Dausses
Charlotte Dausses
Lisa Merdierks-Dietz
Cheryl Mahon
Larry Davis
Luanne Davis
Cathy Jacobs
Randy Adolf
Don Morris
Karen Pforr
Scott Jorgenson
Cynthia Jorgenson
Kris Ericson
Janice Ehlers

Family Camp Presenters

Rev. David Lose
Rev. Paul Oman
Nellie Jarvis – Art
Heidi and Mark Peterson - Art
Sands Simonton – Art
Richard Walker – Art
Jesse Crock – Art
Meg Erke - Art
Rev. Paul Oman - Art
Charlie Pineda – Musician
Nick Ehrhardt – Musician
Paul Bogart – Musician

Labor Day Leader

Rev. Julie McNitt

2023-2024 Board of Directors

Michelle Okes, President
Rev. Jane Jebsen, Vice President
Nicole' Ferry, Secretary
Bill Ernstrom, Treasurer
Austen Smith
Rev. Brad Doty
Chris Lieber
Phil Dorth
Sandy Elvington
Rev. Chris Hjelmstad

Joshua Station

Rhonda Bostrom
Jane Jebsen
Lisa Regennitter
Sonja Iverson (staff trainer)
Benjamin Armas

Ambassadors

Brandon Baker
Richard and Tami Baker
Cindy Budde
Ron and Jeanne Cornell
Andrea and Thomas Croshal
Dave and Carissa Cruson
Bob and Holly Denning
Gerald Engleman
Amy Enriquez
Deidre and Timothy Farrell
Michelle and Sam Garrison
Rebbie Garza
Denise Gergen
Cathy Goodman

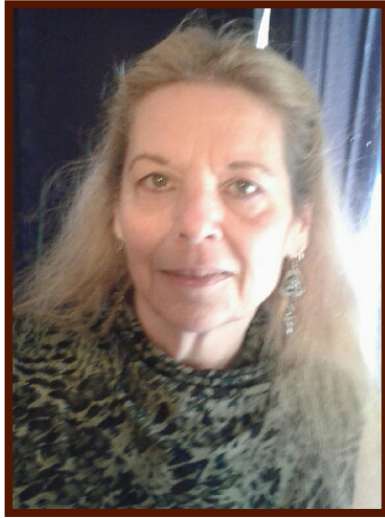
Bud and Linda Grimm
Brittany and Adam Hass
Karel and Tom Hemler
Sarah Hemler
Nancy Henning
Andrea and Derek Iverson
Wendy Jendro and Joel Brown
Steve Jurrens
Dee Ann and John Lord
Jessica and Joel Maassen
Cheryl and Stephen Mahon
Holly and Nick Massie
Tanda and Thomas McCombe
Kris and Greg McDaniel
Peter McNitt
Randy and Julie McNitt
Dawn and Brent Meyer
David Miller and Ann Wenzel
Gail and Mark Muehlethaler
Janice and Jim Mulvany
Chuck and Gayle Newell
Jill O'Brien and Branden O'Brien
Corey and Katie Okes
Vicki and Stacy Padilla
Charlie and Claire Pineda
Kurt Rager
Lisa and Mike Regennitter
Rick and Becky Romano
Julie and Ron Skelton
Scott and Valerie Skrine
Paul and Lisa Smith
Ana Tolentino and David Bolt
Denise Tristano
Kathy and Craig Twaddell
DeNae and Jim vanWestrienen
Kate & Eric Waggoner

Ambassadors are our direct link to congregations. Rainbow Trail Ambassadors serve as information sources for those in their congregations, and keep the camp abreast of important events within the larger church. Their most important function, however, is helping to get information about camp out to the masses! We are grateful for your partnership and support!

Chris' Corner

By Chris Seaman - Food Service Manager

Since last I wrote, many things have changed in my life! My health took a downward trend. Nothing terribly serious; I just seem to catch every kind of bug that is going around! I have been saying many prayers for better health in 2024!



In October I drove to Amarillo, Texas; to pick up my new dog. This was during our first bad storm of the year. I had a very scary spin out on I-25 South. Managed to cross the South bound lanes; went flying across the median, both Northbound lanes, over and down an embankment, and through a barbed wire fence; into a field! Was able to drive back up to the road and get back on the Highway! Dave says I have more lives than a cat! I did manage to continue on and get my 8 year old Blue Nose Pitbull, Abby! My roommate moved out and 2 months later my son moved in with his 2 year old Malinou/ Black Lab mix! It looks like he may be with me for a while.

We had a wonderful Retreat Season thanks to the most awesome Delta! Only problem was me getting sick WAY too often! Our PGA'S Claire and Matt are incredible! I can't believe it's time to start the recruiting process! Prayers for the team while they are traveling to all those colleges!

I make it a priority, because of the economy, to pursue all food related articles. I want to share with you some things that I have read. There are eight items that are going to be in short supply and higher priced. They are Honey, Rice, Chocolate, Olive Oil, Flour, Maple Syrup, Vanilla, and Peanuts. These shortages are all due to adverse weather conditions. It would be wise to stock up on any of these products before they get even more outrageous in price!

Now to a recipe! I thought you all might like something hearty, filling, and delicious! So, here is the recipe for "Chicken Cordon Bleu Casserole" You will need 8 oz wide egg noodles, 2c. Chopped cooked chicken breast, 8 oz cubed ham, 8 oz Swiss Cheese cubed, 1- 10.75 oz can Cream of Chicken Soup, 1/2c. Milk, 1/2c. Sour Cream, 2 TBL. butter, 1/3c. Bread Crumbs, 1/4c. Parmesan Cheese.

To prepare, preheat the oven to 350, Grease a 3 quart casserole dish. Cook noodles according to the package. Drain the noodles and place in the prepared dish. Top with the chicken, ham and Swiss cheese. Combine the soup, milk and sour cream; spoon over the noodle mixture. Melt the butter over medium heat. Add the bread crumbs and parmesan cheese and cook, stirring 2-3 minutes and spread on the casserole. Bake for 30 minutes, or until bubbly. This dish is very yummy. Hope you all enjoy it!

I pray that you all may stay safe, happy and healthy during this crazy winter weather! As Always, Remember... GOD IS GREAT!!!

~Chris

Want To Make A Difference?

There are so many ways to give to Rainbow Trail and invest in the faith lives of thousands of children and families. Make a donation online, buy Rainbow Trail Blend through our online Popshop, volunteer, or take a look at our Needs & Wish List to get ideas for a lasting and important donation!

Donate Online Anytime

Young Adult Backpacking Trips 2.0!

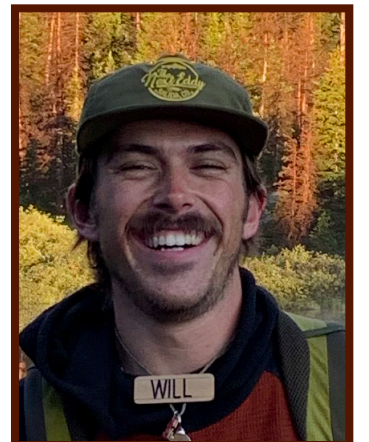


CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS! In an effort to more actively minister to young adults, our Compass Points program has partnered with the ELCA Young Adult Abide small groups to make a Young Adult backpacking trip! Young adults are craving more programming created especially for them and this is a wonderful opportunity for them to let go and live into some high adventure! We will be bringing in a speaker to work alongside our Compass Points Directors for our week-long backcountry experience! Ages 18-35 can register at Rainbowtrail.org or contact me directly at will@rainbowtrail.org. We look forward to having you here!

Into The Wilderness

By Will Johnson - Director of Compass Points & Day Camp

Hello and Happy New Year! I hope everyone out there had a great holiday season filled with family, love, and happiness. I was fortunate enough to spend the holidays with my family and friends back home in Austin, Texas and I couldn't be more grateful for it.



2023 was a year full of joy, challenges, new friendships, life lessons, and starting my dream job! It's wild to think that it's already been over a year since I packed up and moved out here to the mountains, and I couldn't be more grateful for the opportunity to work for such a great organization. I want to give a big thanks to the full time team and to everyone else who supported me in my first year on full-time staff. I can't wait to see what this next year and summer will bring!

Looking forward to 2024, we are preparing to send out 8 Compass Points trips and 29 Day Camps this summer, and I'm also starting a Backcountry Fly Fishing retreat in early September! Check out our website or follow "RTL_Compass_Points" on instagram for more info on our trips!

Overall, I'm very excited to step into this new year with a calm and refreshed attitude thanks to the experience and knowledge my first year has given me. If you find yourself at camp this summer then come hang out in Eagle Peak Lodge!

-WILL

COLORADO GIVES DAY

Thank you to all of those who gave on Colorado Gives Day, December 5, 2023

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The following individuals are members of the 2023 Trailblazers Club. Trailblazers is an annual giving club that keeps the ministry at Rainbow Trail alive and growing. To join, contact Dave 719-276-5233 or check out the "Donate" tab on our webpage at www.rainbowtrail.org. Many thanks to the following supporters of Rainbow Trail!

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 Dawn and Brent Meyer - medal ribbons for Grace Race
 Aurice and Bob Worley - document shredding
 Joy Lutheran Mary and Martha Circle - 2 twin mattress covers; copy paper; masking tape; duck tape; packing tape; 6X9 envelopes; 9X12 envelopes; legal pads; tape; art paintbrushes

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GIFTS IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF

In memory of Daniel Benson
 Virginia Crow

In memory of Jane and Bill Breneman

Jim and Laura Lewis

In memory of Sam Bunz
 Anonymous

In memory of Ray Cellan
 Amy and Fabian Enriquez

In memory of Jean C. Colburn
 Kim and John Olson

In memory of Grama Ruth Ericson
 Ede Ericson

Traci and Phil Dorth

In memory of Grama Ruth and Grampa Dave Ericson

Kris Ericson

Leif and Peggy Ericson

Lucy Archambault

In memory of John Goodman
 Cathy Goodman

In memory of Tom and Marianne Guinn

Rick and Angela Guinn

In memory of Jessica Hunter
 Anonymous

In memory of Kim Jackson
 Dee and Robert Jackson

Beth and John Turman

In memory of Wayne and Trudie Jarvis

Dave and Nellie Jarvis

George and Emilie Rickstrew

In memory of Jenny Leonetti

Gail and Mark Muehlethaler

In memory of Ed Mansfield

Dave and Nellie Jarvis

In memory of Bruce and Ruth Masters

Cheryl Masters

In memory of Kim and Mark Meyer

Frank and Lorie Eby

In memory of Penelope Meyer

Dawn and Brent Meyer

In memory of Philip Nestingen

Lynn Nestingen

Rebekah Nestingen

In memory of Sandy Olson

Ben and Corliss Wyatt

In memory of Margaret Patton

Connie Steiert

In memory of Kelsey Rohrbaugh
 Anonymous

In memory of Wayne and Nancy Sather

Mark and Diane Sather

In memory of Ann (Jarvis) Smith

George and Emilie Rickstrew

In memory of Bob Tristano

Denise Tristano

In memory of Carla Turner

Anonymous

In Honor of Aubrey, Aaron, and Ashley

Rev. Pam Challis and Dave Challis

In Honor of Haydon Everts

Kimberly and Gregory Everts

In Honor of Pastor Nicole' Ferry

Julie and Jary Shimer

In Honor of Gavin and William Gianneschi

Karen and Carl Sum

In Honor of Dave and Nellie Jarvis

Art Kraus and Michelle Stone Kraus

In Honor of Kristin Lynn

Phyllis and Randall Lynn

In Honor of the McCreech family

Anonymous

In Honor of Clay and Laurie Mohler

Gail Strobel

In Honor of the Plumley family

Jack and Phyllis Brown

In Honor of RTLC campers

Rev. Gordon Sandquist and Rev. Sonja Sandquist

In Honor of the RTLC Staff

Anonymous

Beth Graham

Pastor Nicole' Ferry

In Honor of the RTLC Day Camp Counselors at St. Luke

Pastor Christa von Zychlin

In Honor of Chris Seaman who feeds us all with love

Kirstin Smith

In Honor of the SOTH kids

Beth Turman

In Honor of the 2021 Summer Staff

Kitchen Crew

Silje Ostrem

Remember Your Friends and Loved Ones in a Lasting Way

Want a great way to remember or honor a loved one... and make a difference in the faith life of thousands of children? We have a way! Rainbow Trail now has Memorial, Honor, and Thanksgiving packets that we can send you that make it easy to celebrate the life of someone

you love. Memorial gifts can be made at the time of death of a loved one or friend, on the anniversary of the person's birth, or a couple on their anniversary. Thanksgiving and Honor gifts can be made at any time in celebration of a person, couple, or group of people. Marriages, wedding anniversaries, confirmations, and retirements are just some of the events that provide occasions for honor gifts. The packet includes a card to send to the family or individual, letting them know that you have made a special gift to Rainbow Trail and an envelope to mail your gift to us. We will list the names the memorialized/honorees in Rainbow Reflections along with those contributing the gift. If you would like a packet sent to you, email Dave at dave@rainbowtrail.org and we'll send one out right away.



CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to the following friends of Rainbow Trail who gave a gift in 2023

Abby Aurzada	Christie Kurth	Jane and Steven Massie	Matt and Sarah Brooks
Alan and Susan Shelinbarger	Claire Fisk	Jeanell Carlson-Bjorkman	Megan Myers
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		Mark and Susan Lathrop	
		Martha and Clint Calvert	

Blazing New Paths!

Trailblazers and Pathfinders are Rainbow Trail's annual giving clubs that sustain and allow our ministry to grow. For as little as \$10 a month, or \$120 a year, you can become a Trailblazer and make a huge difference in everything that happens here at camp! Pathfinders are those that would like to give a little more. For \$1,000 or more a year, you can become a Pathfinder and can make a bigger difference in this incredible ministry. From Day Camp to Bridging Borders to On-Site ministries to Compass Points to camperships, Trailblazer and Pathfinder dollars help to make a difference in countless lives through wonderful faith experiences. Support from the Rocky Mountain Synod to Rainbow Trail needed to be reduced to \$15,250 for 2023. We need your help in covering that difference. You can join by simply making your gift to Rainbow Trail. If you are interested in knowing more about Trailblazers or Pathfinders, please contact Dave at the Canon City office (719-276-5233) or by e-mail at dave@rainbowtrail.org.

Backcountry Fly Fishing Open

Join us this fall for a
backpacking and
fly fishing adventure to
North Brush Lakes!
Friends and families
welcome!

September 5 - 8, 2024

Use Your Thrivent Choice Dollars Wisely

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, we need your help! We exceeded our Thrivent Choice goal for 2023 of \$34,000 and have set a goal of \$35,000 for 2024. With that kind of support from Thrivent, not only can we continue to provide camperships but we can also possibly upgrade some of the equipment on our site.

Here is how you can help. You will need to go out to the Thrivent website each quarter to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars. This is the only way to ensure that your Thrivent Choice dollars will make it to Rainbow Trail each quarter. Go to <http://www.rainbowtrail.org/donate/thrivent-choice/> and follow the steps to make your designation.

If you have friends that are Thrivent members and who have not designated their Thrivent Choice dollars, please encourage them to designate those Thrivent Choice dollars to Rainbow Trail. We heard that there was close to \$1 million dollars in Choice dollars NOT distributed last year. Help us change that! You can help make a world of difference!!

Don't Forget Rainbow Trail 2024 Events Calendar

- February 28.....Summer Staff Applications Due
- April 1.....Summer Volunteer Apps Due
- May 24-27.....Memorial Day Work Weekend
- May 27-June 18.....Staff Training
- August 30-September 2.....Labor Day Family Weekend
- September 19-22.....Men's Fly Fishing Retreat
- September 27-29.....Womens Retreat
- October 5.....Grace Race
- October 11-13.....Confirmation Retreat
- October 18-20.....Fall Ambassadors Retreat
- November 22-24.....Senior High Retreat
- Dec 6-8.....AdventFest

www.rainbowtrail.org

A different, yet significant way to support the ministries of Rainbow Trail

Needs List



These are essential items needed for our day-to-day operations. A designated monetary gift would certainly be welcome as well. You can bring these items with you any time you come to camp or call us to arrange a drop-off or pick-up. Thank you for your continued support!

- White 20# copy Paper (Laser quality)
- Reams of colored copy paper
- Nalgene Water Bottles (40)
- Masking tape
- Scotch Tape
- Duct Tape
- Packing Tape
- Postage stamps
- 8.5x11 Yellow Tablets
- 8 ft. Rectangle "Lifetime" tables (5)
- Long barreled fire lighters (Bic)
- 9x12 Manila envelopes (no clasps)
- 6x9 Manila Envelopes (no clasps)
- 10x13 Manila Envelopes (no clasps)
- 12 - 5 ft. round white Lifetime tables
- Rain Jackets & Rain Pants
- On-Site and Compass Points Day Packs
- Foam Brushes - 1"
- Paintbrushes - all sizes, inexpensive
- 2 Cases of Lysol or Clorox Wipes
- 5X8 note pads Junior legal

Wish List

These are larger items that we haven't budgeted for, but would love to have. Contact us if you would like to donate any of these items, new or gently used. You can bring them to camp, or call to arrange a drop-off or pick-up. Thank you for your continued support.



- Heavy Duty Cotton Work Gloves
- Industrial Mop buckets (call us first!)
- Sturdy Wheelbarrows
- New Queen sheets - white
- New Queen mattress pads
- New 3-piece towel sets (20)
- Shark Navigator vacuums (4)
- Free Standing Space Heaters (3)
- Freezerless Refrigerator
- Dish Cart
- Phillips 60W & 100W Dimmable LED Bulbs
- Podcast Gear
- Skid Steer Tire Chains
- Used Vehicle For Day Camp
- Apple Studio
- Commercial Paper Shredder

Shop Online

It's easy to give a gift from RTALC's Needs or Wish Lists online. We've pre-selected items that we are looking for and provided links straight to great deals that we've found. There is also a Compass Points specific list online. You can even ship directly to us!

www.rainbowtrail.org/donate/needs-and-wish-list

An Active Way to Support RTALC: Thrivent Action Teams

Thrivent Financial has moved to use Action Teams to encourage more people to be involved in more great projects. An action team is easy to organize. All that has to happen is a Thrivent member identifies a worthy project, finds a group of people to help with the project, and then goes to the Thrivent website and establishes the project in the system. Thrivent will provide \$250 in starter funds for the project in hopes that it can be used to generate more. For example, if your church wanted to buy something from the RTALC wish or need list, you could host a breakfast using the starter funds, and all the proceeds from your breakfast could be used to purchase that item for RTALC. Or you could do something similar to raise campership funds for your youth to go to camp this summer. Or you could use several action teams to buy materials for a congregational work weekend at Rainbow Trail. The sky is the limit for what projects can be done to help Rainbow Trail. Consider forming an action team and make a difference in this fun and worthwhile community effort! Contact Dave Jarvis if you have any questions or need more details.

Go Green 

Rainbow Reflections is available in a paperless version! By opting to receive it in an electronic form you will help us save printing and postage costs, save paper, and reduce waste. You will also get Rainbow Reflections with color photos and information about RTALC programs and events. If you want to receive the newsletter via e-mail contact at info@rainbowtrail.org and let us know that you would like to "Go Green." Don't want to give up the paper, but like the idea of color pictures and a copy of the newsletter letter delivered to your inbox? E-mail "Get Both" to info@rainbowtrail.org. Be sure to include your full name and the e-mail address(es) that you would like to receive it at.



Craving Color?

Rainbow Reflections is available in a paperless, color version! E-mail info@rainbowtrail.org to opt for the electronic version of our newsletter! You'll save trees and receive a colorful newsletter right to your inbox!

We make every effort to list each donor, but mistakes do happen. If we have inadvertently omitted your name or have listed you incorrectly we apologize. Please call us, 719-276-5233, and let us know so that we can make corrections.

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