



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 23, Number 5 Fall 2012

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

Land Purchase Continues

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp's efforts to purchase non-federal land to be used in a land exchange are continuing. Non-federal land that is equal in value to the Rainbow Trail site must be purchased and traded with the forest service in order for RTLCL to truly own the current site. At this point, the appraisal reports have been received for the property for which we are already under contract. These reports indicate that the property under contract is valued at about a third of the value of the RTLCL land, which means that we will need to purchase a second piece of non-federal land to begin the exchange process. Because of this, the amount needing to be raised has changed slightly. Currently, we think that we will need to raise a minimum of \$650,000 to purchase both pieces of land, as well as to cover the cost of the consultant fees and the exchange process itself. Of that \$650,000, we need to raise approximately \$400,000-450,000 by the end of the year in order to make the actual land purchases. The sellers of both parcels of land would like to close by the end of the year. We would like to raise at least \$450,000 by the end of the year so that we do not have to take out a loan for purchasing the land. The



Counselor, Elie Cahill, having a blast with some family campers!

remaining money raised will go toward the exchange process after the land has been purchased. Any funds received over the cost of the land and exchange process will be used for our new ropes course, along with other major building projects in accordance with our master plan. All of these funds will remain restricted.

As we continue to raise funds for this endeavor, many people have asked if they should move their annual fund gift over to the land exchange. We would prefer that those gifts remain in the annual fund, and not be moved. We still need your

annual fund gifts through Trail Blazers and Pathfinders to sustain our day-to-day operations. However, if you find that you can do an ADDITIONAL gift over and above your regular annual gift, please give to this appeal.

We need your prayers and we need your financial support. For us to achieve the goal of purchasing this land by December, 2012, we need people who believe in the value of this ministry in the lives of our youth to boldly step forward. To date, \$375,000 has been raised which includes \$170,000 of matching funds. So

far, \$150,000 of these funds have been matched. That means we still have \$20,000 that can be matched by your gifts. 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.

Inside this issue...

- * Meet our new Program Assistants
- * Schedule and Fees for Summer 2013
- * Grace Race Results
- * A look at Upcoming Retreats

High Ropes Course Design and Construction Update

The High Ropes course has been an important part of the summer program since 1996. That didn't change this summer, even though the course was quite different. With the High Ropes Circuit destroyed in last November's wind storms, campers chose as a village to try to climb over the Team Wall or the Dangling Duo. Both of these elements have a large degree of team work and challenge in them and gave us a peak at how a more team focused Circuit course would fit into our program.

During the summer we also began the planning process for the new ropes course. We will be working with Adventure Based Experiential Educators (ABEE) to design and build the new course. We're excited about the prospects for new elements,



and new challenges that campers will experience. This artist's rendering of a multi-person challenge course gives a glimpse of what campers might find as they take on the challenges of a new course in small groups of two to four people. It will be a very different course, but we are excited for the ways that it will encourage community

growth for camper villages and retreat groups.

The design and build process has many challenging steps. We are working with the US Forest Service to have site inspections completed this fall. Engineered drawings of the final design needs to be approved by the state and USFS. We anticipate that

all the planning and approvals will be completed this winter so construction can begin as soon as the snow is off the ground next spring.

These design steps, and building on poles, which we need to do, are expensive. The cost of the new course will be in the neighborhood of \$100,000. We have received a sizable gift for the construction of the course and are pursuing grants to cover some of the remaining costs. However, there is still need for additional funds for construction and equipment for the new course. If you would like to contribute to the building of our new ropes course, you can donate online at www.rainbowtrail.org/donate. If you would like to provide a challenge gift, please call Dave at the Canon City office, 719-276-5233.

Rainbow Trail Mission Statement

Through the ministries of Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, God claims us, Christ transforms us, and the Holy Spirit sends us for faithful service.

Trail Boss

By Dave Jarvis - Executive Director

This was a boring summer... and I liked it! After all that we experienced a year ago, we were ready for a good, "normal" summer at our own site with no major drama. Mission accomplished!

We had a phenomenal summer of serving at our home in the mountains. Because of last year's fire and wind, we were blessed to have hundreds of volunteers that gave over 5,000 hours to get our site back into shape. What a gift these people gave to all of us. And when June came, we were ready for campers! We were blessed with an incredible leadership team this past summer and an equally great summer staff. These people gave their hearts and souls to serving kids, no matter where they were. Their creativity was off the charts and their love for their campers was unparalleled. I hope and expect we will see a lot of these guys back with us 2013!



There are so many people to thank after a great summer. There are so many people that are a part of making a summer so good. Once again, we had an awesome Bible Study that was "All About Grace" and all the credit goes to our Bible Study writers. I believe we all have a new understanding of what Grace is and even a better understanding how we can be Grace in the world. I've never seen a Bible study impact both campers and staff as much as this study did. Thank you for all the extra time you commit to our ministry to make our program better. You have been a blessing to this ministry and to me!

I also want to thank our partner congregations for their support of this ministry. These congregations have become the financial foundation upon which we are able to build this ministry. Because of their support, along with our many donors, this ministry continues to grow and serve in new ways. Thank you for seeing us as partners in your ministry and in the faith development of your youth and families.

I also want to thank Bishop Jim Gonia for joining us for staff closing and worship. I am excited about the possibilities of our ministry together. Know you always have a place that you can come away to think, pray, and be renewed for the journey!

Finally, I want to give a special thank you to Dan Bollman for leading Lutheran Theology with our staff during staff training and for commissioning this ministry team for the summer. Dan has been our Synod partner for at least ten years and has been a joy to work with. Dan, you have been a true blessing to our staff and to me personally. We wish you all the best in your retirement. We will miss you in this role. Don't be a stranger!

A wise friend of mine said, "If you are going to pray for rain, prepare for it to rain." I didn't quite get it the first time I heard this, but as I have dealt with all the aspects of this land exchange and the fundraising that goes with it, the picture has become much clearer. We have literally been praying that this land exchange would come to fruition for over ten years. And, without even knowing it sometimes, we were preparing for this time when everything has come together. It has been an awe-inspiring three months. The response from supporters has been beyond belief. To think we have raised over \$395,000 in less than three months is mindboggling. But I think it also points to how important this special place has become to all of us. Thank you for believing in this ministry and making a difference for generations to come!

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve you through this amazing place. I love my job! I hope it shows!

Until next time, *Dave*

The 6th Annual Grace Race

The 6th annual Grace Race was blessed with an incredible crowd and gorgeous weather! Those participating helped make a difference that day by raising funds for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Over 120 registered and came out for the race.



The top male finisher and overall fastest time yet at the grace race was Connor Knutson with a time of 19:57. The fastest female was Emily Maruyama with a time of 23:10. All the top times for all the age groups are posted on our website.

The 7th annual Grace Race has yet to be scheduled for next year. We are looking to keep it on Sunday afternoon with a Burger dinner after the race. Keep you eye out for official dates. We look forward to seeing you next year!

The final totals are not in but it looks like we will be able to send a check for about \$10,000 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Grace Race Sponsors

Tayco Screen printing, Colorado Springs
Runner's Roost
Luther College
Bethany Luth Church, Cherry Hills, CO
Augustana College
Thrivent for Lutherans,
Metro East Chapter
Augustana College Sponsors
Nellie Jarvis

Luther College Sponsors

Kirk Neubauer
Kelsey Anderson
Dave and Nellie Jarvis
Andrew Peterson

University of Colorado Sponsors

Sara Witte
Ashley McConnell

24 Hours to give where you live!

Support RTLC on Colorado Gives Day! On Tuesday, December 4, 2012, Coloradans will come together again to raise millions of dollars for non-profits like ours. Last year, a remarkable \$12.8 million was distributed to Colorado nonprofits. RTLC raised close to \$24,000 in that 24 hour period. Our goal this year is to raise \$40,000. All funds raised will



go towards the Annual Fund. Since we are in the middle of the land purchase some people have shifted their annual fund donation towards the Capital appeal. But, we still need our annual fund to sustain day-to-day operations. Mark your Calendars!

December 4, 2012

Register for 2013 Summer Camps

Starting November 1, 2012

Registration for 2013 opens November 1, 2012. Register early - camps will fill quickly! You are encouraged to register online at www.rainbowtrail.org. You can also download the registration form and mail it in. A big thank you goes to Matt Olin who used his gifts and talents to design an incredible brochure and postcard again this year! Brochures have been mailed to congregations and postcards



were mailed to all who attended camp this past summer. Family camp and Labor Day can register online as well. Registration opens on November

1st. REMEMBER - youth camps will be filled on a first come first served basis. Please don't wait to register! We look forward to spending summer 2013 with you!

2013 Memorial Day Work Weekend

Call the Canon City office at (719)276-5233 or email Dave at dave@rainbowtrail.org to reserve your spot at this fun and rewarding weekend. If the list of projects from last year is any indication (installing the new log railing on the Bristlecone deck, building the new gaga pit along with the portable version for the pavilion, building the new welcome sign and installing the lighting by the flagpole, remodeling the interior of Buttercup, building two firewood shelters, building a new alternative fire exit from camp, painting the exterior of Juniper Lodge, rebuilding the "I AM", replacing benches in the circle and the outdoor chapel, adding new zones to the sprinkler system, painting red trim on many of our buildings, wood chipping the labyrinth, scraping and resealing the exterior of the pavilion and the crosses, and much more.), we'll be sure to have a busy and memorable weekend!

OPEN Compass Points Dates
are still available
Call now! Slots will fill up quickly!



2013 Summer Schedule

The Rainbow Trail summer 2013 schedule has been set. The fee will be \$395 for all youth camps, with the exception of Intro Camp, which

will be \$195. The week of August 12 - 18 has a special rate of \$375. Family camp fees are \$395 for adults (ages 19 and older), \$285 for teens (ages 13-18) and \$195 for ages 4-12. There is no charge for kids under age 4. **Be sure to register early!**

- May 24-27.....Memorial Day Work Weekend
- May 27-June 8.....Staff Training
- June 9-15.....Junior High #1
- June 16-19.....Intro To Camp #1
- June 16-22.....Junior #1
- June 19-22.....Intro To Camp #2
- June 23-29.....Confirmation #1
- June 30-July 6.....Family Camp #1
- July 7-13.....Senior High #1
- July 14-20.....Confirmation #2
- July 21-27.....Senior High #2
- July 21-27.....Open Sr. High Compass Points
- July 28-August 3.....Open Jr. High Compass Point
- July 28-31.....Intro #3
- July 28-August 3.....Mixed Junior #2/Junior High #2
- August 4-10.....Family Camp #2
- August 11-17.....Mixed Junior #3/Junior High #3
- Aug 30-September 2.....Labor Day Family Weekend

To find out more about these camps, our summer brochure can already be found at our website, www.rainbowtrail.org. You can also find a full set of our registration policies on our website.

Age Levels as of Fall 2013

- Intro to Camp = entering 2nd - 3rd grade
- Juniors = entering 4th - 6th grade
- Junior High = entering 7th - 8th grade
- Senior High = entering 9th-12th grade

Please note: Lutherans of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA have registration priority until January 1, 2013. This applies to all camps, including family camps.

Ben There...

By Ben Larson - Director of Compass Points & Day Camp

It seems like just a few days ago that camp was filled with campers and groups out on trail. The changing colors of the aspens and oaks, and the first snows in the high country tell a different story. The amazing fall weather was very evident last weekend during the Men's Fly Fishing Retreat. With sunny skies, and temps in the 80's, it was an incredible time of fellowship, conversation about faith, and a lot of fishing. Even though I didn't catch any fish (I seldom do) it was wonderful to spend the afternoons surrounded by the splendor of God's creation and the river rushing by my legs. The evenings were spent gathered around the grill for late dinners and great fishing stories, followed by worship and intentional conversation about how God's grace impacts and challenges us in our lives. I heard a lot of stories of how God is active in this world from these guys, they both inspired and challenged me. One of the guys from the weekend said, "I tell everyone it is not about the fish, it's about a special place to be with many good people and the experience will enlighten you." For those gathered, including myself, it was a time of both refreshment and renewal, a time to step away from the hectic pace of the world and center our selves for the work we're called to do.



The Retreat Season at Rainbow Trail provides that time of refreshment and renewal for lots of people, and this year it looks like it will be a busy one. We'll begin the season hosting the Augustana Lutheran Church Seniors, and continue throughout the fall, winter, and spring serving school and youth groups, adults and families. I really enjoy working with people and helping them create a weekend that meets the unique needs of their group; whether that is just providing lodging and meals, or helping plan and lead a weekend filled with teambuilding, bible studies, hiking, worship, or GaGa Ball (check it out on youtube, it's tons of fun). Last winter I helped several groups create ski retreats, with skiing at Monarch Mountain. They had a ton of fun hitting the slopes during the day, and then came back to RTALC for a great hot dinner and evening "Thomas Mass" worship. If you've only ever experienced summer camp, I hope that you'll join us sometime during retreat season. You'll experience a very different side of Rainbow Trail.

...Done That Ben

RTLC AMBASSADORS

Wanted: Normal, Every Day People who Love RTALC and Want to Serve as RTALC Ambassadors.

Ambassadors meet at RTALC for a retreat twice a year to:

1. Find out what is new at Rainbow Trail
2. Build a display board for their congregation
3. Become equipped to pass along important information about what is happening at Rainbow Trail to their congregations.
4. Ambassadors are an important key to the ministry at Rainbow Trail.

If you are interested in becoming an ambassador for your congregation, contact Dave Jarvis at : 719.276.5233 dave@rainbowtrail.org.



Into the Wild



Heading off to college is a big part of life for many young people as they graduate from high school. For both them and their parents, its a time filled with anticipation, excitement, and maybe a little fear. Rainbow Trail is excited to announce a wonderful summer program to help prepare young poeple for the journey into an awesome college experience!

"Into The Wild" is Compass Points backpacking trip designed

specifically for graduating seniors. It's set up to help them step into wild places and have great conversation with other graduating seniors and RTALC's experienced college guides about making the most of college. Explore what life with roommates is like; how to balance the pressures of work, studying, and social life; taking your faith down the mountain and into school; and other questions you have; as you trek through the amazing mountains surrounding RTALC.

This summer will be an intense one as you graduate, say good bye to friends, sign up for classes, and pack for heading off to college. Take a week to come back to camp, relax, have fun, and refocus yourself as you

make this huge transition in your life. RTALC staff have been there before and can help you do it with confidence. As you hike, camp, and raft through wild places in God's creation, they will be there to answer your questions, and help you get ready to explore the wild places that are waiting for you at college.

"This looks amazing! I wish I could go back three years and prepare for college this way."
-- RTALC Counselor

ReTreat Yourself!

Family AdventFest

December 7 - 9, 2012

Don't get caught up in the hectic holiday hustle. Come get away and retreat to RTLCL and celebrate the real reason for the season: Jesus. AdventFest is a great way for families to prepare for the arrival of our Lord. The worship services will focus on



the four Sundays of Advent. There will also be time for kids and adults to create Christmas gifts or terrific Christmas crafts.

Adult crafts for this year include stained glass, wood carving, quilted pillows, woven baskets, wooden lamps, digital scrapbooking, and Christmas wreaths. Adults and kids ages 13 and older are able to participate in two crafts during the weekend. Each craft costs \$12.00 for instruction and materials. Kids Korner includes a variety of things including sledding (weather permitting), crafts, cookie baking, and games! Kids Korner is for kids ages 4-12. Babysitting will also be available during the weekend. Both Kids Korner and babysitting cost \$15.00 per person for the weekend.



AdventFest will start on Friday evening and go through lunch on Sunday. This is a great weekend to relax and truly enjoy the season with your family. The cost of the weekend of fellowship and renewal is \$80 for adults and \$40 for kids ages 4-12. Kids 3 and under are free (crafts are additional).

Registrations are due no later than November 30. Space is limited and a 50% non-refundable deposit is due with your registration. You can now register online. Start a new family tradition!!



Youth Workers Retreat

March 18 - 20, 2013

The Rocky Mountain Synod is blessed to have an amazing group of professional Youth Directors and Pastors investing themselves in the lives of young people. It's a demanding job and each year RTLCL says "Thank You" by offering a free retreat to help these incredible people rejuvenate themselves, grow in their own skills through continuing education, and network with others to find support and new ideas. The Youth Directors' Retreat is scheduled for March 18-20, 2013. If you value the energy and love that the

Youth Director or Pastor in your congregation pours into the youth there, thank them the next time you see them, and encourage them to attend. More information can be found at www.rainbowtrail.org under the Retreats menu.



Rainbow Trail Confirmation Retreats

November 9 - 11, 2012



Confirmation leaders and students: this retreat is for you! Bring your fellow confirmation class friends, a couple of adult leaders and your pastor to one of these fun-filled weekends of faith-building, worship, fellowship and play.

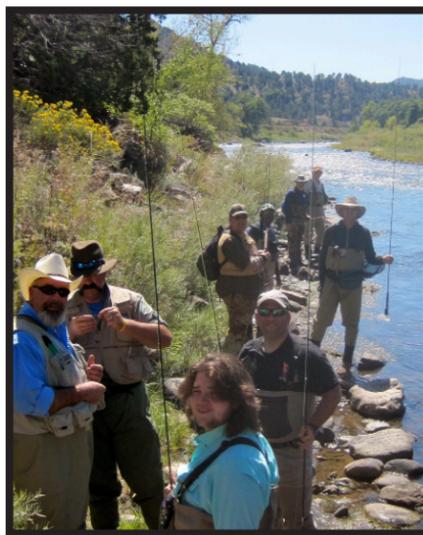
The subject of this year's confirmation retreats is "Face to Face." Kathy Armstrong from Cross of Christ Lutheran Church will be leading large group sessions helping you to explore how we need to step out in faith.

Confirmation classes get a chance to discuss what they have learned with their class, and to play together in the beautiful Sangre de Cristos. Our world is hungry for Good News so come and join us on the mountain; that you may dive head first into a more spiritually driven life and take it home with you!

The cost for these retreats is \$85 per confirmation student and \$60 for each adult. You can find more information and get a registration form on the Rainbow Trail website www.rainbowtrail.org. Look under the "retreats" button or call Ash at 719-276-5233 or email her at ash@rainbowtrail.org Register soon as spaces are filling quickly!

Men's Fly Fishing Retreat

September 12-15, 2013



This past September a groups of guys converged on Rainbow Trail for a weekend of fly fishing, fellowship, and wonderful worship led by Pastor Dave Risendal. Participants at the annual Men's Fly Fishing Retreat had a great time; one said, "I tell everyone it is not about the fish, it is a special place to be with many good people and the experience will enlighten you."

Built around fly fishing, the weekend is designed to be a time of refreshment and renewal. It's a time to step out of the stresses of ordinary life and into the refreshing waters of the Arkansas River. Pastor Dave Risendal, St Peter Lutheran Church, Greenwood Village, brings a deep love of fly fishing and the gospel to the weekend and leads a worship that is real and contextual. Prompting conversation he helps fisherman explore their faith and the ways that impacts their everyday life. With years of fly fishing experience he is also able to teach people to cast for

the first time, or perfect their skills in fly tying.

Whether you are a seasoned fly fisherman, or have never picked up a fly rod, this is a weekend where you can learn something new. Greg Felt, owner of Ark Anglers Fly Shop, will come and share great information about what's happening on the Arkansas River and how to find the fish that are out there. During the mornings, when not on the river, you can take part in onsite workshops on casting, fly tying, reading the river. There are also many seasoned fishermen who are just as excited to hook a new guy on fishing as they are to hook a fish.

Whether you are an experienced angler or just want to try fly fishing, this is a weekend you won't want to miss! The \$195 program fee includes meals and lodging. If you don't have gear, we have rental equipment available at a great price. We can also make arrangements to hire guided fly trips through Ark Anglers if desired. To get more information, visit www.rainbowtrail.org/retreats or email ben@rainbowtrail.org.



pASHionate

By Ashley McConnell - Director of Onsite & Bridging Borders

It is incredible to me how the summer has come and gone so quickly. One minute we are hiring great individuals eager to serve, the next they arrive and go from individuals to a team then finally they are gone, exhausted yet walking away with unforgettable memories to take with them wherever they disperse to. The 2012 summer staff was truly astonishing. They loved each camper unconditionally and were truly all about Grace all summer long.

This summer was blissfully boring. 10 weeks of camp... at home. No fire. No wind. Just pure, outstanding and grace filled ministry. Ahhhh perfection.

While the summer was "boring" on many accounts it was absolutely nothing short of exciting. Each Sunday was like Christmas Day. Anticipation for what gifts would be revealed out of campers and staff during the course of week. It was incredible to see everyone embrace and shine through their gifts without fail week after week. I truly believe that as we talked about grace all week every week, people (campers, parents, pastors, grand parents, congregational leaders and staff) went home changed. Taking comfort and living out the fact that they get to bask in God's amazing grace every day. What a gift!

While I find myself reminiscing practically everyday about some memory that pops into my head from the summer, I can't help but feel ready for the change of pace. Busy but not as BUSY. Fall is without a doubt my favorite time of year. Yes, because of football season, as many of you know I am a Broncos addict, but also because Colorado falls are absolutely beautiful. Fall brings a time when I get to spend time with my family, catch up with friends I haven't seen for a while and just take a step back and rejuvenate. There is no better time to do all of those things then after this past summer of ministry.

This summer's bible study theme has stuck with me in a big way. Life truly is all about grace. It's about trying to love others unconditionally, even when they aren't so easy to love. It's about trying to let others love you unconditionally, even when you aren't so easy to love. Most importantly, though, it's about basking in God's unconditional love for each one of us because he doesn't just try... he succeeds every single time. There is nothing we can do to make God love us any more or any less... Phew!




Rainbow Trail Welcomes Betsy and Jeff!

This September, Rainbow Trail welcomed two new program assistants for the 2012 -2013 retreat season. We can't wait for you to meet them! They bring amazing gifts to this ministry and will be an asset to all we serve this retreat season. Come visit us this retreat season and get a chance to know these two!



Betsy Hardi and Jeff Fairfax, our new program assistants

Betsy Hardi

Howdy RTLC Supporters! I'm Betsy Hardi, one of the PGAs for the 2012-2013 season. I am a recent graduate of Texas A&M University, with degrees in Theatre Arts, English Literature, and German. I've spent the past few summers working as a cabin leader and assistant program director at Camp Chrysalis, a Lutheran camp located in Kerrville, Texas. Originally from Dallas, I'm not used to the cold weather and I can't believe how cold it already is for September! In my spare time, I enjoy baking, writing snail mail letters (so feel free to write me!), and blogging all of my wonderful experiences in Colorado. My true loves in life are my niece and nephew, Hayden and Jakob, my kitten, and Fightin' Texas Aggie football. I look forward to meeting some of you in the upcoming year! God Bless!

Jeff Fairfax

Hello RTLC family! My name is Jeff Fairfax, I am one of the program assistants interning at camp this year. I come to RTLC from sunny southwest Florida where I have spent the past three years as the Director of Youth Ministry at Christ Lutheran Church in Cape Coral, FL. I have been very involved for the past 7 years with Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Florida spending many summers on staff as well as creating and leading energetic non-summer programs. My family is very involved in the Lutheran church, my sister works for the ELCA in Chicago and my mother is a consecrated deacon in the Florida-Bahamas Synod. I am very excited to spend this year at RTLC discerning my call to outdoor ministry, partnering with local congregations to enhance their ministry, and enjoying God's beautiful creations here in Colorado!! In my free time I love to fish, go on the boat, spend time with friends, and be a Christian mentor for the future of our church, the youth! My favorite bible verse is 2 Corinthians 5:7, "for we walk by faith, not by sight". I look forward to meeting and working alongside many of you this year!!

God Bless,
Jeff Fairfax

The Program Assistant position is designed to give interested individuals a chance to experience full-time outdoor ministry. Program Assistants serve from September through May and help in all aspects of Rainbow Trail's ministry. If you would like more information, please contact the camp office.

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. RTLC 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 quick link off of the main page of the Rainbow Trail website as well as off of the land exchange page of our site. The RTLC on-line auction web page will be up and running by the mid October! Keep checking back as items are added!



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!

ORGANIZATIONAL GIFTS

Adams County Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
California Pizza Kitchen
Collegiate Peaks Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Denver County Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Douglas County Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Fremont-Custer County Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Garden of the Gods Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Gateway Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Mesa County Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Metro Plains Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
North Jeffco Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutheran
Pikes Peak Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Regional Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Sangre de Cristo Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Southeast Metro Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
South Jeffco Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Twin Peaks Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Bridging Borders is returning to MEXICO!

There are still weeks available this summer for
ALL locations!

Call now! Slots will fill up quickly!

'Tis the Season to Give!

If you have ever wanted to make a difference... and contribute to a greater cause, Rainbow Trail offers a unique way to do so. Our Campership Funds help give youth in less fortunate financial situations the chance to still experience a week at camp. What a great gift: sending a deserving kid to camp to experience God in this beautiful setting! Contact Dave at the Canon City office for more information. 719-276-5233 or dave@rainbowtrail.org

Fresh Ehr

By Nick Ehrhardt - Director of Site and Facilities

If you spent any time at all here this summer, you're likely keen to the theme, "It's All About Grace." This bible study went deep, and its potential to bring us to the core of Christ's Gospel was lived out in many conversations and in many hearts. This summer, Grace both lightened our hearts and ripped them open. Perhaps some of you then, like me, have now settled into the reflective and pondering season of autumn trying to piece the "Gift" of Grace all together.



Truthfully, I think we use the word "gift" here pretty loose and fast. Sure, in the sense that Grace is forgiveness, that what we have done wrong or fail to do right doesn't matter in the Loving Heart of God, it is a "gift" somewhat in the sense we're used to. But it is the other side of Grace that makes its "giftedness" harder to swallow: in the sense that in our relationship to God's Love, the things that we don't do wrong, or that we are good at doing right, don't matter either.

This changes our entire context. This is not the world that we are used to. Most of us, even if we've been freed of dwelling on the things we fail at, still habitually hang our lives and our sense worth on the things we do, the things we're good at, the things we incessantly keep ourselves busy with. The difficult reality of Christ's gospel of Grace is that, if we are to hang our worth in the ultimate reality of God's Love for us, then precisely our habitual relationship to life and our accomplishments needs to change. I can't imagine a more difficult and daunting task.

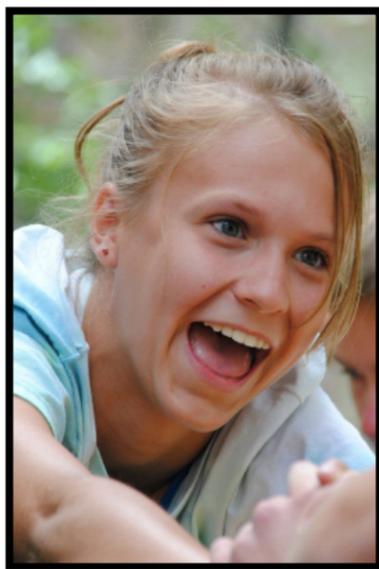
The very nature of my role at Rainbow Trail keeps me very busy, especially this time of year. Winter is hard on this place and there is a lot to secure and seal up for the (hopefully) snow-heavy season ahead. And between a very packed retreat schedule, some exciting fundraisers approaching, and the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of the Land Exchange and the seemingly endless task-lists that it brings along, all of us here at RTLCL are busier than ever before. We're all occupied with "doing" and it is hard not to judge the productivity of a day on the things we've finished and finished well. How exactly can we manage to remain committed to a life focused on the ultimate reality of God's "gift" of Grace? It's tough. And frankly, there are few people I know who could say that they have figured this out. But what we do have as part of the Rainbow Trail family is the blessed "gift" of a community of people, a tradition of ritual, and a shared commitment to a life of discipleship that continually reminds us to stay focused on and always returning to the depth and breadth of God's Love for us.

Of course, it is not that "doing" stops with Grace. We live in a world that needs our work. But, when and if we can continually return to the freedom in God's Grace, then we are much freer to allow God to work through us. Promisingly, this is exactly the sort of reality that I am privileged to catch small glimpses of in each of you as you come visit us. Grace abounds here in some magical ways. My prayer is that each of us can come to a place where the complete and daunting fullness of the "gift" of Grace can open into all of our hearts, all of the time.

Nick

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 a year, you can become a Pathfinder and can make a substantial difference in this incredible ministry. From Day Camp to Bridging Borders and camperships, Trailblazer and Pathfinder dollars help to make a difference in countless lives through wonderful faith experiences.



This year more than ever we need your support. Support from the Rocky Mountain Synod to Rainbow Trail will have been reduced by close to \$18,000 by the end of this January. We need your help in covering that difference.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Trailblazers or Pathfinders, please contact Dave at the Canon City office (719-276-5233) or by e-mail at dave@rainbowtrail.org.

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The following individuals are members of the 2012 Pathfinders' Club. Pathfinders is RTLCL's next level giving club that keeps the ministry at Rainbow Trail growing and expanding. These individuals have given \$1,000 or more to this great ministry. To join, contact Dave Jarvis 719-276-5233 or find out more and donate online at www.rainbowtrail.org/donate. Many thanks to the following supporters of Rainbow Trail!

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We sincerely apologize for omitting a group of donor names in the April newsletter. We make every effort to list each donor, but mistakes do happen. Please call 719-276-5233 if we have inadvertently omitted your name or listed you incorrectly.



Events Calendar
2012 - 2013

November 9-11.....RTLCL Confirmation Retreat
December 7-9.....AdventFest
February 28.....Summer Staff applications due
March 18-20.....Youth Directors' Retreat
March 30.....Summer Volunteer apps due
May 24-27.....Memorial Day Work Weekend
May 27-June 8.....Staff Training
August 30-September 2.....Labor Day Family Weekend
September 12-15.....Men's Fly Fishing Retreat
TBA.....Grace Race and Rendezvous Weekend

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Give a gift to Rainbow Trail and invest in the faith lives of thousands of kids. In today's economy there is no better return!



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The following individuals are members of the 2010 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 "Support Us" portion of our webpage at www.rainbowtrail.org. Many thanks to the following supporters of Rainbow Trail!

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 Eric & Carolyn Gustafson
 Steve Gustafson & Beth Knuston-Gustafson
 Jeff & Mary Haeffe
 Scott & Susan Harman
 Scott & Janet Harrison
 Greg & Barbara Haschke
 Joy Hawkins & Randall Clark
 Nancy Henning
 Stacy & Erik Hjelmstad
 Edson & Mary Holland
 Paul & Lynne Horpedahl
 Gail & Rod Hubbard
 Marlin & Mary Jahnke
 Stanley & Evelyn John
 Dennis Johnson
 Lucille Johnson
 Stan & Sandy Johnson
 Steve & Linda Jurens
 John & Allison Kane
 Sue Keasling
 Megan Keating
 Craig Kelly
 Jeff Kelty
 Sandy & Van Kistler
 Heather Kistler
 Oliver Korte
 Art Kraus & Michelle Stone Kraus
 David Kumpe & Rosemarie
 Wipfelder Kumpe
 Severt & Mary Kvamme
 Jean Larson
 Kyle Larson
 Mike & Kristin Lavelle
 Barbara & Nils Lindroth
 Marlise Lonn
 Steve & Nancy Lord
 Dale & Mary Ann Louis
 David & Michelle Louis
 Gail & Kay Luttinin
 Dennis & Karen Martinson
 Tim & Lori Matson
 Jeffrey Meador
 Walter & Karyl Meyer
 Adrian & Andrew Miller
 Joyce Mills
 Gail Muehlethaler
 Jim & Judy Myra
 Eric & Kirsten Nelson
 Patti Nelson
 Sigurd & Dianne Nelson
 Richard & Penny Newman
 John & Jenifer Oien
 Clark & Sara Olson-Smith
 Eric & Christina Ostovic

Dave & Judy Peters
 Terry & Susan Pletkovich
 Josh & Alissa Plumley
 Debra Rex Engquist & Michael Rex
 Joe & Donna Richardson
 Mark & Michele Robinson
 Kevin & Darlene Rohrbaugh
 Elden Ronnekamp
 Holly Samuelson
 Kevin & Cheryl Schenk
 Gary Schoon
 Carl & Gail Schurman
 Brad & Brooke Shannon
 Jim & Bonnie Shumaker
 JoAnn Soker
 Kirstine Stjernholm
 Mark & Natalie Talley
 Wayne & Marion Talley
 La'Arnie & Bert Tise
 Scott Treider & Carol Serrano-Treider
 Amber & Joe Turner
 Dave & Judy Van Auken
 Bea Varney
 Clarence & Marlyn Ver Sluys
 Larry & Catherine Wacker
 Helen Wagner
 Tim & Jen Walmer
 Greg & Deb Watson
 Roberta Wentworth
 Karen Witt & James Puga
 Terry & Holly Wubbena
 Betty & Ron Yergert
 Gene & Angie Youngmann
 Clayton & Laurie Mohler
 Eric & Kirsten Nelson
 Josh & Caitlin Nelson
 Patti Nelson
 Richard & Penny Newman
 Keith & Laura Padgett
 Kevin & Deney Perkins
 Carol Picco
 Josh & Alissa Plumley
 Joe & Donna Richardson
 Russ & Malee Schoon
 Gary & Kay Schritter
 Carl & Gail Schurman
 Brad & Brooke Shannon
 Kevin & Sarah Smith
 Kirstine Stjernholm
 Kathryn Strainer
 Wayne & Marion Talley
 Amber Turner
 Bea Varney
 Clarence & Marlyn Ver Sluys
 Helen Wagner
 Greg & Deb Watson
 Roberta Wentworth
 Keith & Tammy Wetter
 Erik & Kim Williams
 Karen Witt & James Puga
 Sara Witte
 Terry & Holly Wubbena
 Betty & Ron Yergert
 Gene & Angie Youngmann
 Miller
 Jim & Karla Miller
 Joyce Mills
 Nick Moucha
 Josh & Caitlin Nelson
 Patti Nelson
 Sigurd & Dianne Nelson
 Richard & Penny Newman
 Josh & Alissa Plumley
 Paul & Jana Oman
 Keith & Laura Padgett
 Barbara & David Poston
 Clara Remele
 Rhonda Rhodes
 Joe & Donna Richardson
 Ellen Riley
 Eldene Ronnekamp
 Edith Schneider
 Gary & Malee Schoon
 Carl & Gail Schurman
 David Schwendtner
 Katie Seiffert
 Brad & Brooke Shannon
 Kevin Singleton
 Kevin & Sarah Smith
 Kathryn Strainer
 Wayne & Marion Talley
 Helen Wagner
 Greg & Deb Watson
 Roberta Wentworth
 Vicki White
 Erik & Kim Williams
 Karen Witt & James Puga
 Sara Witte
 Terry & Holly Wubbena
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 Gene & Angie Youngmann

LEELAND & ELLEN SOKER ANNUAL CAMBERSHIP FUND

Herbert & Myra Bagenstos
 Leon & Linda Bauman
 Bethany Lutheran Church
 Foundation, Cherry Hills Village
 Karen & Scott Klein

Bert & Dolly Lager
 Don & June Simonton
 Jo Ann Soker

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| White 20# copy paper (laser quality) | Long barreled fire lighters |
| Reams of colored copy paper | 9x12 manila envelopes (no clasps) |
| Masking tape | Flip chart pads |
| Adobe Creative Suite 4 (Mac) | 6x9 manila envelopes (no clasps) |
| Sharpie brand permanent markers | Boxes of 1/3 cut file folders |
| Scotch tape | 5 ft. round white "Lifetime" tables |
| Duct tape | Computer battery back-up system |
| Postage stamps | 4 drawer file cabinet |
| UPS surge protector power strips | 6 or 8 ft. rect white "Lifetime" tables |
| Packs medium black or blue pens | A "new" economic "commuter" car |

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



- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| New sound system (call us first) | New LCD projectors |
| Free standing space heaters | Digital camera (min 8 megapixel) |
| 50-yard intercom system | Costumes for Life of Christ |
| Cotton work gloves | 5 gallon shop vacs |
| Industrial mop buckets (call us first) | Upright vacs |
| Reciprocating saw | New high chairs |
| Jump drives/thumb drives | Pack-n-play Cribs |
| Mac desktop computers | 32" Digital flat screen TV's |
| New PC desktop computer (call us) | DVD players with remotes |
| New full sheets - white | Gator 6 wheeled vehicle |
| New full or single mattress pads | 20 ft. or longer extension cords |
| New queen sheets - white | New gas grills |
| New queen mattress pads | Motorola 2-way radios |
| New 3-piece towel sets | 100 foot cloth measuring tape |
| 10 gal Rubbermaid bins for kitchen | Bobcat Pallet Forks & Toothed Bucket |

Administrative Office

107 S. 9th Street, Suite B
 Canon City, CO 81212
 Phone: 719-276-5233
 Fax: 719-276-5235
 Office Hours: 9 am - 5 pm



Camp Office

P.O. Box T
 3056 County Road 198
 Hillside, CO 81232
 Phone: 719-942-4220
 Fax: 719-942-4000

Full-Time Staff

- Dave Jarvis, Executive Director.....dave@rainbowtrail.org
 Sara Cumbie, Executive Secretary.....info@rainbowtrail.org
 Aurice Worley, Bookkeeper.....accounting@rainbowtrail.org
 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

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