



# 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 25, Number 2 Spring 2013

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

## Breaking Ground on the New Ropes Course

It has been a journey getting the new ropes course off the ground. After waiting to receive the Forest Service approval and permit, and then having a three month delay in receiving our engineered drawings, we are finally ready to have the poles erected and the construction of the new course moving forward.

This is a very different ropes course from our original one. The new course is designed for as many as four campers on any one element at a time. We're excited about the prospects of the new elements, and new challenges that campers will experience. This course will encourage and develop community growth for both camper villages and retreat groups.

The new ropes course will



cost Rainbow Trail about \$125,000. The original course that we built in 1996, including the low ropes course, cost only \$29,000. We have received over \$80,000 in gifts for the new course including a very generous gift

of \$62,000 from the estate of Pauline Hammond. We are in the process of pursuing grants for a portion of the remaining balance, but still need additional funds for construction and new equipment from individuals,

congregations, and organizations to finish this project.

Our goal now is to have the new high ropes course completely built and inspected by mid-summer. If you would like to support this life-changing activity for our campers, you can make a gift designated to the ropes course. You can also donate online at [www.rainbowtrail.org/donate](http://www.rainbowtrail.org/donate). If you would like to make a larger gift or a stock gift to support the ropes course, please contact Dave Jarvis at 719-429-1377 or email him at [dave@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:dave@rainbowtrail.org) for more details. Help us make this new ropes course a reality!!

## RTLC Board Takes Next Steps to Secure New Non-Federal Parcel for the Land Exchange

Much has transpired over the last ten months surrounding the land exchange. As you may recall, we truly had the opportunity of a lifetime put in front of us with a piece of private land that was surrounded by National Forest and was available for purchase. This property was high on the list of desirable properties with the Forest Service and seemed to be a perfect fit for what we needed for the land exchange. The owner of the property set a deadline of December 7th to close on the sale. We were expecting to need about \$250,000 by that date. This set into motion the most amazing fund raising effort experienced at Rainbow Trail. Over the next five months, we proceeded to raise close to \$700,000 for the land exchange. We were ready for the purchase. However, the owner was not pleased with the appraisal that he received on his property and decided to get a second appraisal. He is still waiting on

the results of that new appraisal. This land may still play a part in the land exchange.

In the meantime, the Rainbow Trail Board decided to pursue a second piece of property that in many ways fit our needs better. With the appraisal of the 80 acres around the Rainbow Trail site being close to \$300,000, the Board knew we were going to need a larger piece of land for the exchange. The current non-federal land being considered is a 120 acre parcel completely surrounded by National Forest. The parcel sits in a Lynx habitat which makes this a very desirable piece

of property for the Forest Service. After several conversations with the owner, RTLC asked if we could seek an appraisal on the property so they had more information. That appraisal took place in February. We just received the results of that appraisal.

At the May meeting of the Rainbow Trail board of Directors, the Board voted to move forward with the next steps in securing a contract to purchase that new piece of property to be used in a land exchange. We should know more very soon!

For the sake of your children and your children's children, we need to own our site. Rainbow Trail has become such holy ground for so many people and so many families. This is the place that many say is their second home. It is a place where people can be their authentic selves and be exactly who God created them to be. It is a place that is helping equip people to serve the church as youth directors, as Pastors, and as young adults in global missions in Africa, Argentina, London, Madagascar, and elsewhere.

If you have not given to the "Home at Last" campaign, prayerfully consider making an over and above gift to this campaign. That is, we still need your reg-

ular support for our daily operations. But if you have something additional that you can give, you will be touching the lives of generations to come. And you will be part of history! So far, we have raised \$697,000. We are only \$53,000 away from reaching our goal of \$750,000 that will cover the land purchase and the actual land exchange process.

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



*The possibility of owning our site is very real.*

### Inside this issue...

Trail Boss.....	p.2
Men's Fly Fishing Retreat.....	p.2
California Pizza Kitchen.....	p.2
From Site to Sight.....	p.3
Thank you PGAs.....	p.3
Why I Give.....	p.3
Meet the 2013 Summer Staff...p.4-5	
#Ashtag.....	p.6
Ben There, Done That.....	p.7
Wish/Needs List.....	p.8

### 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 time of the year is crazy for us! Final preparations for summer, providing our staff spring training online, attending Synod assembly, leading retreats, and getting all the trainings and certifications we need for the summer consumes our time. But when we have a minute to stop, we realize the why in all of it. And that is the campers that will arrive in just a few short weeks. I love that we can be a part of the faith development of so many of your children. It is a task we take very seriously. Thanks for trusting us!

Registrations are very strong for summer and most weeks are full or very close to full. But there is still time to register for camp! If you haven't registered yet, do it today. It is easy and can all be done online. There are still some senior high camp spots available in both weeks. Double check when your school starts for the fall. Lots of schools don't start until after camp is over and there is still a lot of room in that last week of camp. Don't miss out on the chance to be at camp with our great staff. If money is an issue, email me and let's talk.

Don't let finances be the reason for not coming to camp. We have camperships available for that purpose. There are no forms to fill out, and you don't need to share any private information. Take advantage of this opportunity to help your child have the best week of their summer at Rainbow Trail!

Our staff will soon be here for the summer! Our Directors arrive on Monday, May 20th and the rest of our ministry team arrives on Memorial Day. We are so excited about this team and all they will have to offer our campers. This is a great group! Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this summer. May God use them in amazing ways this summer!!

We continue to move forward with the new ropes course. Construction dates have been moved out because of a delay in receiving our engineered drawings. It wasn't anything we could control. But we are moving forward now. Poles will be placed in the ground very soon and work will continue through the early part of summer. We still hope to have the course up and running sometime during this summer.

After a long wait for the appraisal on the new non-federal parcel to be completed, the land exchange process is once again alive and kicking. Please continue to pray for new doors to be opened and for people to have a broader vision of the impact of this land exchange. It has already been an amazing process and God has definitely been in the middle of it.

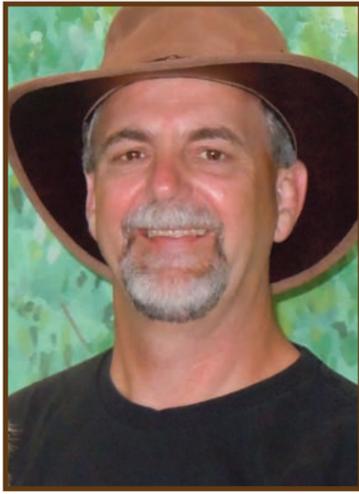
We continue to need your support for this ministry through prayer, through your sweat, and through your financial gifts. And now, more than ever, we need EVERYONE to help financially support this ministry. The economy has not fully recovered and people are still looking for jobs. Not surprisingly, our requests for camperships continue to grow. But we have stuck to our philosophy that money will never be a reason a child can't come to camp. We will find a way to make it all work. Gifts of all sizes, large and small, make this ministry run. If everyone will do something to financially support RTLC, it will make an enormous difference. And the return on this investment will be tremendous – that is a promise!!!!

Ash and I had a chance to go to New York this spring to do an exploratory and final prep trip for our Bridging Borders trips to New York City. This was an amazing trip. We will be working directly with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of New York. They are doing some amazing work in the city. Our groups will definitely be doing some Hurricane Sandy recovery in the area. But I also hope they get to experience working with the kids I did at the LSS early childhood center in Harlem. I had the opportunity to play with 3 and 4 year olds for most of a morning. We built a fabulous home out of wooden blocks and danced the Chicken Dance along with several other songs. But I also had the chance to step into their lives, even if it was for just a few hours, and start to understand that they are no different than us and that love trumps everything. These are going to be phenomenal trips for the groups that are going there this summer. This program is a keeper! Nell and I are heading to Decorah, Iowa to attend our Ben's graduation from Luther College. Leah graduated back in December. We have made our last tuition payment! Life will be very different now. It has been such a great journey with our kids to watch them grow and develop into adults. Rainbow Trail has played a big part in doing that. And now we get to watch them shine! We're so proud of you both!

Every year I am reminded that I have the best job in the world. God uses my gifts to serve literally thousands of people every summer. I work with incredible people that keep me young and challenge me to stay that way. And this ministry is supported by the greatest group of people anywhere. It gets no better! Thanks for the blessing of serving you another summer. This is summer #25 for me. I can't wait! See you at camp this summer!!

Until next time...

*Dave*



## A Successful California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser

A huge thank you to everyone that participated in the California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser this past February. Spanned over 9 California Pizza Kitchen locations we raised \$1835. As an added bonus Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matched \$1 for every \$2



dollars raised. The grand total raised was over \$3,600. Thank you for your incredible support, we definitely felt the love! We are planning on keeping this fundraiser in the future. Keep your eyes and ears out for dates and locations! We are very blessed to have such great supporters!

## Designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to RTLC and Help Great Ministry Happen!

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has a charitable giving program called Thrivent Choice. They are no longer matching gifts of any kind. Instead, each member is allocated a set amount of money to give to the Lutheran organizations of their choice. Last year, Rainbow Trail received \$46,000 from this program. Our goal for 2013 is \$50,000. We hope that you will designate your allocated dollars to Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. One of the changes for 2013 is that you need to go out to the Thrivent website quarterly to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars. We know that is a lot to remember and we can help. If you will let us know that you have designated your Thrivent Choice dollars to Rainbow Trail, we can send you either an email or a postcard quarterly to remind you to go out and designate your dollars. If you haven't designated your Choice dollars to any organization, just follow the steps below to designate them to Rainbow Trail. Here are step by step instructions on how to designate your funds.

1. Log on to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com)
2. Sign in with your username and password or register for an account.
3. Once you have registered and signed in, select the "Direct Choice Dollars" button for Thrivent Choice in the right hand side.
4. In the middle of the next page, type in "Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp." in the "Organization Name" box, leave "City" blank, and click search.
5. Next to our camp name, you will click the "Direct Now" button. You will be able to assign all or part of your choice dollars to us. You can also set it up so Rainbow Trail continues to get your future Thrivent Choice Dollars as well.
6. Click the "submit" button and your Thrivent Choice Dollars will be sent to our ministry.

This is just one more way that you can give to support this ministry. Encourage your friends that are Thrivent members to do the same! If you have any questions, call Dave at the Canon City office.

## Thrivent Huge Supporters of our Memorial Day Work Weekend

Memorial Day Work Weekend is one of the coolest parts of the annual calendar or Rainbow Trail. This is the weekend that we not only shake the dust off all the parts of camp that have been carefully put away for the winter, but it has grown to be a weekend when major changes happen to camp every year. This year is no exception.

The big plans for this year include building a new observation deck and firing line for the archery range, rebuilding the stairs on Eagle Peak Lodge, finishing the Trex decking on Columbine Lodge, building a marketing Kiosk for the pavilion, remodeling the bathrooms in Columbine, replacing the railroad ties in front of Columbine with new logs, and cleaning up the ropes course area. In addition, we will build a New Marketing Kiosk for the Pavilion. All of this would not be possible without the help of many chapters of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Through their Care Abounds in Communities Program, Thrivent chapters provide funds that help cover many of our materials expenses for the weekend. That, combined with expert leadership from con-

tractors who are willing to give up their Memorial Day weekend to lead these projects, means that we get professional construction at a fraction of the cost. The chapters involved this year include Metro Plains, Denver County, Douglas County, South Jeffco, Garden of the Gods, Mesa County, North Jeffco, and Pikes Peak. We figure that Kyle, our site manager, gets the equivalent of a full-time assistant with the hours that are put in during this weekend.



The work weekend will be held May 24-27, 2013. We have started a waitlist if you are still interested in adding your name to it. Bring your family or, better yet, bring a group from your church and fill the cabin. There is something for EVERYONE to do. Email Dave at [dave@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:dave@rainbowtrail.org) or call him at 719-276-5233 to make your reservation.

New Fall Dates

Don't Miss The

## Men's Fly Fishing Retreat September 12-15, 2013

Take some time to step out of the stresses of ordinary life and into the refreshing waters of the Arkansas River. This weekend of fly fishing, hanging out with the guys, and amazing worship and conversation is led by Pastor Dave Risendal. His deep love of fly fishing and the gospel will help you re-center and deepen your faith. Expand your fly fishing skills with instruction from Greg Felt, owner of Ark Anglers Fly Shop, fly tying workshops, and advice from other seasoned fishermen. 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. Don't have gear? No problem, we can connect you with rental equipment at a great price. We can also make arrangements to hire guided fly trips through Ark Anglers if desired. To get more information, contact Ben, 719-431-0050 or [ben@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:ben@rainbowtrail.org).

Get More Information and Register Online

[www.rainbowtrail.org/retreats/mens-retreats](http://www.rainbowtrail.org/retreats/mens-retreats)

## Dave Joins Faster Pastors to Help Fight Malaria

194 miles. 28 hours. 10 runners. 2 vans. 0 sleep. Sounds crazy? It is! But it is all for a great cause. Dave has joined the Faster Pastors team that will be running the Ragnar Colorado Relay from Breckenridge to Snowmass on September 8th and 9th to raise awareness and dollars for the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

The LYO and the Rocky Mountain Synod have raised over \$217,000 for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. They had set a goal of raising \$200,000 by 2015. Since we have already blown past that goal, the Faster Pastors have set a new goal of helping our Synod blow past the quarter of a million dollar mark.

\$250,000! We think we can do it. But we are going to need your help.

We hope that you will help sponsor Dave and give to this great cause. No gift is too small or too large. Dave would love to raise \$5,000 from the RTLC community. It is easy to give. You can either send your check made out to Rainbow Trail and be sure to mark it "Faster Pastors" or you can donate online. Go to the donate tab on our website and find Faster Pastors. Last year they raised over \$18,000. Help us raise \$30,000 this year and put an end to Malaria! If you have questions, contact Dave at [dave@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:dave@rainbowtrail.org).

# From Site to Sight

By Kyle Larson - Director of Site and Facilities

I've always enjoyed the jobs that I've had. I've always had jobs that I could embrace and that would bring home a paycheck but that all changed recently. Before you gasp, I need to say that things have certainly changed for the better. I used to just "get by" at work and make it through to the end of the day. It's been a huge blessing to see RTALC from a full-time perspective. It's been eye opening and fulfilling in ways that I never thought a job could be. It's hard to have a bad day when I look around at all the beauty that surrounds me.



Camp has been wonderfully busy for the past few months. I hope that you have all been following the constant updates about some of the improvements that have happened recently. In case you haven't heard, camp has been buzzing with work groups. Thanks to a week-long service group from Holy Ghost Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg, TX, we now have a brand new wood floor in paintbrush and a fresh coat of paint that's warmer and more inviting on the walls in Columbine. We were also lucky enough to have a group from King of Kings in Pueblo, CO come and help with a full makeover of Pop Shop. They helped paint the entire inside of pop-shop, giving it a consistent and clean feeling. I hope that you will all have a chance to come check out all of the work that has taken place since last summer. Thanks for all of your help work groups; your work is really appreciated and will be admired for years to come!

One of the biggest parts of my job as Director of Site and Facilities is getting everything ready for the annual Memorial Day work weekend at camp. It seems that all my time these days is filled with locking down project lists, buying supplies and making sure all my tools are ready to go for summer. This year's weekend will be no different than any other; it will be fast and furious but also great fellowship. Some of the big projects we're taking on this year are a new archery firing range and deck, remodels of both Columbine bathrooms and a full redo of the front steps and landing of Eagle Peak Lodge. I can't wait to see how things turn out!

I can hardly believe that we're just one week away from Director's training and two short weeks away from summer staff arriving! The site has been beautiful to watch as it slipped out of winter and is now in full bloom for spring. Each day closer to summer adds a few more things to my to do list but I can't help but smile, as I know that this summer will be another wonderful and spirit filled journey. I hope to see you all this summer! Don't hesitate to poke your head inside Skunk Cabbage to say Hi.

Kyle

## Gallon of Gifts

Recently this inspiring story has come to our attention, "Our little friend PJ started his own project about 6 months ago to provide a "Gallon of Gifts" to share with the folks on the street corner. It all started when he asked his Mom if he could give a man on the corner his socks because it was cold and the man wasn't wearing any.

Now he has gathered and distributed 100's of gallon Ziplock bags with socks, water, granola bars, tooth brushes, tooth paste,

etc. for people to carry in their cars and share with sign flyers. PJ is 8 years old, from a Denver family and attends one of our churches. He's articulate and passionate about helping others."

We challenge all of you to help us help PJ. Each Sunday at registration we will have a box labeled "Gallon of Gifts," please bring socks, toothpaste, tooth brushes and boxes of gallon zip lock bags etc. to be sent to PJ to help him continue his incredibly inspiring project. Thanks!



### Weeks Are Almost Full - Register Today

- |                                      |                                      |
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| Intro to Camp #3 Just <b>12</b> Left | Senior High #2 Just <b>15</b> Left   |
| Junior/Jr High #3 <b>79</b> Left     | SH Compass Points Just <b>6</b> Left |
| JH Compass Points Just <b>9</b> Left | Into the Wild Just <b>4</b> Left     |

Check [www.rainbowtrail.org](http://www.rainbowtrail.org) for up-to-date status of each week and register today!

## 24 Hours to give where you live!

Support RTALC on Colorado Gives Day! On **Tuesday, December 10, 2013**, Coloradans will come together again to raise millions of dollars for nonprofits like ours. Last year, a remarkable \$15.7 million was distributed to Colorado nonprofits. RTALC raised close to \$34,000 in that 24 hour period. Our goal this year is to raise \$50,000. All funds raised will go



towards the Annual Fund. Since we are in the middle of the land purchase and fundraising for the new ropes course 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 10, 2013**

## The 7th Annual Grace Race

The date has been set! Please join us on Saturday, October 5 for the 7th Annual Grace Race. The race will begin at 4 pm with check-in beginning at 2:30 pm. We will be grilling after the race as we did this year. This year is special because we are going to be partnering with the Rocky Mountain Synod World Hunger appeal.



We will be having a representative from the ELCA office in Chicago joining us. Jessie Fairfax who is our former Program Assistant, Jeff Fairfax's, older sister. Can't wait to see you all there to support the World Hunger Appeal. Help us raise \$10,000 this year for World Hunger.

## Thank You Program Assistants



Rainbow Trail wishes to extend a huge thank-you to Betsy Hardi and Jeff Fairfax for all the energy and enthusiasm they have given to RTALC ministries over the past 9 months. Betsy and Jeff brought a wide variety of gifts, talents and experience to RTALC this retreat season. They shared exceptional hospitality and the love of Christ with retreat groups, and became an integral part of our staff team. We thank them for the blessing that they were to this place and wish them Godspeed. We hope to see them back at Rainbow Trail in the near future.

The Program Assistant position is a nine month internship program for those wanting to learn more about working in full-time outdoor ministry. Participants help in all areas of the retreat season including office work, retreat hosting, general maintenance, and program planning. They also go through training sessions to learn about the many facets of camp leadership and help them develop their own Outdoor Ministry philosophies. Rainbow Trail hires two Program Assistants each fall. If you, or someone you know, is interested in the position please contact Ben Larson at 719-942-4220 or [ben@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:ben@rainbowtrail.org).

Thank you Emily and Luke for your hard work and dedication; know that you will always have a home at Rainbow Trail. May God bless you on your future endeavors!

## RTALC Fleet

In just the past summer, the Rainbow Trail summer staff put an astonishing 25,000 miles on our aging vehicle fleet! That is approximately equal to the entire circumference of Earth! It seems like a big number but with Day Camp in congregations from Texas to Utah, weekly trips to airports for Bridging Borders staff, and shuttling Compass Points campers to trailheads all over the Sangre de Cristo range the miles add up quickly. Although we have been pretty dependent on minivans and other larger vehicles in the past, with the varied nature of our growing program, even smaller more versatile vehicles are a very feasible option for us now.

We have a continuous need for many kinds of vehicles and right now we particularly

need a good condition, economical vehicle we can use to send Bridging Borders staff to airports. With our current situation, we're



often sending two staff to the Denver airport in a gas guzzling 15 passenger van. This season as you're pondering spring cleaning and Easter-season celebrating, consider the huge gift that a vehicle donation to camp would be. The Saturn was donated by Randy and

Lisa Scraeder and has been a huge asset to our fleet. A vehicle donation is a tremendous way to make a huge impact on the ministry of Rainbow Trail. If you have a vehicle that you are interested in donating to Rainbow Trail, or have any questions, please contact Kyle at [kyle@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:kyle@rainbowtrail.org) or 719-942-4220. Thank you! Our vibrant travel ministry depends on it!

# Here they come...it's time to meet



**Laura Harney**  
Counselor  
Luther College  
Rochester, MN



**Elie Cahill**  
Travel Director  
Gonzaga Uninvetsity  
Vail, CO



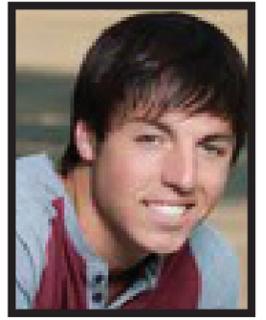
**Ben Bonser**  
Counselor  
Gustavus College  
Palmer Lake, CO



**Megan Gress**  
Counselor  
Luther College  
St Paul, MN



**Mackenzie Nading**  
Counselor  
Iowa State University  
Elgin, IA



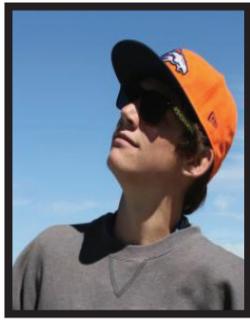
**Clay McCombe**  
Camphand  
Widefield HS  
Colorado Springs, CO



**Mae Grigsby**  
Camphand  
Monarch High School  
Superior, CO



**Lauren Brown**  
Arts and Crafts  
University of Nebraska  
Doniphan, NE



**McGregor Ritter**  
Counselor  
University of Colorado  
Evergreen, CO



**Rachel Bash**  
Counselor  
St. Olaf College  
Long Lake, MN



**Julia Hubbard**  
Compass Points Director  
Gonzaga Univ  
Colorado Springs, CO



**Trevor Maloney**  
Counselor  
Luther College  
Princeton, MN



**Elise Delaware**  
Camphand  
Fairview High School  
Louisville, CO



**Jeremy Gasta**  
Counselor  
Colorado State Univeristy  
Boulder, CO



**Matt Christensen**  
Travel Director  
Luther College  
Luverne, CO



**Ana Reynolds**  
Assistant Cook  
Arizona State  
Colorado Springs, CO



**Katie Briley**  
Counselor  
Univeristy of Colorado  
Broomfield, CO



**Sawyer Halstead**  
Counselor  
Univeristy of New Mexico  
Corrales, NM



**Brittany Mohler**  
Counselor  
Univ of Wyoming  
Broomfield, CO



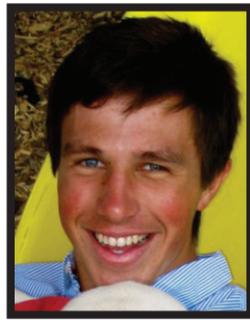
**Sean Kinney**  
Travel Director  
Metro State University  
Albuquerque, NM



**Kirby Olson**  
Camphand  
South Central HS  
Lake City, IA



**Anders Lund**  
Counselor  
Luther College  
Ramsey, MN



**Prescott Delaware**  
Counselor  
Colorado State University  
Louisville, CO



**Jessica Craver**  
Counselor  
Univeristy of Colorado  
Colorado Springs, CO



**Asta Jensen**  
Camphand  
Colorado Mesa Univeristy  
Pueblo West, CO



**Mitch Helton**  
Counselor  
Pacific Lutheran Univ  
Colorado Springs, CO



**Amy Sutula**  
Nurse  
Loveland, CO



**Mike Osmera**  
Travel Director  
Luther College  
Gurnee, IL



**Olivia McSpadden**  
Counselor  
Capital University  
Fort Collins, CO



**Katie Larson**  
Counselor  
Luther College  
Andover, MN



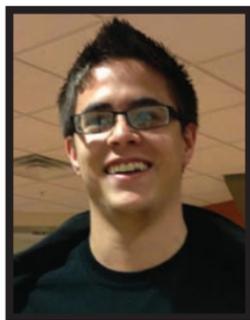
**Ben Jarvis**  
Summer Facilities Director  
Luther College  
Canon City, CO



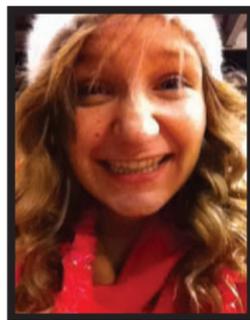
**McKenzie Wedel**  
Counselor  
Hastings College  
Colorado Springs, CO



**Emily Wold**  
Counselor  
Pacific Lutheran Univ.  
Lakewood, WA



**Koby Edler**  
Counselor  
Wartburg College  
Fairbank, IA



**Elsa Meyners**  
Camphand  
Clarksville Academy  
Clarksville, TN



**Dion Obermeyer**  
Ropes Course Coordinator  
Northern Arizona Univ.  
Los Alamos, NM

# The 2013 Rainbow Trail Summer Staff



**Katie Storlie**  
Travel Director  
Augsburg College  
Moorhead, MN



**Erin Twaddell**  
Office Assistant  
Centaurus HS  
Lafayette, CO



**Ben Warner**  
Counselor  
Luther College  
Green Bay, WI



**Mara Erhardt**  
Counselor  
University of Arizona  
Boulder, CO



**Jackie Honold**  
Counselor  
Univ of Northern Colorado  
Durango, CO



**Katie Scherr**  
Guitar Instructor  
Luther College  
Oconomowoc, WI



**Ian Stitt**  
Counselor  
Gustavus College  
Golden, CO



**Megan Muehlethaler**  
Camphand  
Eagle Valley High School  
Eagle, CO



**Sarah Wilkin**  
Travel Director  
Wartburg College  
Titonka, MN



**Chad Nelsen**  
Counselor  
Wartburg College  
Rock Valley, IA



**Anni Okoneski**  
Counselor  
Luther College  
Maplewood, MN



**Elizabeth Myra**  
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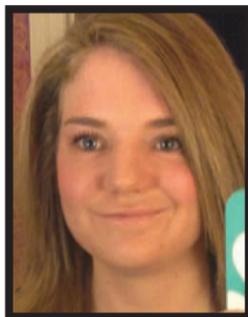


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# #Ashtag

By Ashley McConnell - Director of Onsite &amp; Bridging Borders

I still cannot wrap my head around the fact that another year has gone by at record speed and by the time most of you are reading this, Directors training will be well underway. I am eager for the 60 outstanding staff members to come to camp and begin ministering to kids.

However, while they have gone by very fast, the past few months have been ones of much discernment for me. Through many long, thoughtful conversations and many many prayers I have decided to call the summer of 2013 my last as a staff member at RTLCL.

I vividly remember driving onto the site for the first time as a counselor. My heart beating out of my chest, I could barely form a sentence except to say, "Dad let's turn around." He respectfully declined. What was I thinking? I had never babysat before. How was I supposed to be responsible for campers every single week? Well, as it turns out once I set foot onsite I never looked back.

That summer was a catalyst for me. I did not come home the same as I left. I was so much more of who I was because of it. It was apparent to me that God was not done working through me in this place. There was more work to be done.

Being offered the fulltime position right out of college was a dream come true for me. I loved that the ministry I did there was not confined to the three summer months but something that I could do joyfully for all twelve.

I have loved everything about this so called "job" over the past two years. Even though it wasn't without it's challenges, (cough fire, cough cough wind) this was without a doubt the perfect place for me. Which is why this decision does not come without much sadness and honestly, every once in a while, a hint of doubt. Taking off that idyllic name-tag for the last time will be a definite challenge but I think that is a testament to the power of RTLCL.

I am so ready to walk into this summer with nothing to hold back. No energy to be saved, no words to be left unsaid and no staff member or camper to be left un-affirmed. Just pure freedom to let God use me in any way He sees fit. I'm ready for the energy at camp to be busting at the seams. I am ready for evening worship and for the excitement that fills the place each Sunday as campers gather. So many great things to look forward to in the coming months.

I am so thankful for every person who has walked this journey with me and appreciate all the thoughts and prayers as I walk away from this place. After all, it is only goodbye for now, I have no plans of being a stranger... you can't keep me away for too long.

With Love,



## PATHFINDERS

The following individuals are members of the 2013 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](http://www.rainbowtrail.org/donate). Many thanks to the following supporters of Rainbow Trail!

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**All of those who have spent their summers teaching about God's beautiful grace**  
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*Ben There...*

By Ben Larson - Director of Compass Points & Day Camp

Life really can change in an instant! My life outside of work has been pretty filled with skiing, climbing, snowshoeing, and running this winter... at least until March 18th. It was a fabulous day of skiing with several Youth Directors, before "The Summit," our annual retreat for people who work in full time ministry with youth. We had skied hard in awesome snow all day and were on our "last run" before heading home. I checked off one of the few runs at Monarch that I hadn't skied yet, then preceded to ski down into the parking lot. What I didn't see in the low light was the three-foot drop at the bottom. I hit the frozen, and flat, parking lot hard and felt instant and intense pain in both heels. CT scans in the emergency room soon confirmed what I was afraid of, my heels were broken. I was kind of a sorry sight when my newly acquired wheel chair and I rolled into the dining hall at camp with both of my legs in temporary casts. It's been over a month now, most of that time has been spent in a wheel chair. I've learned to move a lot slower, had to ask for a lot more help than I usually do, and have seen the world from a much different vantage point. I was also overwhelmed by the notes and prayers of so many amazing friends! Now with walking boots and crutches I have a little more mobility, but it will be a while before I'm back to my regular routines.



I'm planning on being fully back on my feet before summer and in the mean time, there are plenty of summer preparations to work on. We've gotten USFS approval for the new High Ropes course and the engineered designs are finalized. Construction details are beginning to come together and we're hoping that the course is ready for campers in early summer! It's another full summer of Compass Points and Day Camp groups, I'm excited for the Into The Wild Compass Points trip for graduating seniors. This trip will help them explore what it means to faithfully step into college life in the next few months. There is a great core group for this trip, and a few spaces are still open. If you know a graduating senior encourage them to check it out.

*Ben ...Done That*

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**Rainbow Trail**  
LUTHERAN CAMP

**2013 - 2014 Events Calendar**

- May 24-27.....Memorial Day Work Weekend
- June 9- August 17.....Summer Camps
- August 30 - September 2.....Labor Day Family Retreat
- September 12 - 14.....Men's Fly Fishing Retreat
- October 5.....Grace Race 5k (Denver)
- October 11-13.....Fall Ambassadors Retreat
- November 8-10.....Fall Confirmation Retreat
- December 6-8.....AdventFest
- March 17-19, 2014.....Youth Directors' Retreat

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It takes a lot of "stuff" to make camp happen. Some "stuff" is small and ordinary and is on our "Needs List" below. These are essential items needed for our day-to-day operations. Our "Wish List" has bigger items that would enhance the ministry we do, but we haven't been able to budget money to purchase. We know that there are lots of ways to give to this ministry. If



you would like to give a gift from one of these list you can bring new, or gently used items to camp. Contact us to arrange a time to pick them up, make a designated monetary gift to RTLCL, or shop online and have them delivered. Additional



**Needs List**

- White 20# laser copy paper
- Reams of colored copy paper
- Avery 5160 & 5164 labels
- Masking tape
- Sharpie brand permanent markers
- Duct tape
- Postage stamps
- Packs medium black pens
- Long barreled fire lighters
- 9x12 manila envelopes (no clasps)
- Flip chart pads
- 5' round white "Lifetime" tables
- Computer battery back-up system
- 6' or 8' rect white "Lifetime" tables
- "New" car for Day Camp
- Paper clips
- AA & AAA batteries

**Wish List**

- New sound system (call us first)
- Industrial mop buckets (call us first)
- Mac desktop computers
- New full sheets - white
- New full or single mattress pads
- New queen sheets - white
- New queen mattress pads
- New 3-piece towel sets
- 10 gal Rubbermaid bins for kitchen
- New LCD projectors
- Digital camera (min 8 megapixel)
- New Upright vacs
- New high chairs
- 32" or larger flat screen TV's
- Gator 6 wheeled vehicle
- 20 ft. or longer extension cords
- New gas grills
- Bobcat Pallet Forks & Toothed Bucket

**Shop Online**

It's easy to give a gift from RTLCL'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. You can order on-line and have items shipped directly to us.

[www.rainbowtrail.org/donate/needs-and-wish-list](http://www.rainbowtrail.org/donate/needs-and-wish-list)

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