



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 26, Number 1 Winter 2014

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

It's Time to Make the Ropes Course a Reality!

In the fall of 2011, a devastating windstorm laid our entire ropes course on the ground. It took almost a year to clear away the area and envision the possibilities of a new ropes course. Much of 2012 was spent in creating the new design, getting engineered drawings, receiving Forest Service approval, and planning the installation timeline. Because of some difficulties, we missed the window to even have a chance of having the ropes course up by last summer. We need to get this project done so that our campers can benefit from this tremendous team building and leadership development tool in 2014.



We are working with Adventure Experiences, Inc. to complete the construction of the course. AEI built our original course and is a trusted partner as we go forward. The poles for the entire course are already in the ground and the platform work should begin very soon. With the poles already

set, most of the remaining work will be above the ground which means weather should not be a huge factor in inhibiting progress.

The new ropes course will cost Rainbow Trail about \$180,000. The original course we built in 1996, including the low ropes course, cost only \$29,000. So far, we have raised \$103,181.00 for the ropes course. We need to raise about \$77,000 to complete this project.

Even with the tremendous increase in the cost of replacing the ropes course, we still think it is

very attainable. We are searching for a grant for a portion of the remaining balance. However, we will still need generous gifts from individuals, congregations, and organizations to attain our goal.

Our goal is to have the new high ropes course completely built and inspected before staff training this summer. To do that, we are going to need your help. If you would like to support this life-changing activity for our campers, you can make a gift designated to the ropes course. We really need gifts of all sizes to reach our goal.

Larger gifts can easily be used as matching challenge gifts if you would like to give your gift that way. Matching gifts are a great way to encourage others to give. If you would like to make a larger gift or a stock gift to support this cause, please contact Dave Jarvis at 719-429-1377 for more details. Help us make this a reality in 2014!

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Ellen and Leeland Soker:

Pioneers of our Past Impact the Future

"In August of 1956, Lee Soker and Don Simonton traveled together to conduct the senior camp being held at Camp Shady Brook. On the way, they stopped for a night at 'Rainbow' and were put up in the Shooting Star cabin, furnished at that time with a double bed, wood stove, sink and throw rugs. While strolling after dinner, they came across a horseshoe pit, and Pastor Soker, picking up a shoe, declared that if he made a



ringer, they'd buy the place. He did, and a legend was born." In a little more than a year following this historic toss, the current Lutheran Church bodies came together and purchased Rainbow Trail. Little did Lee know the impact that his horseshoe toss would have on so many.

Ellen and Lee always believed in the value of camp in the life of the church. Lee served

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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

Another January, another year of amazing opportunities. If I have learned nothing from the past three years, I have learned that God has far bigger plans and ideas than I could ever have. Each year brings new possibilities for our ministry. I'm excited to see what 2014 holds!

The summer numbers for all of our programs are off the charts for January. Our Bridging Borders service program has 18 trips, our most ever; our Compass Points high adventure program has 23 trips, our most ever; and our Day Camp ministry has 37 Day Camps, our most ever. As of this writing, our on-site program is running 115 campers ahead of last year for this time. Three weeks of summer are already full with three more weeks that are 20 or less spots remaining. Our summer camper weeks will fill quickly. Don't wait to register! Take a look at which week works for you and register now. It will be a life-changing week for you! And bring a friend with you to share the experience.

I know that many of you are still experiencing this tough economy. But we are here to help. 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! This is a very private process – no one will know but me. Do it for your child. We are planning on giving out over \$15,000 for camperships this year. That is why those funds are there. We just received a gift for \$10,000 that is strictly for camperships. If you want your kids or family to come to camp this summer, we will find a way to make that happen!

We are getting ready to begin our recruiting tour to look for our 2014 summer staff. We will be visiting the Colorado schools during the last week of January and then we head to the frozen Midwest for the first three weeks of February. All three of us (Ben Jarvis, Ben Larson, and I) will be traveling together this year. I ask for your prayers as we travel. I also ask for your prayers for the whole selection process. We are anticipating a strong group of returning staff from last summer's crew that will make a great foundation for this summer. This will be a great ministry team. And summer is just around the corner!

The land exchange continues to move forward. Our Board spent a lot of time negotiating the final contract of the new land to use in the exchange. But a contract has been signed and closing will happen in 2014. We have begun meetings with the Forest Service and will continue to flesh out a process and possible timeline with them. The mantra for the land exchange continues to be patience and persistence. Thank you for your support, prayers, and financial gifts. Because of the higher cost of the land, we still need about \$130,000 to finish this project. This goal is easily attainable. Remember, this is a gift for the generations. If you want to give or even give again, there is still time!

If you read the lead article, you know that we need your help in getting our new ropes course done. This project has been a little



tougher and more expensive than we expected. But it will be the right ropes course for Rainbow Trail. If you can make a gift, it will make a huge difference. You will love this course when it is completed!

We are starting a new initiative this year called 50 for the Future. We are looking for 50 families or individuals that can commit to giving \$2,500 to \$5,000 per year annually to undergird the financial side of this ministry. This combined with all the other gifts we receive will put us in a position to really strengthen all aspects of our ministry. Prayerfully consider being one of those families. Nellie and I have already made that commitment. I hope you'll join us!

I want to thank you all for another incredible year of support for this ministry and for me as director. I am beginning my 26th year at Rainbow Trail. I am reminded weekly that what we do matters in our world. This ministry is truly a partnership: between our full-time staff, the summer staff, the congregations that we serve, the parents of our youth campers, the families that we serve, and all the supporters who have literally given their blood, sweat, tears, and financial gifts to help this ministry continue to grow and flourish.

We had the chance to host many of our summer staff for their annual reunion just before New Year's Day. During one of the nights, Nell and I were walking up to Bristlecone Lodge and stopped to admire the starry sky. It was one of those super dark nights with no moon. The stars were magnificent. This is one of the many wonderful gifts this special place we call Rainbow Trail gives to us daily.

I am excited for this year. Please pray for this ministry and for our staff. We take great joy in serving you through RTLCL. May your new year be full of many of those incredible starry nights that remind us of how much God loves us!

Until next time...

SOKER, Continued from Page 1

as the Synod President during the early years of Rainbow Trail and was instrumental in helping the early growth. According to Don Simonton, "We couldn't have had a better fan for Rainbow Trail than Lee Soker. He was our #1 fan." Lee passed away in 1992, but Ellen and their family have carried the torch for ensuring that money was never a reason that kids didn't go to camp. It was in 2005 that their daughter JoAnn approached us about setting up the Leeland and Ellen Soker Annual Campership Fund. The initial funding of the account was going to come from the friends of Ellen and Lee. That year, for Ellen's birthday, instead

of giving her gifts, their friends gave to the Rainbow Trail Soker campership fund. From that point the fund has continued to provide support for families through a very rough time in our economy. Ellen passed away on December 7, 2013. Even in her passing, Ellen continued to touch this ministry. Memorial gifts were given in her name as well. During the past three years, \$32,047.17 has been donated to the Soker Campership Fund.

Lee and Ellen were pioneers in helping establish Rainbow Trail and are still continuing to impact all of us who benefit from their vision and generosity.

RTLCL Board Moves One Step Closer to Securing Non-Federal Parcel for the Land Exchange

The land exchange process is alive and well! It has been a few slow months of negotiating price of the land and having environmental studies done, but the land purchase for use in a land exchange has continued to move forward.

The RTLCL Board had given the Executive Committee guidelines for their price negotiations. However, when the price went above those guidelines, the Board had to wait until their November meeting to decide whether or not to accept the price or make another

counter offer. At that meeting, the Board accepted the final price. Though the price is higher than we expected, the Board felt that, in the end, this was a fair deal for camp. The contract was signed on December 22nd with closing hopefully happening in February or March. So, we are one step closer to owning the land needed for the land exchange.

The current non-federal parcel is a 120 acre parcel completely surrounded by National Forest. The parcel sits in a Lynx habitat that makes this

a very desirable piece of property for the Forest Service. We have already had one land meeting with the Forest Service that we felt was extremely positive. We are hoping to have a site visit to both our site and the new parcel before the closing date.

Because of the increase in the price of the new land, we will need to raise more funds to cover the cost of the exchange process. We are currently working to get a true final number so we know exactly what our goal is and we only ask once. The remaining

balance will be in the neighborhood of \$100,000 - \$130,000 more.

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 regular support for our daily operations. But if you have something additional that you can give, you will be touching the lives of generations to come. And you will be part of history!

Site to Sight

By Kyle Larson - Director of Site and Facilities

I'm constantly amazed how the concept of time ceases to exist at camp. Some may think that time only slows down during summer but I'm here to say that it's a year-round phenomenon. I'm in complete shock and awe that 2013 has now come and gone in such a whirlwind. What a great year it has been!



This time of year at camp is one that is never the same. Each day has its own set of challenges and always proves to put more on my list than I can take off. Winter is hard on the site, which makes for a good challenge almost weekly. Recently I've gotten more comfortable with sewer line work than I would like to admit and I'm considering a second career in figure skating with the abundance of ice on the roads. With new challenges, always come new talents and passions. While I love a good challenge, the thought of warmer months and thawed out sewer lines is one that I can't help but get excited about.

We just finished up a wonderful weekend with the bible study writers. I'm looking forward to seeing the impact of the bible study as we move toward the summer season. The theme for this year is "Forgiven: A better version of me." I can't wait to see the incredible conversations that come out of this theme. I think everyone, staff included, will take away a better idea of what it means to be truly forgiven and how to embrace that forgiveness in their day to day lives. I know for me, I find myself stepping back a little bit each day to embrace the beauty of God's wonderful creation and give thanks for the gift of forgiveness I receive even when I don't deserve it.

Although it's only February, the summer season is in full swing for all of us at RTL. Dave, Ben, & Ben are out on the road recruiting for summer staff and I'm getting ready to head out on "mini-recruitment" to do in-state interviews with potential camp hands! The energy is exciting and contagious. Summer always creeps up on me but I'll be ready for it this year. The lists have all been started and my attention is already beginning to shift onto planning for Memorial Day work weekend. There's a lot to be done but the changing of the seasons is one of the most rejuvenating parts of the job for me. I hope to see you all soon!

Kyle

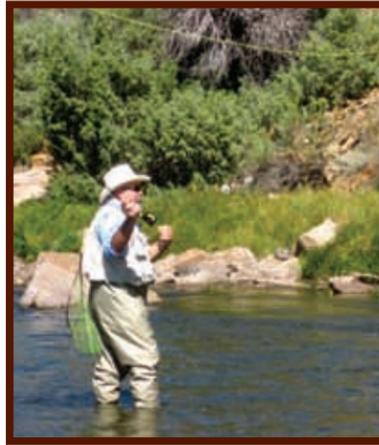


Weeks are filling up but spots are still open in the following sessions.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Junior High #1 June 8-14 | Senior High #2 July 20-26 |
| Junior Camp #1 June 15-21 | SH Compass Points July 20-26 |
| Intro to Camp #1 June 15-18 | Junior/Jr High #2 July 27-Aug 2 |
| Intro to Camp #2 June 18-21 | Intro to Camp #3 July 27- 30 |
| Family Camp #1 June 29 - July 5 | JH Compass Points July 27-Aug 2 |
| Senior High #1 July 6-12 | Junior/Jr High #3 August 10-16 |
| Into the Wild July 6-12 | |

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

Men's Fly Fishing Retreat September 11-14, 2014



Step out of the stresses of ordinary life and into the refreshing waters of the Arkansas River. This is a weekend of great 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 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. To get more information, contact Ben, 719-431-0050 or ben@rainbowtrail.org.

Get More Information

www.rainbowtrail.org/retreats/mens-retreats/fly-fishing

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Program Assistant Internship Positions

Have **YOU** ever considered Outdoor Ministry as a career? Maybe you know someone who might be interested in Outdoor Ministry.

The Rainbow Trail Program Assistant Internship is designed to allow people to work in and learn about all aspects of Outdoor Ministry, create your own OM philosophy, gain valuable knowledge, serve wonderful people, and live at Rainbow Trail. For more information, email Ben, ben@rainbowtrail.org.

50 for the Future



Rainbow Trail has been fortunate to have a loyal and faithful support group that gives in every way they can: their time, their talent, and their treasure. Because of the support of individuals, congregations and organizations, we have been able to do some

amazing things through this ministry over the last 56 years.

As our ministry grows, the cost of providing this ministry continues to grow too. Our budget is designed so that literally one-third of it is covered by generous donations and support of those that believe in this ministry. You are an integral part of Rainbow Trail.

We are starting a new initiative called 50 for the Future. We are looking for 50 families or individuals that would be willing to make a commitment to providing \$2500 to \$5,000 or more per year annually to Rainbow Trail's ministry to create a foundation for our annual fund. We already have over 25 people that are currently giving at this level. This will give us the financial- stability that we really need. Rainbow Trail will still need the current support we have at all levels to maintain our ministry. All gifts are critical.

Prayerfully consider becoming one of the 50 for the Future. You will have a game changing effect on our ministry! If you have any questions, please contact Dave Jarvis, at dave@rainbowtrail.org.

Ben There...

By Ben Larson - Director of Compass Points & Day Camp

There's a lot less snow on the ground today than there was six years ago when I started working here. I remember walking around camp and seeing only white, there weren't any hints of the mud that's tracking up the floors today. As snow melted in April I was surprised by picnic tables that I'd never seen before. Like finding new things in the melting snow, these past six years have been filled with many surprises. As I look back I see many wonderful ways that I have been blessed by this place and the people here.



At the end of this past year I was blessed with a month long sabbatical. That time, along with Christmas and vacation time gave me a six-week span of time to travel and play. It was a wonderful time of refreshment and renewal. I was able to connect with family and friends, climb in and explore a couple National Parks that have been on my list, and relax and scuba dive in Mexico. I packed a lot of adventures into this time. Without deadlines or a tight schedule it was also a restful time, that could change as it needed to and new opportunities arose. I'd like to say a huge Thank You to the RTLCL board for granting me this amazing gift.

As I returned it took a little effort to get back into the rhythms of camp life again. Time with summer staff, working with a great group to shape the summer bible study, and time with campers and Youth Directors at the RMS Middle School Youth Gathering have me excited for lots of things to come. With the weeks flying by so quickly, and January almost over, summer seems like it will be right around the corner. By the time you read this, we'll be on our annual recruiting tour. While travelling through the Midwest in February isn't the most exotic trip, it's great to start meeting the people that will become next summer's staff, and it kicks off a busy time of summer preparations, and lots of spring ski and service retreats. As we move into the spring it will be fun to watch the snow melt and see what new surprises show themselves this year! I hope you'll come visit and be part of the adventures at RTLCL.

God's Peace,

Ben

...Done That



Need some new RTLCL swag? The Popshop is now online! Find the perfect gift for your camper in our online store and have it shipped right to your front door. Find everything from RTLCL hoodies and t-shirts to water bottles, Crazy Creeks, and the iconic red mug! In fact, the only items missing from our online store are ice

cream and soda. Unfortunately, they don't travel well in the mail. You'll have to come back to camp to get those items!

Go to www.rainbowtrail.org to order your Rainbow Trail gear and break it in before you return to camp this summer!

NEW PERSPECTIVES



Rainbow Trail is looking for two new or like new GoPro cameras. With the addition of a new ropes course, these cameras will be used to diversify the videos that we produce as well as give viewers a more personal perspective of what it is like at RTLCL. If you would like to donate, you can find a link to these cameras on our Wish List online!

Compass Points

Wilderness Faith Adventures



Whether you've spent miles on the trail, or never shouldered a backpack before, a Compass Points adventure can help you explore God's creation and your faith in amazing new ways! Mountain peaks, whitewater rafting, and options for rock climbing, service projects, and high ropes will fill your week. Daily worship and Bible study in the midst of such a spectacular setting teaches you ways you can take what you learned on the mountain top back down the mountain.

**Space Still Available
in Open Registration Weeks!**
Contact Ben at 719-431-0050 or
ben@rainbowtrail.org for more information.

Join us for a week of incredible experiences and amazing ministry!

He be Jammin

By Ben Jarvis - Director of On-Site & Bridging Borders

What a start to 2014! January has flown by with a staff reunion for New Years, the Bible Study Writers' Retreat, the Middle School Youth Gathering, and all the other preparations for summer staff recruiting.



I want to thank the five dedicated Bible study writers who have worked so hard to provide us with an incredible study for our campers both on-site and off-site this summer. The theme *Forgiven: A Better Version of Me* will provide our campers with a deeper insight into what forgiveness is and how it works its way into our lives. The process of creating the study is impressive to say the least and I find that I learn so much from that weekend about the focus of our summer. The conversations from that weekend truly shed new light for me on the concept of forgiveness. I'm very excited for the summer and what this study holds for our campers!

With recruiting just around the corner, we are receiving applications, updating interview forms, and preparing our display board for an incredible road trip. In just a few days, we will be going to some colleges in Colorado, then to many in the midwest, and we will even fly to PLU in Washington to look for amazing staff to bring to this life-changing place this summer. The search will be a fantastic journey and the start of a Spirit-led team building process.

Although summer is shaping up to be as great of a season of ministry as we've ever had, there are many exciting things still to come in the months ahead before the warmth of June arrives. We have a month of recruiting and building a ministry team for the summer, we have a handful of retreats coming to Rainbow Trail, and we even have exciting steps to take with both the ropes course project and the land exchange. It is no doubt a great time to be a part of this organization and to work at a place where the people are so passionate. Blessings on your new year and the months to come. Please keep our 2014 summer staff in your prayers!

Ben

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 2013; 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!



With winter and retreat season comes an entirely different kind of beauty in God's creation.

Presenters & Writers

RTL 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 Dave Risendal
Rev Vera Guebert-Steward
Becca Sager
Rev Mark Tweitmeyer
Russ Britton
Nellie Jarvis

Youth Directors' Retreat

Presenter

Valerie Hess

Confirmation Retreat

Presenters

Cody Kuehl

Men's Fly Fishing Retreat Presenters

Rev Dave Risendal
Rev Roger Thompson
Rev John Schaumburg
Greg Felt - Ark Anglers

Staff Training Presenters

Dave Kirberg
Rev Dave Risendal
Rev Vera Guebert-Steward
Becca Sager
Rev Mark Tweitmeyer
Russ Britton
Rev Ron Roschke
Bishop Jim Gonia

Raft Training

Arkansas River Tours

Labor Day Leader

Rev Leta Behrens

Staff Banquet Cooks

Dave, Susan, Claire, & Lauren Fisk
Jon & Kate Palmquist
Dan, Marcia, and Steve Oltrogge
Dave Kirberg
Brett, Jennifer, Elizabeth, & Sarah Palmer
Dave Cruson

Camp Grandparents

Dave & Ruth Ericson
Fred Ehlers
Karen Pforr
Joyce Witte
Rick & Jill Reed
Charlie & Linda Kelly
John Erickson
Mary Koepf
Jerry Brown
Gerry Engleman
Ray Osborn

Family Camp Presenters

Tom Grevlos
Paul Hill
Hans Peterson – Music
James Hersch – Music
Meg Erke – Art
Heidi Peterson – Art
Charlie Pineda - Woodcarving

Thanksgiving Contributors

Westcliffe Supermarket
U. S. Foods
Bob & Aurice Worley
Sara Cumbie
Ben Jarvis
Mark & Michele Robinson
Dave & Nellie Jarvis
John & Pam Marietta

Thanksgiving Volunteers

John & Angela Tarrant
Aymee Hofferber
Dave, Susan, Claire, & Lauren Fisk
Dave & Nellie Jarvis
Michele & Linda Robinson
Krista Monson

Jess and Lynne Craver
Brandon Reed
Adam Pyzdrowski
Andrew Peterson
Heidi Peterson
Mari Peterson
Chris Ash
Jack Curran
Aaron Taylor
Greg Shirbroun
Mike Kientzle
Cait Albrecht

AdventFest Leaders

Chad Kohlmeyer
Aly Kohlmeyer
Nellie Jarvis
Miles Brown
Charlie Pineda
Roberta Wentworth
Ben Jarvis
Kyle Larson

Ambassadors

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!

Annie Schneider
Rick & Becky Romano
Brad Chewakin
Bruce Kelly
Josh & Caitlin Nelson
Cathy and John Goodman
Claire & Charlie Pineda
Cheryl & Steve Mahon
Cindy Budde
Dan & Nikki McCullar
Dave & Ruth Ericson
Kevin and Janet Flesch
David Miller & Anne Wenzel
Dawn & Shannon Ambrosio
Deidre & Tim Farrell

Denise Gergen
Donna Hayden
Gail Muehlethaler
Chuck & Gayle Newell
Jeanne Maloney
Karen Nulle
Mike & Kristen Saathoff
Kathy and Craig Twaddell
Jerry Brown
Jerry Engleman
Bud & Linda Grimm
Jayne & Dee Baumgartner
Jena Taylor
Jennifer & Tom Marcotte
Jill & Doug Monsen
Jim & Janice Mulvany
Karla & Paul Schritter
Kathy & Eric Ferdig
Karel & Tom Hemler
Lynda Cox
Mark & Michele Robinson
Marsha Martinet
Michelle Szydlowski
Nancy Henning
Nora Jean Miller
Paul & Lisa Smith
Rebbie Garza
Rosalie & Brian Hipple
Ruth & Dave Ryll
Glenda & Joshua Ferraro
Steve & Gail Harris
Suzanne Peterson
Vicky & Stacy Padilla
Mary Koepf
Dee Ann Lord

If you would like to volunteer at Rainbow Trail in 2014, to help with a program, be a Retreat Host, or do a camp improvement project please contact us at 719-276-5233



Counselor Mitch Helton joins his campers in singing at worship on the Ballfield.

Memorial Day Work Weekend Volunteers

Memorial Day weekend brings our annual Work Retreat. Families come to help Rainbow Trail prepare for the busy summer season. Work projects range from general cleaning of cabins and lodges to building steps, decks and bridges. Retreat participants complete projects that would take full-time staff weeks to finish, and the site always looks spectacular for the coming summer season.

Linda & David Asselin
Melissa & Howard Bonser
James & Shari Brossett
Miles & Kim Brown
Bob & Holly Denning
Michael Denning
Phil & Traci Dorth

Bob & Margie Dugan
Vince & Leigh Felletter
Susan & Dave Fisk
Kynan & Stephanie Fritschel
Mark Geyer & Katie Glowacki
Kathy & Dirk Hogue
Steve & Linda Jurrens
Sean Kinney
Dave Kirberg
Mary Koepf
Michelle Stone Kraus
Cheryl & Stephen Mahon
Kathy & Jon Muller
Brian Niess & Anne Bliss Niess
Kim & John Olson
Paul & Megan Olson
Dan & Marcia Oltrogge
Brett & Jennifer Palmer
Mary & Andrew Parker
Vernon Pettit
Myra & Paul Purkey
Chris & Abbey Raap

Roger Riekema
Karyn Saathoff
Gary & Kay Schritter
Greg & Diane Smith
Paul & Lisa Smith
Jeff & Julie Spilker
Brad & Patty Taylor
Lisa & Lee Taylor
Erik & Kelly Williams

Retreat Hosts

Our retreat groups are sometimes too large for full-time staff to handle on their own. Thankfully, we can call upon former Rainbow Trail staffers and friends who are willing to give of their time and energy to make these larger retreats a huge success. Your servant hearts are a blessing to this ministry!

Matt Christensen
Lauren Bender
Katie Briley
Sean Kinney
Lauren Brown
Asta Jensen
Erin Jensen
Jordan Okes
Prescott Delaware
Shannon Lavelle



SUMMER STAFF 2014



Know anyone interested in working at camp this summer? Recruiting for 2014 staff has already begun! If you know someone who 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. Go to www.rainbowtrail.org/summerstaff for more information!

ORGANIZATIONAL GIFTS

Adams County Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
AIG Matching Grants Program
California Pizza Kitchen
Collegiate Peaks Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Community First Foundation
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
Verizon Foundation

It's not too early to think 2015! **Bridging Borders**

The world may be getting smaller, but RTL's Bridging Borders program continues to grow. With every passing year, we are presented with another opportunity to travel together to serve God's people both domestic and abroad. Each trip offers unique experiences that challenge you to look at the world in new ways and grow in your servant life!

**Boulder, CO - Anapra, Mexico -
NYC - Ecuador**

Bridging Borders only has **one open week on July 13-19** as of now with 15 groups going to Boulder, 1 trip going to NYC, and 1 going to Mexico! There is even a group doing a Bridging Borders Spring Break trip with us! If you're thinking 2015, contact Ben Jarvis
ben.jarvis@rainbowtrail.org 719-276-5233
or visit www.rainbowtrail.org/bridging-borders

BART LARZELERE

MEMORIAL CAMPERSHIP ENDOWMENT

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church-Santa Fe
Rollin & Cheryl Whitman

DESIGNATED GIFTS

Bruce & Nancy Albertson
Greg Dew

Kevin Perkins
Marsha Yosten

LEELAND & ELLEN SOKER ANNUAL CAMPERSHIP FUND

Bethany Lutheran Church
Foundation, Cherry Hills
Bert & Dolly Lager
Lutheran Men of Greater Denver
Kate & Ashley Quintana
Andrew & Annette Roinestad
Wanda & Steven Stacy
Garrett & Stacey Struessel

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Senior high campers begin the trek back to RTL after summiting Eagle.

COLORADO GIVES DAY

Thank you to all of those who gave on Colorado Gives Day, December 10, 2013

Margaret & Norm Aarestad
Cheryl Almquist
Kevin Althoff & Sandy Wittebort
Kayla Aspeslagh
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Colorado Gives...and gives!

This year's Colorado Gives Day was amazingly successful one for RTLC! On December 10, 2013, 156 donors gave over \$42,000 to our annual fund. These funds help support the day-to-day operations of camp including program equipment, summer staff salaries, our attendance at the youth gatherings, and site and facilities maintenance. Thanks to all who contributed to this ministry



on Colorado Gives Day and for making this day so fun and exciting. We will be doing it again next year. We are already setting a goal of \$50,000 for next year! We will let you know the date for 2014 as soon as it is announced. This is a great chance to invite your friends and co-workers to support a place that you love and to make a difference in the lives of the campers we serve.

PATHFINDERS

The following individuals are members of the 2013 Pathfinders Club. Pathfinders is RTLC'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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TRAILBLAZERS

The following individuals are members of the 2013 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" portion of our webpage at www.rainbowtrail.org. Many thanks to the following supporters of Rainbow Trail!

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Want To Make A Difference?

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!

Donate
 Online Anytime

www.rainbowtrail.org/donate

RTLCL STAFF ABROAD



Rainbow Trail staff truly have a heart for service and adventure. Currently we have eight staff from past few summers abroad. Seven of the eight are doing the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. Julia Hubbard, in Malaysia, Mike Osmera and Elie Cahill in the United Kingdom, Anndi Russell and Ian Stitt in Madagascar,

Katie Menke in Argentina, and Jen Dunn in Uruguay. Laura Harney is also abroad in Ecuador on a Fulbright Scholarship. We are very excited that so many of our staff have been called to other parts of the world and we wish them well in their experiences. Please keep all of our staff in your prayers as they are away from home.

GIFTS IN KIND

Ascension Lutheran Church,
Colorado Springs
Linda & David Asselin
Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village
Diane Boldt & Paul Hurcomb
Kris & Tim Carr
Karla & Dan Clader
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Bob & Joyce Witte
Bob & Aurice Worley

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! RTLCL 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 as a way to remember a birthday or anniversary. Thanksgiving and Honor gifts can be made at any time to celebrate a person, couple, or group of people, or event. 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.

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 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 has been reduced to \$18,000 annually. 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.

MEET AVERY!



Many people have dreamt of being a camp dog. What could be better than having acres of God's beautiful forest to run around in and hundreds of people that will pay attention to you and play with you all day? Well, RTLCL is happy to welcome Avery, a pure-bred chocolate lab to the full-time staff. Avery is about 6 months old and belongs to Kyle Larson. She has a lot of energy and cannot wait for summer!

A New Way to Support RTLCL: Thrivent Action Teams

In our region of the country, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is eliminating their current chapter system and replacing it with an Action Team approach that they believe will encourage more people to be involved in more 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. If your church wanted to buy RTLCL something off the 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. Or you could do something similar to raise campership funds for your youth to go to camp this summer. The sky is the limit for what projects can be done to help Rainbow Trail. Consider forming an action team and make a difference! Contact Dave Jarvis if you have any questions.



Counselor Ben Bonser leads campers out of treeline on Eagle Peak.

ANN (JARVIS) SMITH MEMORIAL LAND EXCHANGE FUND

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All the Trinity Kids that helped make memories at camp

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TWO NEW COMPUTERS FOR RTLC



A special thanks to Brad Nietfeldt and Omaha Media Group for donating two new Apple iMacs to Rainbow Trail. One will serve as a new videographer computer and the other will be a vast improvement to our camp office and will no doubt boost efficiency and quality therein. Thank you again!

CONGRATULATIONS LO!



Our very own Lauren "Lo" Brown has been honored this year in her school by being nominated for *Teacher of the Year*. Lo had a significant impact on campers this summer and redefined the Arts

& Crafts position at RTLC with her creativity and involvement in Village of the Day planning. All of her students are lucky to have someone like her teaching their class. Congratulations, Lo!

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Thank you to the following friends of Rainbow Trail who gave a gift in 2013.

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Use Your Thrivent Choice Dollars Wisely

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, we need your help! We set a Thrivent Choice goal for 2014 of \$40,000 and we think that goal is very attainable. 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. Thrivent has changed the rules and you will need to go out to their 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 still close to \$1 million dollars in Choice dollars NOT distributed last year. Help us change that! You can make a world of difference!!

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 live links to information about RTLCL programs and events. If you want to receive the newsletter via e-mail contact Sara 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.



Get Color



Rainbow Trail

2014 Events Calendar

- February 28.....Staff Applications Due
- March 17 - 19.....Youth Directors' Retreat
- May 23-26.....Memorial Day Work Weekend
- May 26- June 7.....Staff Training
- June 8- August 16.....Summer Camps
- August 29 - Sept. 1.....Labor Day Family Weekend
- September 11 - 14.....Men's Fly Fishing Retreat
- October 4.....Grace Race 5k (Denver)
- October 10-12.....Fall Ambassadors Retreat
- November 7-9.....Fall Confirmation Retreat
- December 5-7.....AdventFest

www.rainbowtrail.org

PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

These congregations have committed to partnering with Rainbow Trail by supporting the ministry through their congregation's budget.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Abiding Hope Lutheran Church, Littleton | Faith Community Church Outreach, Longmont |
| Advent Lutheran Church, Olathe, KS | Faith Lutheran Church, Security |
| Advent Lutheran Church, Westminster, CO | First Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs |
| All Saints Lutheran Church, Austin, CO | First Lutheran Church, Longmont |
| All Saints Lutheran Church Miriam Circle, Austin, CO | Glory of God Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge |
| Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Littleton | Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glenwood Springs |
| American Lutheran Church, Grand Junction | Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Denver |
| Ascension Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs | Grace Lutheran Church, Boulder |
| Ascension Lutheran Church Women, Colorado Springs | Grace Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs |
| Atonement Lutheran Church, Boulder | Grace Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA, Colorado Springs |
| Atonement Lutheran Church, Lakewood | Grace Lutheran Church, Casper, WY |
| Augustana Lutheran Church, Denver | Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge |
| Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village | Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, TX |
| Bethany Lutheran Church Foundation, Cherry Hills Village | Holy Love Lutheran Church, Aurora |
| Bethel Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs | Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lakewood |
| Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamos | Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Littleton |
| Black Forest Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs | Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA, Littleton |
| Centennial Lutheran Church, Englewood | Hope Lutheran Church, Westcliffe |
| Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sante Fe, NM | King of Glory Lutheran Church, Arvada |
| Christ the King Lutheran Church, Denver | King of Kings Lutheran Church, Pueblo |
| Christ the King Lutheran Church, Durango | Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church, Centennial |
| Christ the Savior, Aurora | Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church, Dillon |
| Christ the Servant, Louisville | Lutheran Church of Hope, Broomfield |
| Community of Joy Lutheran Church, Rio Ranch, NM | Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Centennial |
| Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Broomfield | Lutheran Church of the Master, Lakewood |
| Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, Denver | Lutheran Church of the Servant, Santa Fe, NM |
| Cross of Hope Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM | Messiah Lutheran Church, Denver |
| Elim Lutheran Church, Odgen, UT | Mission Lutheran Church, Swink |
| Epiphany Lutheran Church, Denver | Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Boulder |
| Evergreen Lutheran Church, Evergreen | Mount of the Holy Cross, Vail |
| | Nativity Lutheran Church, Commerce City |

A different, yet significant way to support the ministries of RTLC

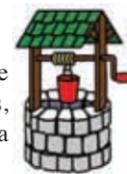
Needs List



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) | 9x12 Manila envelopes (no clasps) |
| Reams of colored copy paper | 6x9 Manila Envelopes (no clasps) |
| Avery 5160 labels | Boxes of 1/3 cut file folders |
| Avery 5164 labels | 12 - 5 ft. round Lifetime tables |
| Masking tape | 6 or 8 ft. rectangular Lifetime tables |
| Adobe Creative Suite 6 (Mac) | Extension cords (all lengths) |
| Sharpie brand permanent markers | 10 gallon Rubbermaid tubs for the kitchen |
| Scotch tape | Adult size scissors |
| Duct tape | Paper clips |
| Postage stamps | A "new" economic car for Day Camp |
| UPS Surge Protector Power strips | Extension cords (all lengths) |
| Packs Medium black pens | 1" 3-Ring Binders |
| Long barreled fire lighters | |

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.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| New or like-new GoPro Camera | Costumes for life of Christ |
| Cotton work gloves | 3 - 5 gallon shop vacuums |
| Industrial Mop buckets (call us first!) | 3 - upright vacuums |
| Sturdy wheelbarrows | 3 new high chairs |
| Jump drives/thumb drives | 2- 32" Digital Flat Screen TVs |
| New Mac laptop computers | Gator 6 wheeled vehicle |
| New full sheets - white | 20 ft. or longer extension cords |
| New full or single mattress pads | 2 - New gas grills |
| New Queen sheets - white | Bobcat Pallet forks & toothed bucket |
| New Queen mattress pads | Airless Paint Sprayer |
| 20 new 3-piece towel sets | "Flat proof" foam filled Bobcat Tires |
| 1 digital camera (min 10-12 megapixel) | "New" Quality Socket/Wrench Set |

Shop Online

It's easy to give a gift from RTLC'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

Thank You For Your Support of RTLC's Ministry

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
- Ben Jarvis, Dir of On-Site & Bridging Borders..ben.jarvis@rainbowtrail.org
- Kyle Larson, Dir of Site & Facilities.....kyle@rainbowtrail.org
- Chris Seaman, Food Service Manager.....chris@rainbowtrail.org
- Krista Monson, Program Assistant.....krista@rainbowtrail.org
- Jen Pulscher, Program Assistant.....jen@rainbowtrail.org

Board of Directors

- President.....Michelle Okes, Bethany Lutheran, Denver, CO
- Vice Pres..... Rev. Vera Guebert-Steward, Evergreen Lutheran, Evergreen, CO
- Secretary.....Scott Skrine, King of Glory Lutheran, Arvada, CO
- Treasurer.....Kathy Twaddell, Atonement Lutheran, Boulder, CO
-Russ Britton, Bethany Lutheran, Denver, CO
-Kevin Flesch, Augustana Lutheran, Denver, CO
-Chris Lieber, First Lutheran, Colorado Springs, CO
-Josh Nelson, Holy Trinity, Littleton, CO
-Becca Sager, Trinity Lutheran, Boulder, CO

www.rainbowtrail.org

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.