

Rainbow Acres: E M P OWERing "Ranchers" With Developmental Disabilities to Become Independent

Rainbow Acres is a faith-based residential community with a wide range of programs for developmentally disabled adults. These programs serve residents (called "Ranchers") who hail from more than 15 U.S. states and represent all types of faith backgrounds. Rainbow Acres serves adults with a wide range of developmental disabilities that may commonly include autism, Down syndrome, autism spectrum, and other developmental delays from various causes. Ranchers range from 18 years of age to well into their 80s's. Core programs address the immediate and long-term needs of the Ranchers in vital developmental areas: cognitive, vocational, physical/health, spiritual and social. Our professional educators and staff members are passionate about helping Ranchers develop to their full potential.

Rainbow Acres EMPOWER project provides persons with developmental disabilities with the tools needed to change their lives by focusing on developing life-transforming habits; and will assist employers to create a positive environment for employing these individuals.

Kelly, one of our Ranchers, gained direct experience caring for a diverse range of animals onsite. She dedicated several years of volunteering at the Humane Society and worked at a local animal clinic. The culmination of her extensive and diverse experiences ultimately led to a position as a kennel tech/veterinary assistant trainee at a renowned animal hospital in Sedona, Arizona. Her role includes paid Veterinary Assistant Certification training as part of her responsibilities, making her journey even more rewarding.

"This is my forever job! This is what everything was leading up to. This is what I always wanted to do, and I love it here!", enthuses Kelly. Her success story is a testament to the positive impact of Rainbow Acres' programs in fulfilling dreams and aspirations.

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