

## Kid Quotes:

While Rainbow Bridge was created to enhance the quality of life for nursing home elders, it's not hard to see that the youth benefit as much as the elders. The nursing home experience — rich with the relationships cultivated, the wisdom shared, the compassion and understanding developed — transforms the lives of the youth. Participation with Rainbow Bridge enhances their reading and writing skills, their leadership abilities and their communication skills. It also increases their self worth and their respect for self and others.

Pictured are the second grade students and teaching assistant of Elvia Rodriquez (left back corner) at Centennial Elementary School. The students created the Rainbow Bridge sign and have prepared a program of music, skits and pictures of their visits to The Argyle. Their elder partners have been invited to the school for the program. As part of a project sponsored by the Children's Museum and DPS, Elvia guided her students in writing a book based on their activities with the elders. Each youth contributed a page to the book. Pictures taken at The Argyle adorn each page.

*"We share our science journals with our grandpartners." "We read and read and read." "We hold hands with our grandpartners, and*



*we all sing 'You Are Wonderful.' "We give our grandpartners big hugs and sing 'Adios, Amigos – 'til we meet again'."*

The children entitled their book *Joining Hands – Bringing Generations Together*.

## Memorial and Honorary Gifts:

In memory of Evelyn Aase  
Linda Holloway and Marge Utne

In honor of Shari Cushman  
Hildegard White

In memory of Clara Denzin  
Maria Denzin

In memory of Lucille Flinn  
Drs. Pam Tyrell and Paul Wright,  
Miles Wright

In honor of Greg McCracken  
and Debra Metz  
Nancy Burluson

In memory of Lorraine McDermott  
Drs. Pam Tyrell and Paul Wright,  
Miles Wright

In memory of Elroy Pohle  
Larry McCain

In memory of Pete Smythe  
Jacquie Smythe

In memory of Billie Stein  
Pauline and Leo Tepper

In memory of Dr. David Ulmer  
Jeane Ulmer

## Note from the Executive Director



*"Hope is a waking dream."*

– ARISTOTLE

*"When you cease to dream you cease to live."*

– MALCOLM S. FORBES

*"We don't have an eternity to realize our dreams, only the time we are here."*

– SUSAN TAYLOR

Rainbow Bridge "Weeks of Dreams" is by far one of the most exciting projects Rainbow Bridge has undertaken. Rather than have our annual Bridges of Love Benefit Dinner, we decided to implement a fundraiser that is totally aligned with our mission. Rainbow Bridge, The Denver Post and Pinon Management are co-sponsoring this unique May through June event, and during this time, over 30 nursing home residents will have a dream fulfilled.

There is still time for those of you reading this newsletter to help us with this project. You can make it possible for a nursing home resident to: Travel out of state to visit a loved one.....Receive a new wardrobe.....Take a train ride.....Attend a sporting event.....and the list goes on.

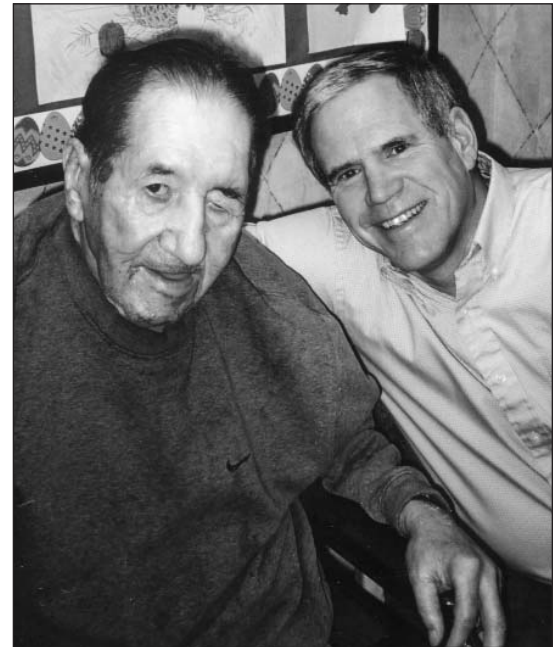
It's never too late to dream, but unfortunately, many residents have given up hope of ever having their dreams fulfilled. Please join us in rekindling their hope.

Warm regards,

*Sharron Brandrup*  
Executive Director

## Volunteer Voice

"I started volunteering in 1999, right after the Columbine tragedy. I read in the newspaper about Rainbow Bridge's "Bridging Generations" program and the need for both youth and adult volunteers to visit with nursing home elders. My dad was in a nursing home in another state, and I'll never forget the couple who "adopted" him as part of their church volunteer work. Although I have had the honor of visiting with a number of really special residents at Clear Creek Care Center, Al Luque was my first partner, and we've become very close over the years.



Al grew up in Pueblo, became an expert mason, served during World War II, lost an eye while in service, operated a bar and restaurant with his beloved wife, and despite his losses and health problems, he is always cheerful and always asking how my wife and kids are doing. I can't tell you how much I've learned about life from Al and the other residents. I would recommend that anyone wanting to make a real difference in someone's life consider volunteering for Rainbow Bridge. The rewards are immeasurable. – Marty McCullough

## First Intergenerational Bowl-A-Thon Was Fun For All



Bowlers of all ages gathered at AMF Bowl on South Broadway and enjoyed the bowling, the great food provided by Fox and Hound Smokehouse, the laughs and the prizes. Like the intergenerational golf, everyone agrees that this **MUST** be an annual event. Major sponsors were FirstBank, American Furniture Warehouse and Ernst and Young. Other sponsors were Jordon Perlmutter & Co., Pro Crew Sales and Cherry Oaks. Pictured on page 4 is the granddaughter of Barry Underwood, the event chairperson and Rainbow Bridge Board member.



Training is a fundamental element in all the Rainbow Bridge's programs. In this picture, Kristen Poland is giving students and teacher from Colorado's Finest Alternative High School an orientation before their visit with residents of Arkansas Manor. Pictured below is Morgan Pelto, who is enjoying the "getting-to-know-you" activity with her two grandpartners.

## *Residents' Reflections:*

"It's good for kids to come here and learn about us old people. And, it's fun for us" – *Estella Saiza*

"It's especially good for me to have visits from Rainbow Bridge kids. I had no siblings, and I never had children. This is very important." – *Joseph Borelli*



## *Community and Elders Program*

Corporations and organizations participate with Rainbow Bridge through this group visitation program. The groups design their own schedule. Visits are monthly, quarterly, every other month, etc. Choose your days or nights.

(Pictured) Debbie Urban and

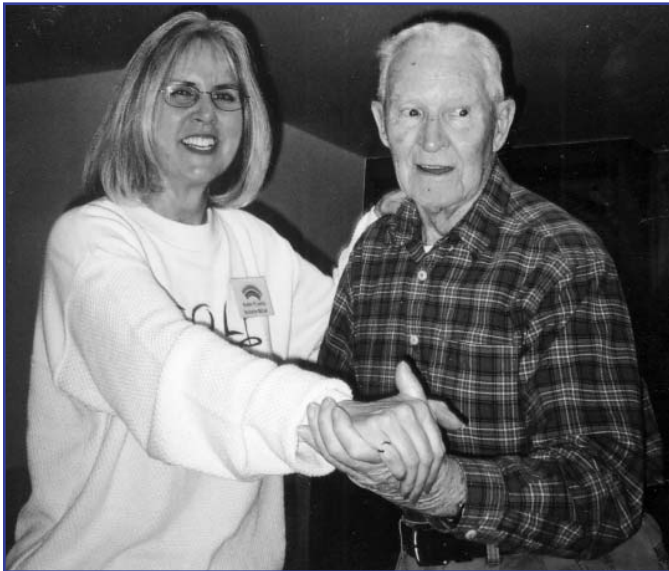
Sherry Flowers, a dynamite group of two from Diner's Club, have been participating for three years, alternating between two Millbrook Homes. What a lunch hour! It's filled with singing, dancing, sharing stories, games and lots of hugs. We are wanting to get more adult groups involved. Please call us. You'll be glad you did — Ann O'Neill 303-830-9456.



## *Save on taxes and save someone from loneliness.*

Call us for information regarding your donations of vehicles and appreciated securities or property.

*Leave a Legacy* by including Rainbow Bridge in your trusts; gift annuities; will, etc.



*“Doc” spins Sherry around the floor at one of Millbrook Homes. (See Community and Elders story on page 2.)*

**Rainbow Bridge**  
 Transforming Lives...  
 Bringing Generations Together

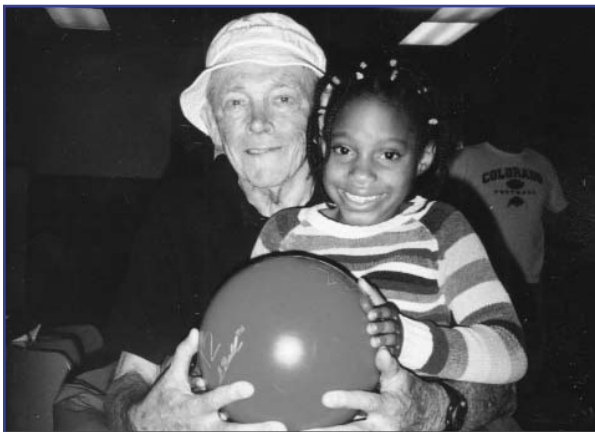
*Rainbow Bridge enhances the quality of life for nursing home/assisted living elders and brings generations together in mutually rewarding relationships by honoring the human spirit and providing life-enriching volunteer opportunities for youths, families, individuals, businesses and community organizations.*

**INTERGENERATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
*Everyone had so much fun last year, they all wanted us to host another intergenerational tournament again this year. Only \$25 to play!!!*  
 Please see inside for date, time, place and sponsorship levels available.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
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*Rainbow Bridge is a living legacy to Bessie “Granny” Stephens*

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**DEVELOPMENT/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:**  
 Mary Ann May



*John Dockerty, resident of Western Hills Health Care Center, and Jordyn Holland are all smiles at the bowling alley. (See story on page 2.)*

**Help make a dream come true for a nursing home elder.**  
*See inside.*

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***RAINBOW BRIDGE***

P.O. Box 12675, Denver, CO 80212-0675  
 Phone: 303-623-1176, Fax: 303-623-2152  
[www.rainbowb.org](http://www.rainbowb.org)

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