

Three Special Mother's Day Ideas

We invite you to make a contribution in honor or in memory of your mother, grandmother, or another person's mother. The appropriate persons will receive a nice acknowledgement of your gift in their honor and/or in honor/memory of their loved one.

Another idea — you could make a contribution for flowers or balloons to be sent to a nursing

home resident who is a mother, and who has no visitors.

Another idea — your Inter-generational Idols sponsorship could be in memory or in honor of someone, and you could compose a tribute, which would appear in your allocated space in the event program and other places outlined in the sponsorship level form. *(See enclosed form.)*



Life-long Relationships

For several years, Dr. Patty Meek has participated in the Youth and Elders Program, taking her students from Sinclair Middle School to Cherry Park Health Care Center. Not only do the youth and elders form special bonds — Patty (middle back) and Mary (middle front) have become close friends, going on fun outings, such as bowling and Rainbow Bridge fundraising events.

Youth and Elders are Honored Guests



Rainbow Bridge was invited to take a group of youth and their Rainbow Bridge "grandpartners" to the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree at the Governor's Mansion. The youth are students from Steele Elementary School, and the elders are residents at Parkplace Retirement. Catherine Forington (the teacher) has been involved in the Youth and Elders Program for a number of years, and many of the students have visited with the same elders for multiple years. The youth and elders were the honored guests. Governor Bill Owens and First Lady Frances Owens read "The Night Before Christmas" to the group, answered questions and had many pictures taken. Wonderful refreshments had been prepared especially for this occasion, and special gifts were given to all.

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.

Note from the Executive Director



“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”

WILLIAM JAMES

Dear Friends,

You are making a difference! I want to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers, friends, and donors for the support we received in 2005. Although still a challenging year, with your help, we were able to continue providing life-transforming programs for thousands of youth and nursing home/ assisted living residents. It is so gratifying to have so many wonderful people that are committed to the work of Rainbow Bridge.

This year, we are implementing the “I Value Character Initiative.” Although character development has always been inherent within Rainbow Bridge youth programs, we want to focus even more on that aspect.

What is being communicated to our youth sometimes falls short on morals, values and character. On average, a child spends 900 hours in school each year, but 1200 to 1800 hours watching television or playing computer/video games. By the time the average child has finished elementary school, he or she has watched 8,000 televised murders and 100,000 acts of violence.

Through this new initiative, Rainbow Bridge youth participants will have an opportunity to reflect upon the meaning and significance of their service, and how they are taking real steps toward building character traits such as: Caring, Dedication, Helping Others, Cooperation, Courage, Friendship, Commitment, Learning, Listening, Dependability, Compassion and Courtesy.

Again, thank you for your interest in Rainbow Bridge and for helping us make a difference.

Warm regards,
Sharron Brandrup, Executive Director

Resident's Reflections:

“You guys do a good thing. It helps the youth, cause it gives them something to do they can feel proud of. And, it gives us somebody to talk to.”

Roy, resident of Sierra Community Health Care Center

“It's wonderful to relate with the younger generation and feel that we still have something to offer at our ages.”

Ralph, resident of Heritage Club of Greenwood Village

“Oh, how I enjoy the Rainbow Bridge children. They take the time to play with us and explain to us how to play their games. It's such fun and I am 96 years old.”

Lelia, resident of Manor Care of Denver

Summer Fun – Winter Fun



Residents of Amberwood Court Care Center enjoyed a stroll outside with youth from Leaders Challenge, an organization that participates with Rainbow Bridge a few times each year. Rainbow Bridges provides an orientation for the youth and their leaders and facilitates simultaneous all-day group activities at several area care centers.

Students from the Johnson Program have participated with Rainbow Bridge for 3 years.

The residents of Heritage Club of Lakewood always enjoy the energetic visits.



2005 Parkplace Monopoly

Parkplace Retirement Community provided elegant, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, and Channel 9 provided the perfect space for an event that acknowledged that Rainbow Bridge has a monopoly on bringing generations together in such meaningful, life-transforming ways. American National Bank, Kaiser Permanente, and Life Care Centers of America were sponsors of the event. Don Johnson and Arlene Mohler Johnson were the honorary hosts, First Lady Frances Owens was the guest speaker, and Reggie Rivers was the emcee. Mary Scolaro (pictured on page 1) and Devin Watson gave their personal testimonies.

Devin (pictured on back cover) eloquently presented his testimonial speech –

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Tonight is a special night for all of us. I would like to start by thanking my teachers, the people at Rainbow Bridge, and Reggie Rivers for giving me this opportunity. Going to the Spearly Center gives all the students at the Prep Center a chance to show service and empathy for the residents at the home. It also gives us a feeling for what we might have to go through when our parents grow older. This opportunity allows us the chance to use integrity and show our caring side. To see the residents light up as we enter the room and notice

that we are there, makes me feel like part of the family.

We plan the activities, like board games, arts and crafts, singing and reading. Not only do they benefit from having us visit them, we benefit by being able to use our social skills every week. We start off every visit with "The Wonderful Song" and once in a while someone has a request. For instance, my favorite so far is "A Bushel and a Peck." To tell you the truth, I didn't think I was going to enjoy their music, but it's kind of catchy!!

So, again I would like to thank Rainbow Bridge for being the bridging gap between youth and seniors.

Memorial and Honorary Gifts:

Rainbow Bridge joins in the celebration of the following people

In memory of Joe & Annie Blanche
Meredith von Tscharnner

In memory of Ingeborg Bystrom
Jack & Pat McTavish

In memory of John Coover
Eden Theatrical Workshop

In memory of Ella Gwen Shaw Green
Linda Hanson

In memory of Letty Milstein
Chayet, Young, Dawson, Meegan & Danzo

In memory of Hazel Ryska
Richard Milne

In memory of Pete Smythe
Jacquie Smythe

In memory of Dorothy Spungin
Jacqueline Pinkowitz

In memory of Billie Stein
Leo and Pauline Tepper

In memory of B.J. Utech
Jeanne & Malcolm Shannon

In memory of Paul Webb
Clara Frances Webb

In honor of Dr. Sandra Arkin
Stephen Edmonds

In honor of Jo Hillyer
Ginny Green

In honor of Jessie Hix
E. Jane Hix & Daphne Goldman

In honor of Don Johnson & Arlene Mohler Johnson
Al & Jean Perington

In honor of Marlene Siegel
Stephen Edmonds

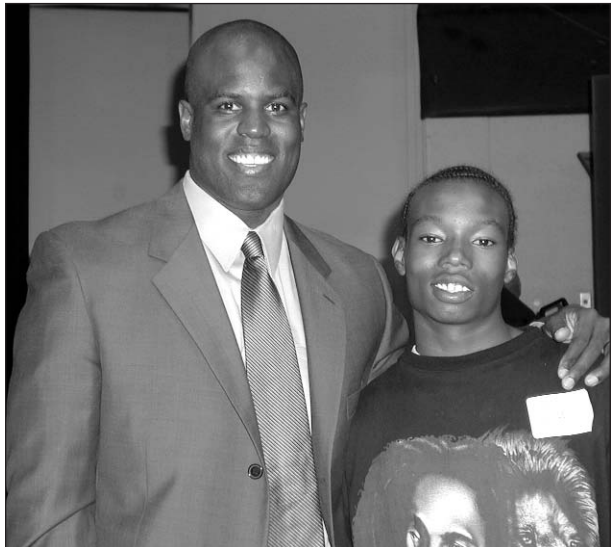
In honor of Hildegard White
Shari Cushman

In honor of Peggy Shelton
Linda Holloway

Community and Elders Program

Karen Alred, of Spring International, always gives her groups of international college students the gift of a Rainbow Bridge experience. Pictured are a few of the residents of Franklin Park Health Center who were dancing and singing with this group of volunteers from all over the world. The elders enjoyed telling their own stories and hearing stories about life in distant lands.





Reggie Rivers and Devin Watson at the fall fundraising event. (Read Devin's testimonial speech on page 3)

"It's not what lies behind you or what lies before you, but what lies within you that matters."

— RALPH WALDO EMERSON

"The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."

— HENRY FORD



**SPECIAL
MOTHER'S
DAY IDEAS
INSIDE.**



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.

CO-FOUNDERS:

Executive Director, Sharron Brandrup; Development and Program Coordinator, Linda Holloway; and Marge Utne

PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Cathy Smith

PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Kelly Ragland

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Danielle St. John

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Nancy Boldizar, Treasurer
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Pat Robinson, Chairman
Lou Walters, Secretary

Rainbow Bridge is a living legacy to Bessie "Granny" Stephens



The Governor and First Lady hosted a Rainbow Bridge intergenerational gathering. (Story on page 1.)



**Inside:
Extraordinary
April 27th Event
for the Entire Family**

*Also in this issue:
Your children . . .
what do they see?
(page 2)*

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