THE Rainbow Report

A Bright Future at Rainbow Omega

Continuing the Legacy of Stentson and Dianne Carpenter

By Tim Hodge, CEO, Rainbow Omega

What a humbling opportunity it is for me to represent the individuals that we serve, their families, and our incredible staff as the new chief executive officer of Rainbow Omega! The ministry that began here over 25 years ago by Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter has been a blessing for so many wonderful and deserving folks, and it is my honor to work with everyone to continue that legacy. The future is extremely bright for Rainbow Omega!

It was a joy to meet many of you at our Annual Dinner last September. I imagine that you were as inspired as I was by the message shared by our guest speaker, Sarah Huckabee Sanders!

Going forward, we will be doing our best to maximize our reporting to all of our supporters and keep you informed of these exciting times on our campus. Please check our Facebook page and website (www.rainbowomega.org) regularly. Through *The Rainbow Report*, our goal is to better provide you with updated information and opportunities to support our mission work. Look for our report to you every three months.

The pandemic has obviously created caution on the part of our staff to



protect the individuals we serve. While we currently must limit visits into the homes and work center, we can still host volunteer groups, and our Garden Center is always open for you to visit! Construction of our new Fitness and Activity Center is ongoing, and we will continue to share with you the exciting plans we have for it!

Over the coming months, I will do my best to visit and meet as many of you as I can, but in the meantime, you are always welcome to contact me. Please feel free to email me or give me a call. My contact information is provided to the right. Ω

New CEO Tim Hodge (at left) shares a laugh with Casey, John, Sarah, and Sherry, residents of Rainbow Omega.

Contact Tim at:

thodge@rainbowomega.org

Office: 256-831-0919, ext. 222

Cell: 205-489-7005

Mission

To glorify God by ensuring that adults with developmental disabilities have a permanent and safe home where their abilities and potentials are respected and nurtured in a Christian environment.

Board of Directors

Vance Moore, M.D., Chairman
Jeff Helms, Vice Chairman
Mona Jenkins, Ph.D., Secretary
Clay Blackwell, Treasurer
Remelle Orman Davis
Ron Hubbard
Leslie Jewell
Jeff Speegle
Matt Vega, J.D.
Wayne Williams

Leadership Team

Tim Hodge

Chief Executive Officer

Melodie Crawford

Chief Operating Officer/Director of Human Resources

Carol Paris

Chief Financial Officer

Mike Carpenter

Facilities Compliance Director

Gail Tillman

Vocational Program Director

Nicole Kendrick

Residential/Day Habilitation Program

Director/QDDP

Brinder Curry
ICF/IID Program Director/QDDP

Celebrating Years of Service!

Please join us in recognizing and thanking our staff who have reached significant milestones. Their service to our residents and families is much appreciated!



Gail Tillman, 20 Years
Vocational Program Director



Rob Kimbrough, 20 Years
Assistant Vocational Director



Shinquetta Tuck, 15 Years House Manager



Scotty Poe, 15 Years Vocational Honda Systems Coordinator



Britt Shropshire, 10 Years
Vocational Honda Systems Line Worker



Bruce Cook, 10 Years Vocational Honda Systems Line Worker

Meeting the Challenge of Covid-19

The past two years have been a struggle to keep the people we serve safe from the threat of Covid-19. Rainbow Omega is very fortunate to have Chairman of the Board Dr. Vance Moore—who has served our community as a board member, Vice Chairman, and medical advisor since our founding—advising our staff and leadership team throughout the pandemic. Staff members made personal commitments to provide care to each of our residents during the pandemic, often times at risk to their own health, and never backed away from their responsibilities to be guardians of your loved ones. Also, parents and families partnered in fighting the spread of this virus by limiting their visits to our campus, and following social distancing and masking

guidelines when residents made visits outside our campus. We realize how frustrating these guidelines continue to be, but we are all partners working together to keep your loved ones safe until we are out of this pandemic.

The training and policies that were developed through the worst of the pandemic last year have borne fruit. During the recent spike in Covid cases in Calhoun and Talladega counties, only two of our residents and a few staff members tested positive for Covid. Everyone has been part of this success through hard work, preparation, and learning from what did and did not work before. Let's keep working together to keep our residents, families, and staff safe during this challenge! Ω

Spring Forward!

Garden Center Now Offers David Austin Roses

At the Garden Center, we grow over 20,000 plants in our nine greenhouses for the spring season. Our ferns are some of the most beautiful ferns you will find. We grow an array of plants and flowers in hanging baskets and bedding plants, along with perennials, such as hydrangeas, peonies, lavender, and rosemary, to name a few.

Also, we are excited and honored to be an official supplier of David Austin Roses! For almost 60 years, David Austin has been breeding exquisite English Roses renowned for their beautiful, often many-petalled, repeat-flowering blooms, and enticing, rich fragrances. Over 200 rose varieties are bred by David Austin, and each one comes with a five-year guarantee. They also provide expert advice and aftercare.

In addition to plants, our Garden Center sells gardening tools and supplies, potting soil, hummingbird feeders and food, goat's milk soaps, local honey, and Corinthian Bells wind chimes. We invite you to come and check out the store and maybe sit and relax on our patio by the fireplace and enjoy the beautiful countryside scenery.

All proceeds benefit Rainbow Omega. So, when you buy from us, you are getting a quality product while helping the special men and women we serve. Ω



If you have any questions about our Garden Center, please call Kathi Aja at 256-831-0919, ext. 260, or email her at kaja@rainbowomega.org.

Our Garden Center is open: Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

A Conversation with Tim

What first inspired your involvement with Rainbow Omega?

TIM: I first became aware of the work at Rainbow Omega several years ago through the mission work of my church—Double Springs Church of Christ—where I serve as the deacon overseeing our mission funding. Our church supported Rainbow Omega for many years, so I had marveled at the reports given to our congregation by Mr. Carpenter. I began my career with non-profit agencies with The Arc of Walker County in 2005, and saw the efforts that are required "behind the scenes" to meet the challenges of providing quality and caring services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

What excites you about the future of Rainbow Omega?

TIM: I'm excited to work alongside the individuals, their families, and the staff here. Every family member has been welcoming and wants to assist in any way needed, the staff have shared their personal love of being part of this mission, and our residents are so happy being part of this community—*their* community.

Please share with us a childhood experience that shaped who you are today.

TIM: Mom was a Bible class teacher for as long as I can remember, and active in civic clubs that provided services for individuals in the community. She worked in the court system in Cullman County for decades and saw the best and worst of people, but never lost her positive attitude about the worth of everyone.

Dad had an incredible work ethic, and always helped others whenever he could, but he never wanted to be acknowledged for it. What made a huge impression on me was their daily example of caring, helping, and being humble in doing so. Ω



New CEO Tim Hodge

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NEWS FROM AROUND CAMPUS



Sojourner Volunteer Billy McVey with Garden Center Manager Kathi Aja

Want to Volunteer at Rainbow Omega?

In early December, we were blessed to host another group of Sojourner volunteers who visited and worked with us. They labored with Garden Center Manager Kathi Aja to prepare our annual Poinsettia sale for delivery. Volunteers are such an important part of Rainbow Omega's history. While the pandemic and Covid protocols have prevented our volunteers from being able to visit in person with our residents, they have not prevented volunteers from continuing to assist wherever is necessary to maintain our operations.

As spring arrives, we hope that we will be able to "open back up" and allow everyone to move about more freely on our campus! If you are interested in being part of our volunteer helpers, please let us know by contacting Tim at 256-831-0919, ext. 222. We appreciate you! Ω



Dave Bolt, Construction Superintendent

Construction Continues on Schedule

Despite the winter weather, construction on the new Fitness and Activity Center has continued on schedule. Due to the shipping crisis of last fall and material shortages, receipt of some items has been delayed, but that hasn't prevented the contractors from continuing to work steadily over the last few months. Our goal remains to open in May.

We greatly appreciate the hard work of Dave Bolt, Construction Superintendent of the project, and the many sub-contractors and workers who are making this dream a reality for the individuals living here at Rainbow Omega!

Please keep checking our website (www.rainbowomega.org) and Facebook page for updates over the next few months. Ω



Above: The baseball park in Oxford, Alabama

At right (L-R): Residents William, Jill, Shea, James, David, Daniel, and J.J. are ready for baseball season!

Ready to Play Ball!

Spring is the time of year for new beginnings and baseball—and Rainbow Omega is excited about its first season in "A League of Their Own" baseball games! Over 40 residents have signed up to play in this league which is designed for them to experience the fun of America's pastime. Games are currently scheduled to be played on Saturday mornings during March and April (weather and pandemic permitting!) at the beautiful "A League of Their Own" baseball park located next to Oxford Civic Center. Everyone is looking forward to getting their uniforms and playing baseball. Rainbow Omega greatly appreciates the City of Oxford and its volunteers for making sports participation a reality for the athletes at Rainbow Omega! Ω



Staff Superlatives



Doris Cooley received the Rainbow Award as the employee most likely to brighten your day.

Gail Tillman received



Rob Kimbrough received the Omega Award as the employee most likely to retire at Rainbow



Wanda Carroll received the Hope Award as the employee who demonstrates extraordinary compassion.



the Horizon Award as the employee who embodies exceptional leadership.



Kiyon Daniels received the Arc Award as the employee who exhibits remarkable strength and stability.



Teamwork Award as an employee who exemplifies teamwork



Shinquetta "Squeak" Tuck received the Teamwork Award as an employee who exemplifies teamwork



Kimmie Duncan received the Teamwork Award as an employee who exemplifies teamwork



the Teamwork Award as an employee who exemplifies teamwork.



Sheldon Scott received the White Knight Award as the employee who saves the day



Sheretta Vann received the 2021 Employee of the Year Award for being exceptional in all areas as a Rainbow Omega employee and representative.

Recognizing **Excellence!**

Each year, employees of Rainbow Omega, Inc., recognize their co-workers through our Staff Superlative Awards and Employee of the Year Award. Employees are provided a ballot which contains the name and position of each staff member as well as the definition of each award. Employees nominate the co-worker whom they believe best exhibits the qualities of each award. Ballots are then tallied by our Human Resources personnel.

Congratulations to all our honorees. We are proud of you and your dedicated service! Ω



Ursula Ganato received the Chatty Cathy Award as the employee most likely to talk your ears off.



Constance Terrell received the Mr. Clean Award as the emplovee who demonstrates cleanliness and organization.

by filling in or coming in.

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Memorials

Frances C. Stone & Family Brown, Johnny George & Renate Stone Brumley, Jamey, John & Jerry Billy Roy & Deborah Box Burns, Baby Kenedy Jade Robert & Cathy Hayes Burrell, Willilam & Grace

Brian & Patsy Adams Carpenter, Stentson

Linda Arnold Tina Arnold AVANT Brothers Duane & Delores Beasley

Ola Mae Berry Boyce Berry Clay & Jackie Blackwell Gary Brown

Phil & Pat Duke & Bruce Dolan Jim & Kristi Carpenter Mack Carpenter

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Cheatham Paschal Cochran Loretta Colburn

Alan E. Corley Blaine & Brenda Cornett

Ann Dillard

Vanita Eddleman

Jerry & Dorothy Escue

George & Margaret Fritsma

O. C. & Marlene Ferguson

William & Janice Greenleaf

John & Beverly Grundhoefer

Alan & Elizabeth Heathcock

Jim, Sandy Mark & Mike Hembd

Lyman E. & Patricia Goodson

Huel & Janet Evans

Chandler Hallmark

Blake & Mary Harris

Jeff & Laurie Helms

Terril & Betty Hood

Wendell & Jo Hood

Wavmon Ann Hood

Ferlin & Treva Hood

Betty Jernigan

Carlton Kelley

Ronnie & Patsy Hubbard

August & Judi Hurston

Bradley & Leslie Jewell

Lathan Associates Architects

Mark Stevens & Jennifer Maddox

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James & Margaret Long

Dan & Glenda Kirby

Ricky & Judy Kyker

Don & Gail Maddox

Pam McGee

Douglas & Iris Maddox

Stephen & Loretta Martin

Tim & Louise McEachern

John & Kathryn McMillan

Mary Ann Crump Clutte, Kristi Glenda Currey Ted & Nancy Hughes Wiley & Nancy Cutts Cobb. Wavne

Ted & Nancy Hughes

Cleveland, Jim

Joyce Cleveland

Colburn, Loretta Robert & Jeanie Neely Pauline Neelv

Vance & Laura Moore

Osborn Foodservice

Rose & Clvnt Rawlins

Redd Pest Solutions

Senator Mike Rogers James & Donna Rooney

Cecil Linda Schneider

Tom & Robin Tabor

University Church of Christ

George & Pamela Wade

Michael & Gloria Walsh

Craig & Sherry Williams

Vaughn Park Church of Christ

Ronnie & Joyce Newberry

Homer, Martha & Allen Parton

Pepsi Cola, Dr. Pepper Bottling Co.

Piedmont Road Church of Christ

Jan Brvan Neal

Carol Paris

Edna Poe

Marlena Pool

Mable L. Redd

Sidney Roebuck

Lucynda Smith Ricky W. Stewart

Cole, Jim

Betty Shikle Collins, Tom Shawn & Mary Moore

Cook. William Traci Goodwin

Rachel Nelson Cragun, Irma

Ginny Staley Daniel, Bobby Betty Daniel

Davis IV, Charles A. "Chuck" Sharron Davis

Dawkins, Gary

South Pittsburg High School Faculty & Staff

Dennington, Katharine Roger Dennington

Derrick. Mathew Kathrine M. Jones

Dolan, Paul & Mildred Bruce Dolan

Phil & Patricia Duke DuPre, Leigh Moore

Bill DuPre Dyer, Robert Larry

Shirley E. Reid Dykes, James "Jimmy"

Lt. Col. Clifford & Mrs. Milah Dvkes

Falkner, Gary

Mr. & Mrs. Carter Gable Finney, "Big" Bob Julie Young

Fleischmann, Dale Kris Fleischmann

Garnett, Linda Paul & Gladys Clements

Gattis, James & Lenora Michael & Judith Davis Giddens, John David

ENS Consulting Group, LLC Goray, Kathryn Jones

Steve & Bonnie Bailev Libby Bryan Brenda Cox

Jackie Freeman Hugh & Virginia Maddox Robert & Marilee Mallory

David & Marcia McCabe Tom & Annette McGregor Merry Weeders Garden Club

Carroll Phelps James & Melody Semsey James & Jane Sims Laura Sullivan

Kristina Mann

Grobmyer, Megan Rex & Wanda Provence

Hardin, C. H. & Evelyn James & Rebecca Hardin

Harkins, James Raymond & Linda Cantrell

Hartline, Charlotte Bill & Nell Turner

Ruby Long Hayes, Armstead

J. Edward & Lee Chapman Helms, Billy

Dr. Vance & Mrs. Laura Moore James & Nan Jenkins

Hicks, Earl Kenneth & Linda Hager Holladay, Philip

Eleanor Holladay Hooks, Joan French

Chris Roberts Jenkins, Jerry

George & Lucretia Owens

Jernigan, Roy Edward Linda "Missy" Black Paul Gordon Heritage Place Church of Christ David & Cindy McDonald Mary S. Parrish

Glenn Schwarts Lucvnda Smith Denise Taylor

Marvin & Laura Windham

Johnson, Charlie Brian & Christina Johnson Joe & Jov Akridae

Kelly, Jr., Paul Alicia Stryker Kempthorne, Justin Alice Hinterschied James & Phyllis Kempthorne Larry & Paula Langford

Lakeman, Sr., William Paul Paula Lakeman

Lawson, Thurman Betty Shikle

Lovering, Bettie Gary & Karen McMahan Marcum, James Paul

Carolyn Crick Mays, Samuel

Stephen & Judy Mays McAlpine, Mac Suzanne Tyson

McBray, Robert

Bruce & Virginia Stroud McGuire, Nancy Kathleen Bagget

McKeown, Judy Ken & Karen Hill

Mills, Tommy Bill & Johnnie Clements Moore, G. Russell

Darrell & Barbara Cooper Norman, MaryLou

The Donald Norman Family Parrish, John & Margaret Kathy Parrish

Payer, Sr., Dr. Michael Tim & Janice Bell

Penn, Thomas Lamar Bobby & Patsy Owens

Tom, Virginia & Jim Wingfield Phillips, Pam

Rhonda Mason Pool. Gertrude Ellene

Mary E. Bridges Harvey & Kay Chatham Bill & Kelly Dyar & Family Shelby P. Lively David & Anne O'Brien Marlena Pool

David & Teresa Reynolds Miriam Veale

Porter. Avis Ted & Nancy Hughes Renaud, Dr. Leon Norman & Teresa Johnson

Renaud, Jennifer Norman & Teresa Johnson

Dr. James & Mrs. Robin Marbourg Roberts, George Annabelle Chabert

Robison, Mary Etta Ted & Nancy Hughes Romine, Misty

Suzanne Tyson Sanders, Darrin

Bobby & Patsy Owens Sawyer, Melvin LeRovce Faye N. Sawyer

Self, Sandy Pam McKenzie Shoemaker, George

Harry & Janice Cowley Richard Glass Hunter & Katie Henson John Howell Donna Martin Ancel & Ruby Norris Russ & Sarah Palmer Precision Electric Coil Lane York

Stuckey, Jimmy Stephen & Loretta Martin Thomason, Greg

Irene McCombs Randy & Ethelda Thomason Eddie & Mary Ann Woods

Travis, Dortha "Dottie" Phil & Cindy Bowers

Travis, Rob

Ron & Lvnn Kina David & Nancy Langhans

Watts, Steve Jack Watts

Wells. Donnie Tracy Hilton Wells, William B.

Randall & Patsv Wells Williams, Darren

Tommy & Carol Laney Windholz, Mary

August & Judi Hurston Yerby, Jean

Affie L. Martin Young, Philip F. C. Young

Robert Young

Honorariums

Branson, Sandy Mary Hester Hale Carpenter, Dianne Carol Paris Cofield, Don & Cathy Jo Paschal Davis, Dr. Megan Benson

Joe & Bev Benson Davis, Remelle (Christmas) Kvle & Suzanne DeLoach

DeRoberts, Phillip Dennis & Kellie Pappas Professional Engineering Groups, Inc. Lloyd & Jane Rotton

Dick, Drs. Malcolm & Cordula Drs. Tom & Margaret Riser Dillard, Tabitha (Birthday)

Ann Dillard Dye, Bryan Mike & Sharon Little Ellis, Brad & Penny

Anonymous Evans, Donna Susan Hopton-Jones Farley, John & Katilia Kirk & Alicia Cuevas French, Joy Lila Hamilton

Jean Phillips Jim & Phyllis Taylor Pat & Libby Ward (Christmas) Guill, Jerry & Linda

James & Marilyn Simpson Helms. Annie Mitch & Cindy Henry

Hembd, Mark & Mike Ann P. Barrows Higginbotham, Lenn

Charity Sunday School Class of First Baptist Church of Oxford Hill, John M.

William & Gail Cooch Hixson, Mia Derek Chapman Langner, Eugene

Ken & Lynn Lampe

Linhardt, Chris & Jan Forrest & Joyce French Long, Margaret (Birthday) Benjamin H. Curtis III

Lovering, Mack Garv & Karen McMahan Mansour, Rick

William & Gail Powell McElvy, Jack

J. Douglas McElvy McMillan, William Daniel & Julie Autrey Meriwether, Kathryn

Jane Sims Moody, Shelly (Birthday) Duane & Delores Beasley Bill & Ann Lambert

Carolyn E. Osborn Moore, Dr. Vance & Mrs. Laura James & Catharine Alexander Moore, Matthew

Larry & Pamela Russell **Mossburg Family** Cara Braswell Mossburg, Kel

J. Edward & Lee Chapman Nelson, Dr. John Dr. Vance & Mrs. Laura Moore Norby, Dr. Donald Dr. Vance & Mrs. Laura Moore

Oades, Hannah & Sarah Christine Lovaas, God's Gift Scot & Shelly Townsend Carrie Catherine

Payer, Mickey Lyla McMullen Payer, Nina Lyn & Sally Smith

Rainbow Omega Staff Max & Margaret Stern Riser, Drs. Tom & Margaret Drs. Malcolm & Cordula Dick

Robinson, Pastor & Mrs. Adam Phil & Pat Duke Rooney, Theresa Jim & Donna Rooney



James Bruce Evans, Jr.

February 1, 1984 - February 12, 2022

Our friend James Bruce Evans, Jr., left his earthly home and embarked upon his epic adventure into heaven on Saturday, February 12, 2022. He was born on February 1, 1984, to Donna and Bruce Evans. They made the difficult decision to share their sweet "Brucey" with Rainbow Omega on March 4, 2021. James then became a resident of Kyker House (House B). He immediately made a profound impact on all who came to know him as a housemate and resident. His infectious smile and his love for Jesus and music were simple things that made him so unique and so easy to love.

While living here, James made several friends. He would often lead prayer before meals with them. His friends seemed to look forward to hearing him eagerly bless the food and pray for everyone. He loved to walk the halls of the Vocational Center, humming and singing Disney songs as well as church hymns. One of his favorite hymns to share with others was What A Friend We Have In Jesus. He also enjoyed listening to Amy Grant and a variety of Christmas songs. His smile, his voice, and his singing would always brighten a room instantly!

Although our hearts grieve for James, we know his spirit and sweet memories remain with us at Rainbow Omega. We rejoice in knowing he is an angel resting in the arms of Jesus! Ω

P.L. & D.B. Wills

Bettv Shikle

Spivey, Dewayne

Phil & Pat Duke

Williams, Jerry

Jim Williams

Roy E. Jernigan Family

Richard & Ann Goldstein

Stremmel, Dr. Timothy

Stephenson, Pastor & Mrs. Kelly

Stern, Max, Margaret & Meredith

Dr. Vance & Mrs. Laura Moore

Russ, Sylvester & Sylvia Sign Up for Schneider, Brett A. **Electronic Delivery!** Michael & Mary O'Connell Shikle, Jimmy (Merry Christmas)



If you would like to help Rainbow Omega save mailing costs and

receive The Rainbow Report newsletter by email as a PDF, please let us know by sending a short email to: business@rainbowomega.org

Thank you!

Serving adults with developmental disabilities since 1995 | 7

Young at Heart





Above: Scott (at right) and his friend, Chase, at Rainbow Omega

Pictured at top right is the Young family (L-R): Mark, Dolores, Huel, Leanne, and Scott

By Huel Young, Resident Parent

My wife, Dolores, and I first visited Rainbow Omega in 2011. We were impressed that a full range of needs were met on campus including group homes, workshops, and basic medical care. We immediately decided that Rainbow Omega would be a perfect fit for our son, Scott. When we lived in Atlanta, Scott worked in a day workshop after his high school years, and he enjoyed being with his "friends" while doing something productive. This meant as much to us as it did to him and gave Scott a daily routine. After retiring and moving back to Alabama, Scott was at home all day with us because we couldn't find any meaningful activities for him outside the home.

Rainbow Omega offered respite services to us, and we began taking advantage of that service beginning in 2016. We knew we had to get more serious about seeking placement there for Scott because he always talked about "missing my friends" when he returned home. Scott adopted Rainbow Omega as his family long before there was an opening for him. After 56 years of managing his care, we were finally ready to release Scott when the opportunity came. His needs are filled at Rainbow Omega far better than we can fill them. He is happy, we are happy, and his brother and sister are happy for him. What more could we ask for? Ω

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