

---

## Fall, 2022 News—from Rainbow Valley Resource Network!

---



Hi Friends,

The days of autumn may be growing shorter, but our harvest of blessings continues growing fuller! *Parents finding support. Loved ones experiencing healings. Families embraced in a growing sense of community.* As the stories and gratitude flow in from the families blessed by Rainbow Valley Resource Network programs, our hearts are filled with thanks to all our caring friends who make this possible.

More Christian Scientists are reaching out to RVRN seeking support for their loved ones who have developmental special needs. In the past few months, financial assistance requests have doubled; resource network inquiries have increased *tenfold*; and our programs have welcomed several new families. **Read on for news, highlights, and upcoming programs!**



**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**  
**Family Enrichment Program**

RVRN's flagship Family Enrichment Program returns next month for its 7th season at the



**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**  
**Christmas Gathering (online)**

Christmas elves are already preparing for RVRN's 3rd annual Family Christmas

A/U Ranches' 100 Elk Outdoor Center. Situated in the beautiful Rocky Mountains, the Ranches offer a serene atmosphere for families from across the country to gather for an *adapted* family camp experience with fellow Christian Scientists. Participants can enjoy Bible Lesson study, therapeutic horseback riding, arts and crafts, parent fellowship, s'mores, and much more. **Registration is open through September 17.**

[Learn more and register](#)

[Learn more](#)

Gathering. Participants can look forward to an interactive discussion of the Nativity, Christmas-themed bingo, singing—and a Christmas gift. Our friends at Camp Bow-Isle are looking forward to facilitating this year's activities! **This program is offered as a gift to our RVRN families. Registration opens in November.**



#### PROGRAM REPORT

### Work Experience Program, Peer Connect, Loved One Gatherings

This year marked the second year of RVRN's pilot **Work Experience Program**, creating opportunities for loved ones to serve the Christian Science (CS) community. This year's program doubled in size as *six* trainees spent three weeks at the A/U Ranches serving as the Lodge Crew for Session 1. They learned work-, interpersonal-, and life-skills in a supportive, CS atmosphere. We are grateful to collaborate with Adventure Unlimited in giving trainees an opportunity to let their light shine! One of the job coaches shared how *she* was impacted: "I'm so grateful to have witnessed so much growth from the trainees and to have been part of an amazing atmosphere with an outpouring of love, warmth, and an **overwhelming sense of joy.**"

We're also excited to share – RVRN's first session of our pilot **Peer Connect** took place in May. Loved ones enjoyed "hanging out" together online, getting to know one another, sharing favorites, and practicing social skills in an uplifting atmosphere. Finally, Session 2 is underway of our ever-popular **Loved One Gatherings**, led by staff from CedarS Camps. Participants enjoy Bible Lesson fun, music, friendship—



*and a dose of that CedarS sparkle!*

A special thanks to **The Campership Fund** for offering tuition assistance to families for RVRN programs held in collaboration with the Christian Science camps!

[Learn more](#)

*Thank you for the Loved One Gatherings—we get so much out of them! ~RVRN parent*

**IN OTHER NEWS...**

**Executive Director outreach**

As Board Chair and Executive Director, I continue reaching out to CS partners to advocate for services that will benefit families (like Dee's, pictured on my right). Building on RVRN's collaboration with five CS camps and youth organizations, and several CS nursing organizations, I aim to identify new partners and supporters of our work. This fall, my plans include traveling to Boston, Denver, Hilton Head, SC, and Albany, NY. If you or your church are interested in meeting with me—I'd love to hear from you! (Contact information below.)



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**New Team Member**

We bid farewell and thanks to outgoing Marketing Specialist Debbie Waller for her superb services over the past seven years.



**BOARD PROFILE**

**Meet Kathy Linehan**

RVRN's newest board member, Kathy Linehan, had no sooner retired after 28 years with Adventure Unlimited than she graciously

Debbie has helped RVRN reach new families and donors ever since it expanded to become a nationwide network in 2015. We are delighted to welcome Jennifer Essen (pictured) as our newest team member! Jennifer has a background in design and marketing, with nonprofit clients including Braille Institute, Library Foundation of Los Angeles, and The Willows Community. "I am thrilled to join RVRN," she says. "It will be a privilege to spread the word about this wonderful organization." Welcome to the team, Jennifer!

agreed to join our board in early 2022. "I was thrilled to be able to support RVRN—and to have time to do it," she says, recalling a few conversations with leadership early on when our "network" was in its early planning stages. At that time seven years ago, there was nothing organized within the CS community to serve the needs of loved ones like her son, Jeffrey...

[Read more](#)

*When I called you, we were looking for [adult church member's] next home and weren't sure where to turn. We did not know of a local Christian Science environment for him—but you made the point that there are many people in this world who love looking after people with special needs.... I am delighted to tell you ... he is now in excellent hands.*

*I could not help thinking of [this loved one's] parents, who would have benefited greatly from RVRN. Thanks again for sharing so many constructive ideas with me."*

~Guardian with a resource network inquiry



#### LOVED ONES' CORNER

##### Jordan Visser

- **Lives:** At home with his family in Scottsdale, AZ
- **Favorite food:** Mac and cheese
- **Favorite pastime:** Watching TV
- **Highest rank in Boy Scouts:** Eagle
- **Favorite streaming show:** "The Flash"
- **Favorite animal to ride:** Horses (since he was 3!)
- **Favorite adventures:** Rafting and backpacking
- **Pets:** Two cats (Simba and Mr. Cuddles); two dogs (Chili and Genevieve); 20 chicks; several fish; and one new lamb. "We have a petting zoo in our backyard in the city," Jordan says wryly.
- **Favorite RVRN activity:** Peer Connect
- **Super Powers:** A memory for history and a sense of direction



Did you know that RVRN is referral-based? If you know of anyone in your church congregation who could benefit from the services we offer, you are invited to share RVRN with them, or have them call my number (below). **Thank you for partnering with us in this amazing work!**

With sincere gratitude from the whole team,



Julie Finin Day  
Chair & Executive Director

PS) Your giving ensures RVRN's services and advocacy continue to bless Christian Science loved ones and their families. Consider becoming a recurring donor. It's easy to set up an automatic monthly gift: [click here](#), or call us for assistance at 314-309-7029.



 [julie@rvrnetwork.org](mailto:julie@rvrnetwork.org)

 314.309.7029

 [rvrnetwork.org](http://rvrnetwork.org)

