

# Echoing Hope Express

★ Growth, discovery & lifelong learning for people with autism & other developmental disabilities ★

## Our CSA is Now Open to the Public!

*Receive a fresh, home-grown basket of produce each week and support employment opportunities for adults with autism at the ranch.*

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is an alternative farming model that has been gaining popularity in the USA for the past 20 years. Members of our CSA purchase a share in advance of the growing season, which helps us cover the initial annual costs of the farm operation. In return, members receive boxes of our produce or products throughout the growing season.

A wide variety of produce will be offered for each season including carrots, lettuce, onions, garlic, kale, radish, squash, pecans, tomatoes, okra, pumpkins, herbs, and more. Produce will vary by season. One share of produce should feed a family of two heavy veggies eaters or four light veggie eaters for one week. Pick up is in Sierra Vista or at the Ranch in Hereford and cost is \$200 for each nine week season.



### BENEFITING THE RESIDENTS

The CSA not only is good for the ranch and the community, the residents are also reaping the benefits. Four of the seven residents as well as six other adults with autism and other disabilities work at the in the Ag program. They are earning their first pay checks and learning valuable work skills that they can use in their current position or in another job if they want to try something different. One of the first employees in the Ag program opened his very first check (which was less than \$100) and said, “not bad” with a big smile on his face. Those residents not working in the Ag program also get to participate in the gardens – they are frequently the recipients of fresh produce which may have an imperfection that would not look good going to market. One of the residents likes to pick green peppers off the vine and them in right there in the garden.

*Please remember, your shares help support employment opportunities for adults with autism. If you have any issues or concerns, please contact Marla at 520-508-1143 or [marla@echoinghoperanch.org](mailto:marla@echoinghoperanch.org)*

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Harlie Garcia



When I think about the ranch (which I do often!), I feel inspired. I'm

inspired by the staff, the community and Jonathan. They have given me so much—and I've given a lot too—and it makes our work really mean something.

Our community is an inspiration. Parents, friends, family members, business and volunteers who surround us join us at the Harvest Festival, going to Farmers Markets, the Hope Dinner (April 9!) and in numerous ways in our day-to-day lives.

A big part of my feelings and the reason I want to write this come from the people who participate in our services. To see how far these individuals have come, the races they've participated in, the jobs they have, the artwork they create... Now THAT is inspiring too.

*Harlie Garcia*



# Staff Notes

Hello! I am Jesse Davison, a staff member at Echoing Hope Ranch San Pedro site in Hereford, Arizona.

I am a staff member but I feel more like a family member. I feel at home here with the amazing dedicated staff, parents, residents and participants. This family was created by loving dedicated parents and family of people on the Autism Spectrum. I am inspired by the love and dedication of the incredible parents and their amazing children. Words seem inadequate in describing the love and dedication I have witnessed in my two years here. It is an incredible place to grow and challenge ourselves to be what we want to be and make as many mistakes as it takes to reach our highest selves.

We are all in this together reaching teaching loving laughing crying and treating each other with the respect deserved by our presence here and at this ranch and on this planet. We see the light in the darkness the sparkle in our flaws the folly of it all we let it all be our wind.

I am the ranch's new employee instructor and help create new curriculum when needed to further support the staff and participants and impart the philosophy of patience acceptance and growth. We believe that learning from our mistakes and being forgiving of ourselves and others is the best path to success in our endeavors. This is the model for everyone here. We believe we are all equal from participant to staff and administrator. I have always wanted to work at a place that understood the sensibility and simplicity of this understanding.

I help whenever I can to fill in as a Direct Support Professional (my first love) transportation, art classes, animal husbandry, unplugging toilets, among other things. I mentor new staff in the subtle and not so subtle ways to help meet the intellectual and emotional needs of people with autism. Endeavoring to impart the mindset of the twice-exceptional model of focusing on the individuals strengths and supporting them in their challenges. I say good morning and give hugs as often as possible to keep the relationships with participants and staff fresh in hopes that I can support all of my EHR family with the challenges we face.

I cannot tell you how amazingly lucky I am to be in a beautiful place learning to be myself loving my flaws and my strengths. I am taught this everyday by the amazing people we serve and those that are fortunate enough to serve them with me. I am blessed beyond belief to be a part of these wonderful and amazing peoples' lives and I hope that I can be a part of their lives for many years to come.

I want to thank you all for being a part of my life. I celebrate our successes and failures as warriors of love light and laughter and the word YES!



**The Center for Disease Control estimates that 1 in 68 children have autism.  
Quality programs are severely limited or non-existent for teens and adults with autism.  
Only two residential programs for individuals with autism exist in Arizona.**

## Letter of appreciation

I appreciate all of the work that Echoing Hope Ranch has done in finding a provider who will help me reach my goals. Julie Dean and I work five days a week towards independence, household chores, work skills, budgeting, meal planing, as well as maintaining an overall positive attitude. My main goal is independence and Julie and I work really hard at accomplishing at it.



*Julie & Chris*

There many aspects of working with Julie that I like and they include helping me make significant progress in my goals, how she is patient while working while working with me, her determination to make progress, along with that she is making sure I understand how to have positive and healthy relationships with friends and family. I also like how Sylvia works very hard at finding programs for me that fit my individualized support and goals.

Overall I have benefited from working with Echoing Hope Ranch as I feel like I have grown more in the past three months than the past four years with other programs. I look forward in continuing my independence with the help of Echoing Hope Ranch.

*Sincerely, Chris Felmdayer*

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## Make a difference...

**The lack of good quality opportunities for adults with autism is a growing problem.** It's easy to feel overwhelmed and ask yourself "What can I possibly do to make a difference?" One great answer is to support Echoing Hope Ranch! EHR is paving the way for others, proving that adults with autism thrive and grow when given the chance to be independent and productive. Echoing Hope Ranch is providing possibilities right now and hope for the future.



Your generous donation allows EHR to continue providing support and programs for Becky and many others who deserve a chance to keep learning and show what they can do.

*The sky is the limit for Echoing Hope Ranch and we work hard every day to give people wings. Please help to supply those feathers – every donation makes a difference!*

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## WISH LIST

### GARDENING SUPPLIES

Rototiller • Tractor • Gardening Gloves  
10' x 20' storage shed • Locking file cabinet  
Shovels, Rakes, Hoes

### POTTERY SUPPLIES

Clay • Hollow Die Set • Pottery tool kits  
North Star Adjustable Heavy Duty Roller  
Slab Brent Clay Extruder  
Texture mats, rollers, stamps  
Rolling pins • Brushes • Glaze

### ART SUPPLIES

Paper • Paint & Paint Brushes  
Storage Shelves

### ANIMALS

Animal Feed • Hay, Straw

### COOKING SUPPLIES

Plates & Bowls  
Cups & Plastic Glasses • Paring Knives  
Silverware – especially spoons  
Adaptive Knives like Rocking T or Vertical  
Grip • Large Canning Jars & Lids

### ACTIVITIES

Archery Supplies (bows, arrows, targets)  
Heavy Duty Volleyball Net and Stand  
3 - 30-gallon Garbage Cans for Recycling  
Legos and Legos Sets

### OFFICE

Locking file cabinets • 1-inch 3-ring binders  
8-tab dividers for 3-ring binders

*To donate these or other items,  
please contact Deb at 520.508.2087  
or deb@echoinghoperanch.org*



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[www.EchoingHopeRanch.org](http://www.EchoingHopeRanch.org)

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Interested in receiving your  
newsletter by email?

Email Harlie @

[harlie@echoinghoperanch.org](mailto:harlie@echoinghoperanch.org)

**Because kids with  
autism grow up**

### 3RD ANNUAL HOPE DINNER

*Dinner, Dancing & Silent Auction*

*benefiting*

# Echoing Hope Ranch

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2016 ★ 5:00 PM

Hilton Tucson East ★ 7600 E Broadway Blvd ★ Cocktail Attire

**Don't miss these fabulous auction items:**

2015-2016 UA Basketball Signed by Coach Miller and the Team  
Multiple Vacations including Trips to Sedona, Las Vegas, and San Diego  
2 Tickets on the Grand Canyon Railroad ★ Handcrafted Toy Chest  
Golf for Four with Cart ★ Custom Jewelry ★ Gaslight Theatre Tickets  
plus so much more...

**Purchase tickets at [www.echoinghoperanch.org/events](http://www.echoinghoperanch.org/events)**