Dear Friends,

If I had to choose one word to describe the past fiscal year, it would be resilience.

Around the world, people have faced new challenges and learned to adapt. As I try to imagine how the pandemic might affect our future, one thing is evident. Social distancing may have become the norm, but in the face of hardship, we become closer as a community.

Echoing Hope Ranch’s community was built on a foundation of growth and lifelong learning. Our participants are dynamic individuals, deserving of our best support. We cherish each and every one of them. At EHR we recognize that autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities are not one-size-fits-all. We all change and grow over time.

The circumstances of the past year required a lot of change and growth. In response to those changes we doubled down on investments and improvements. The ranch finished the past fiscal year in the healthiest financial state the organization has experienced. We improved our capacity by hiring managers, attracting volunteers and investing in the EHR team through professional development. We also invested in EHR’s campus, making possible new activities and increased staff effectiveness and efficiency.

EHR’s resilience and determination to always move forward makes me proud to be part of this team and optimistic about our future. Of course, nothing would be possible without you.

It is because of your support that we are able to carry out the work we all believe in so strongly.

Kindest Regards,

Scott Pralinsky, Executive Director

Dear friends and supporters,

It is my honor and privilege to be serving as Echoing Hope Ranch’s Board of Directors President. A lot of exciting changes have been occurring at the ranch in beautiful Hereford. When I visit the ranch, I am inspired by the contentment of the residents who live there and the day program participants who are busy enjoying the outside grounds. Every day participants have the opportunity to engage in activities, such as cooking, indulging their creativity in the new art studio, dancing, playing interactive games or rowing a boat in the pond. The participants go on outings, do their own shopping in town and enjoy life in ways that they choose and find most fulfilling.

I truly believe that the current atmosphere at Echoing Hope Ranch exemplifies their guiding philosophy: to acknowledge each person as a dynamic human being and to support them in building a full and satisfying life. The recent acquisition of a home will allow for the expansion of the residential program for three individuals with developmental disabilities who choose to live in Sierra Vista. It will allow for opportunities such as taking public transportation, going shopping, or attending events offered by the city.

Many thanks to all of the hard working dedicated employees and to the supporters of Echoing Hope Ranch whose contributions are greatly appreciated. I look forward to serving on the Board of Directors and being part of this wonderful endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer Lakosil, Board President

This year a lot of effort was put into making the entrance beautiful.
A Tip of the Hat to Harlie Garcia

This year, Echoing Hope Ranch gives a tip of the rancher’s hat to Harlie Garcia, who stepped down to take a well earned rest after a lengthy stint as President of Echoing Hope Ranch’s Board of Directors.

Harlie has served on the board since January, 2011 and as President since January, 2013. In her time on the board, it would have been difficult to find anyone who cared more about the success of the organization and the quality of services offered. Harlie selflessly gave copious amounts of time, enlisted numerous family members and friends to the cause and campaigned tirelessly.

Originally, Harlie became involved in the creation of Echoing Hope Ranch when looking for resources and opportunities for her son. Her desire to provide these same opportunities to other families fueled her nonstop energy and commitment to the mission. Supported by her family in her endeavors, it wasn’t unusual to see them helping at events and ranch activities. The Hope Dinner was an event that especially benefited from Harlie’s expert touch.

All of us at Echoing Hope Ranch extend a heartfelt thank you to Harlie Garcia for her years of dedication and service. We hope that she enjoys a good break and comes back to take part in more ranch adventures for years to come!

From Humble Beginnings to Creating Sustainable Hope

In 2009 a group of parents with similar challenges and concerns about the futures for their autistic children decided to create Echoing Hope Ranch. At that time 1 in 68 children were being diagnosed with autism and 500,000 children with autism were reaching adulthood within the next ten years. They identified that there was a huge need for programs which would allow autistic individuals to grow and discover new interests throughout their lives. While there were other programs designed to serve people with disabilities, many of them could not meet the significant needs or understood autism well enough to provide continued growth. Too often, a physically aggressive person with a disability is restrained, either physically or with medication, instead of investing in increasing the quality of the life of the individual so he or she does not have to engage in aggressive or other challenging behaviors. Many people with autism are non-verbal and therefore dismissed as having no abilities or desires.

In January of 2010, The Tejido Group, a well-regarded graduate team from the University of Arizona’s College of Architecture, chose Echoing Hope Ranch as the focus for their semester project. From this collaboration, a comprehensive site plan emerged, which outlined the ultimate vision of what EHR could be. The site plan served to remind the group of their end goals as they moved forward.

EHR’s property was the San Pedro Bed and Breakfast. Upon touring the available site, the EHR Board of Directors was immediately struck by the ideal set of attributes it possessed. The serenity and beauty is outstanding, and the location provided not only privacy but also access to Sierra Vista and Bisbee for community interaction. The property owners showed immediate support for EHR’s mission and the terms for purchase were arranged. Local foundations augmented the donations of EHR’s BOD members in order to purchase the property.
Day Treatment and Training, Adult (DTA)

DTA is a service that provides specialized sensory-motor, cognitive, communicative, social interaction and behavioral training to promote skill development. DTA is based on an agricultural model. Participants work with animals, garden, hike and exercise. They attend community events, shop, bake and plan meals.

“I feel extremely grateful for the unconditional support that is provided to Charlie. I am proud of Charlie’s accomplishments and how he is improving his communication and social skills. Charlie seems to interact more, and is learning how to be more independent. He has adjusted quite well to his surroundings and is content with the program. I am thankful for the support each participant receives.”
— Liz Carbajal, Charlie’s mother

Colby Holcomb

Colby smiling in DTA.

EHR Value #2: Compassion

EHR Value #3: Passion for the Vision

Group Supported Employment (GSE)

GSE creates a workplace environment where participants can be successful, supported in learning new skills and pursue their employment goals while allowing for maximum interaction among diverse populations. Gardening provides an organized natural setting for exploring colors, textures, smells and sounds.

“I work on maintenance at the ranch. My dad bought me a tool box that I keep in the maintenance garage. I enjoy helping by hanging signs. I have gone on lots of outings and am looking forward to going to a monster truck show.”
— Colby Holcomb

Colby doing crafts outside on a sunny day.

Individually Designed Living Arrangement (IDLA)

In IDLA staff assists with transportation, creating weekly menus, shopping, cooking, household care, leisure and community activities, emotional and health support, personal budgeting and banking. Participants receive assistance in their day-to-day activities so they may live as independently as possible.

“I have had a great year. I like working in the garden and watering is my favorite thing to do. I got to buy a new bed and clothes. I moved into the new house in October and am excited about that.”
— Tim Golding

Tim walking with Nathan around the pond.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

The CSA program has multiple purposes and benefits. Primarily it provides a work and skill-building environment for participants. Working in the hoop houses, selling produce at farmers markets and helping to deliver produce to individuals in the community are invaluable learning opportunities.

“Staff brings me to the ranch a lot of the time. They help me know what to do and how to keep track of my accomplishments. I feel like I am getting better at doing everything. I really like the ranch and look forward to seeing what types of things I can do in the future.”
— Peter Polanco (not shown)

EHR Value #2: Compassion

EHR Value #3: Passion for the Vision

The EHR store will be open soon. It is an opportunity for the public to come to the ranch and buy produce, EHR logoed t-shirts and hats and especially baked goods made by day program participants. Best of all, the store will be staffed by participants. They will stock and sell the items as well as assist the shoppers.
Thank you to the following foundations and supporters.

Ace Hardware
The Albertsons Companies Foundation
Alden Manning Charitable Fund
Arizona Cardinals Foundation
Arizona Community Foundation
Autism Speaks
The Bootheel Foundation
Charitable Adults Rides & Services Inc.
Connie Hillman Family Foundation
Goodman’s Interior Structures
Home Depot
Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona
Kroger Stores
MOD Pizza
The Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona
Sierra Vista Rotary Club
Sigma Province / Sigma Phi Gamma Intl Sorority
The Sundt Foundation
Thunder Mountain Community Church
Unity Church of Sierra Vista
Walmart #3357

Our sincere thanks also goes to all the individuals, friends and families that have provided support to Echoing Hope Ranch.

Financials
Fiscal Year 2020-2021
Echoing Hope Ranch received PPP loans totaling $262,467. This funding coupled with attentive stewardship of resources resulted in a surplus balance. These funds were partially used to purchase a home in Sierra Vista, increasing the capacity of IDLA.

Revenue: $3,244,248

- Department of Developmental Disabilities, $2,392,097
- Grants and Contributions, $483,467
- PPP Loans, $262,467
- On-Site Rental Income, $71,357
- Product Sales and Services, $34,860

Expenses: $2,660,671

- Program, $2,506,839
- General and Administrative, $116,013
- Fundraising, $37,819

EHR Value #4: Dependability

Thank you to the following foundations and supporters.

Echoing Hope Ranch by the numbers...

After a challenging start to the year due to Covid, Echoing Hope Ranch finished the year supporting:

- 19 individuals in Day Treatment and Training, Adult (DTA)
- 13 individual in Individualized Living Arrangement (IDLA)
- 13 individuals in Group Supported Employment (GSE)
- 17 individuals in Habilitation and Respite
  (8 GSE participants are also part of DTA)
- 17 individuals in Habilitation and Respite
  (14 in Cochise County and 3 in Pima County)

From January 2021 to June 30, 2021, 39 volunteers provided 275 hours of support.

524 recipients were emailed the monthly newsletter.

2,419 individuals follow EHR on Facebook.

From spring to fall of 2021, CSA participants and staff delivered 157 bags of produce over a 27 week period. Each bag contained 10-15 varieties of produce and weighed 25-30 pounds.
EHR Value #5: Collaboration
– supporting individuals with autism and/or other intellectual and developmental disabilities.